



Cherry Orchard Primary School Admissions Policy

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ADMISSIONS POLICY

School Admissions

The school has adopted the Birmingham Local Education Authority Policy on Admissions and the Admissions Criteria for Local authority Nursery Classes

Local Authority Criteria for Nursery Admissions

Maintained Primary Schools with a nursery class should offer their places to all children on a part-time basis first. If capacity exists after all children have been offered a place, those children identified as meeting the criteria for a full-time place should be offered the place on a full-time basis.

Where a nursery has more applications for free entitlement places than there are places available, the following criteria shall apply:

1. Children meeting the criteria for the allocation of a full-time place (see appendix)
2. Children (siblings) with an older brother or sister already at the school (or at a linked school on the same or nearby site) who will still be in attendance at the time the sibling enters the school (subject to age restrictions below). Siblings are considered to be those children who live at the same address and either:
 1. have one or both natural parents in common;
 2. are related by a parent's marriage;
 3. are adopted or fostered by a common parent.
3. Children who live nearest to the school. Within each of these categories, priority is given to those who live nearest to the school, by straight-line measurement to one fixed point in the school.

Local Authority Policy for the Admission of Pupils

The Authority has a general duty to secure the economic, efficient and effective use of its resources, and must make provision for children of school age in this context.

Section 92 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires the Authority to publish each year the number of pupils that it is intended to admit to each school in the age group in which pupils are normally admitted.

In determining school's admission limits the Authority has regard to the capacity of the school, alternative places available at other schools and its general responsibilities in the use of its resources.

Admission limits are normally based on classes of 30 pupils. The agreed policy of the Authority, Advisors and the Teachers' Association is that class sizes should be kept as small as possible within the constraints under which we have to work. It is considered educationally undesirable for classes to exceed 30, particularly when there are suitable places available at neighbouring schools. Excessive class sizes can impose strain on both staff and

resources particularly at the Reception stage. It is the Authority's policy to admit children at the start of the year in which they are five, which does place considerable pressure on teachers of such young children.

Cherry Orchard Primary School is a 2 form entry school and when places are oversubscribed, we follow the Birmingham Local Education Authority Guidance on Admissions, and places are offered based on the following order of priorities:

- ❖ Looked after children (in public care). This includes any child/young person who is subject to a Full Care Order, an interim Care Orders, accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, is remanded or detained into local authority accommodation under Criminal Law or who has been placed for adoption.
- ❖ Any child with a statement of special educational needs is required to be admitted to the school that is named in the statement
- ❖ Children (siblings) with an older brother or sister already at the school who will still be in attendance at the time the sibling enters the school. Siblings (brothers and sisters) are considered to be those children who live at the same address and either:
 - a. have one or both parents in common
 - b. are related by a parent's marriage
 - c. are adopted or fostered by a common parent
- ❖ children who live nearest the school.

Within each of these categories, priority is given to those who live nearest the school, by straight line measurement to one fixed point in the school. In a few cases where the Authority has agreed a catchment area for the school, children living within that area have priority over those children living outside it. If vacancies occur because of pupils not taking up places or leaving school, places continue to be allocated according to the above criteria. Admissions to a nursery school or nursery class does not give the child an extra right to transfer to the reception year of the primary school to which the nursery is linked or attached.

Appendix

Criteria for allocating full-time places in Nursery

The priorities listed below provide strict guidance to early years practitioners on allocating free places at community day nurseries and full-time nursery places in nursery schools and classes and selected Private, Voluntary and Independent sector providers. These priorities have been developed in consultation with the local authority Birth-5 forum members and the Early Years Reference Group.

Full-time places in maintained primary schools with nursery classes should only be offered if there are unfilled places after all applicants have been allocated part-time places.

The criteria do not represent a strict priority order; however it is expected that children for whom the local authority has specific responsibilities will normally take precedence.

In instances where a child meets the criteria for a place but one is not available in the maintained sector selected Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector providers will be used.

The focus of this criteria is on improving outcomes and life chances for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children in Birmingham.

The criteria fall into two Priority areas.

Priority 1

Children need to meet one of the following criteria to be offered a Full-time place:

- Children with a Child Protection Plan or are subject to a section 47 Child Protection investigation. Or a Section 17 Children in Need plan.
- Children in Local Authority Care.
- Children subject to CAF - Engaged in family support plans or Integrated support plans or the Early Support process.
- Children with diagnosed Disabilities who have a statement of Educational Need or engaged in that process and/or are in receipt of Disability benefit. Or children who have been referred to or by a Child Development Centre.

or

Priority 2

Children need to meet two of the following criteria to be offered a full-time place:

- Children whose behaviour/development/health gives serious cause for concern –referral from any appropriate agency e.g. Health Visitor.
- Children from families who are homeless, living in poor housing or temporary accommodation – referral from any appropriate agency.
- Children referred by the Family Nurse Partnership or Health Visitor, from isolated first time parents or parents who are teenagers.
- Families who have three or more children under five.
- Children who speak no English or are in the very first stages of language development.
- Children whose parents/carers need support as a result of their physical disability, learning disability, mental health problem or illness.
- Parent/carer in prison.
- Children from asylum seeking, refugee families and travellers community.
- Children from families experiencing domestic violence, drug/alcohol abuse.
- Children whose home postcode is in the top 10% most deprived SOA according to IMD or are entitled to a free school meal.

All other conditions remain the same as detailed within the section for allocating free entitlement places

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new developments or in response to changes in guidance.

January 2017