

Shefford Lower School Nursery Admissions Policy



Admissions to the nursery are managed by the school, not the Local Authority.

Aims

Our aims are:

- To ensure access and entitlement to the benefits of high quality child centered nursery education on a fair and equitable basis.
- To establish an admissions policy governed by clearly defined criteria that may be articulated to parents and other professionals.
- To ensure, as far as possible, that all children who gain a place will fully benefit from nursery education and that we make the very best use of our resources.
- To provide high quality child centered nursery education to children and families in our local community.

Nursery Intake

- The Nursery Class has a yearly intake each September. Children are eligible for a place during the academic year following their third birthday. Please see our website for the qualifying dates for each year group.
- Any spare places will be allocated during the year, as they become available, providing that the child will be 4 during the academic year in which they enter nursery.

Criteria for Admission to the Nursery

The Nursery Class at Shefford Lower School is a 90 place Nursery based on 2 sessions per day: 45 children in the morning and 45 children in the afternoon.

The government funds all children for 15 hours a week.

In addition working parents may qualify for an additional 15 hours from September 2017, giving them a total of 30 funded hours per week.

The Governors of the school will offer children a place in the nursery in the September following their third birthday according to the criteria in the following order of priority:

1. All Looked After children or children in the catchment area that were previously looked after.
2. Children living in the catchment area who are subject to either a Child Protection or Child In Need Plan.
3. Children living in the catchment area with siblings in the school.
4. Children living in the catchment area
5. Other Children with siblings at the school
6. Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the school to the child's home address.

Nursery Session Time Options

	Number of Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am – 12pm	3					
12.00pm – 3.00pm	3					
9am – 3.00pm	6					
Optional Additional Hours to the traditional session times.						
8am – 9am	1					
12pm – 1pm	1					
3.00pm – 4.00pm	1					

Morning sessions run from 9am – 12pm and afternoon sessions 12.00pm – 3.00pm.

Allocation of preferred sessions

Parents will be asked to give 2 preferences with regards to the session options when they apply for a place. If the preferred session is unavailable, the child will be offered an alternative session.

If there is a situation where a particular option is oversubscribed, then session times will be allocated according to the following criteria:

1. All Looked After children or previously Looked After children.
2. Children who are subject to either a Child Protection or Child In Need Plan and who require a particular session in order to facilitate meetings such as contact arrangements.
3. Children whose parents/carers require a particular session to allow them to continue to work/study or attend training. (Evidence will be required from employers).
4. Following this, places will be allocated by pulling names out of a hat.

Decisions on Places

- Letters to parents to request session times are sent out at February half term and must be returned by the beginning of the summer term. Places will then be allocated according to parents preferences within the first two weeks of the summer term and parents notified.
- Decisions will be made by the School.
- Decisions to offer a place will be based on the criteria and procedures laid out in this admissions policy. Being offered a place does not guarantee first preference with regards to session options.
- Decisions will be final and there is no right of appeal.
- The offer of a nursery place DOES NOT in any way mean automatic entitlement to the main school.
- Parents who accept a place will be expected to commit to taking up the place for the rest of the academic year.
- Parents whose children attend all day sessions will be expected to provide a packed lunch and pay £3 for each lunch club session their child attends.

If parents are not eligible for a funded 30 hour place, and spaces are available, parents are able to pay for additional sessions over 15 hours and will be charged accordingly.

Nursery Open days

- The Nursery Class will hold an Open Evening for parents & an Open Day for parents & children during the summer term each year, prior to children starting the following term.
- Children admitted outside of the annual intake will be invited to visit the nursery for a play session before they actually start.

Home Visits

- When possible, all children who have accepted places will be visited at home by 2 members of the nursery staff, at a pre arranged time in the first working week of the autumn term.
- The Nursery will be closed to children during the days in which the staff are conducting home visits.
- It may be possible for children who join the Nursery at other points during the year to receive a pre-arranged home visit before they are due to start.
- Details of the home visits are provided within the Starter Pack which is given to parents.

Leavers During the Year

- If a child is withdrawn by their parents from nursery during the school year, parents must give the school a minimum of 4 weeks' notice, if possible. The place of a child who has been withdrawn cannot be held open for a trial period and will be automatically made available to allocate to a child on the waiting list. If parents later wish their child to return to the nursery then they will have to re-apply for a place on the waiting list and the application will be considered according to the

criteria along with all the other applications, unless there are special circumstances. The fact that a child has previously been in the nursery class, or any other nursery class, will in no way influence the decision on being offered a place.

Attendance & Loss of Nursery Place

- If attendance and punctuality is poor or erratic the nursery teacher will talk to parents and remind them that for the child to benefit fully from nursery education, attendance needs to be regular and punctual.
- If after a period of two weeks attendance and punctuality remain poor a letter will be sent to the parents inviting them to meet with the Headteacher.
- If, following the meeting, there is no sustained improvement in attendance within an agreed period, then the child may lose their place. Parents will be notified of the loss of place in writing.
- If a child is absent for a period of three weeks without any contact from the parents and the school has been unable to make contact within this time, the child may lose their place and it may be offered to someone else. This will be decided by the Headteacher, and a letter explaining the situation will be sent to the parents.

Transfer from Nursery to School

- All parents and carers must be made aware that a place in the Nursery **does not** guarantee a place in the school and that they must still go through the correct Central Bedfordshire admissions procedure.
- The Nursery staff will liaise closely with colleagues in Reception classes to plan for a smooth transition to their chosen or allocated school. Nursery staff will send on reports and other agreed records to the school admitting the pupil as appropriate.
- If a child is not offered a place in the school of their choice there will not be an option for children to remain in the nursery for the following academic year.

Review date	February 2019
Next Review	February 2021
Headteacher	T Callender
Assistant Headteacher Early Years	L Freeman
Chair of Governors	V Thompson