

Admissions policy

The Nursery offers the universal free 15hrs of nursery education alongside the extended 30hrs offer for families where both parents work and meet certain criteria. Additional sessions may be purchased if available.

Waiting List

Children may have their name put on the waiting list once they are two years old. This may be done by phone, letter or in person. Parents of prospective pupils are welcome to visit at any time. Please contact the office on 01756 793075.

Admission

Children come to Nursery School for the full academic year before they start primary school. As all Skipton schools have one intake of Reception children at the start of the year in which they are five it means our children start the previous September. If places are available children may be admitted the term after their third birthday on an oldest first basis.

Universal 15hrs offer

With regard to the universal free 15hrs parents can choose whether they would prefer a morning session, afternoon session or two and a half days and we do our best to accommodate their wishes. Places are offered for 5 sessions each week and from experience we find that the most benefit is received by children who attend the full 5 sessions but we would like you to take at least 3 full sessions in order to provide some continuity of experience for your child.

Extended 30 hrs entitlement

From April 2017, some working parents in North Yorkshire have been entitled to 30 hours of free childcare and education each week of term time or 1140 hours stretched across the year. This is made up of the universal free 15 hours plus an additional 15 hours for parents who meet the following criteria:-

- Both parents are working (or sole parent in a lone parent family)
- Each parent must have a weekly income equivalent to 16 hours pay at national minimum wage or national living wage rates and
- Each parent must have an income of less than £100,000 per year.

For further information click on the link below

www.northyorks.gov.uk/early-education-places-and-funding

We are usually able to accommodate all the children on the waiting list but in the event of too many children for too few places the following would apply in accordance with Education Authority Policy.

Criteria for Admission to Community and Voluntary Controlled Nursery Schools and Classes.

- 1 Children and young people in Public Care for whom the school has been expressed as a preference and previously looked after children, that is children who were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after.
- 2 Children who are recommended by the Director of Children and Young Peoples Service, including children in the care of a local authority, or by the appropriate designated medical officer.
- 3 Children from homes with poor housing conditions or overcrowding, or from a background which could affect the child's normal educational development.
- 4 After the priority admissions shown above have been made, admission will then be made from children within the normal area of the school, allocation being first upon the basis of age, oldest first.
- 5 Children from outside the school's normal area whose home is nearest to school first.

Admission/Transition Process

Parents are encouraged to bring their children for at least one visit to nursery before their admission in September. Towards the end of the Summer term you will have an opportunity to 'drop in' to a session or two for a visit. We also hold a Parents Evening in June so that you can meet the staff informally and find out more about what your child will experience when they attend. During the first week of the term in September you will receive a home visit by 2 members of staff. This allows your child to meet the staff and for you to tell us about them so that we can begin to build a picture of them and how they choose to play and learn at home. It also allows you to ask any individual questions or raise any personal concerns that you may have.

When your child starts nursery he/she will be based in one of the two classroom bases for arrival, group times and collections but will move freely throughout the indoor and outdoor environment during the session. The intake is staggered over the first two weeks to allow children to settle with support from adults where necessary. A key adult will also be allocated to you and your child. Depending on their previous experience children may stay for a shorter time initially and gradually build up to the full session. All children are different, some settle quickly and some take longer. We will work with you to help your child through this period.

All children are usually in and settled by the end of September. During their time with us the children follow a well-planned Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum that is suited to their individual needs. Our aim is to develop self-confident and independent children who are able to make the transition from nursery to primary school easily and happily and are ready to learn. Children who enter Nursery in January or April will follow the same process of parents evenings; visits to sessions and home visits.

We send children to all Skipton primary schools and many village schools. We feel it is important to have good liaison between us and the primary schools. Reception teachers are invited to the nursery in the summer term to meet their prospective pupils and nursery and reception staff share information about each child and their progress.

NB - It is your responsibility to place your child's name on the waiting List of the primary school of your choice by the October prior to their admission in the following September. Please go to <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=15394>

Where parents wish, a child may be admitted to primary school at a later date in the school year e.g. January. They have the right to keep a nursery place for their child for an additional term without prejudicing their place at the primary school of their choice. Parents are advised to consider the needs of their child and consult with nursery staff prior to making this decision.