



North East  
Learning Trust

An Admissions Policy

# **NELT NURSERY ADMISSIONS POLICY**



## Revision History

Issue No.	Date	Revisions
2	September 2023	Remove references to Two Year Old Provision

Issue No:	2	Quality Document Type:	Policy
Date Reviewed:	Summer term 2023	Ref:	TRUST/ADMISSIONS/NURSERY
Approved by Trustees:	Summer Term 2023	Originator of this document is:	J Barker

## Introduction

The North East Learning Trust is the Admissions Authority responsible for determining and applying the Nursery Admissions policy in the following Academies:

- Meadowdale Academy
- Sacriston Academy

The Trust will consider all admission applications and will apply the policy fairly and consistently to every application received.

All three- and four-year-olds in England are entitled to free, part-time early learning, care, and development. It lasts for up to two years, until children reach statutory school age. Children can currently attend on a part-time basis for 15 hours a week, for 38 weeks of the year. This can be taken flexibly over a minimum of two days, and a minimum of 2 ½ hours per day with up to two providers.

You can place your child's name on a waiting list for a nursery place at the beginning of the school year (1 September to 31 August) in which your child has their second birthday. The completion of an application form does not guarantee that your child will be given a place.

## When does my child qualify for the free places?

Child born between 1st April – 31st August - September intake

Child born between 1st September – 31st December – January intake

Child born between 1st January – 31st March – April intake

Where there are places in the Nursery, pupils may be admitted 2 weeks after their third birthday.

Places are allocated according to the oversubscription criteria listed below:

## Looked After Children

Children who are 'Looked After' or a child who was previously Look After but immediately after being Looked After became subject to an adoption, residence/child arrangement, or special guardianship order\*. A Looked After child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their Social Services functions (see the definition in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989).

An adoption order is an order under section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976 or section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangement to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines

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a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

## **Children In Need**

The Children Act 1989 defines a child 'in need' as:

- a) He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by the Local Authority under Part 3 of the Act.
- b) His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services.
- c) He/she is disabled.

## **Age**

The offer of a place will be prioritised according to date of birth. Normally, the earliest date your child can be accepted for Early Years Provision is the term after the child's 3rd birthday, although some 2-year-olds can access the free entitlement. Where applicants have the same date of birth, priority will be given to the earliest date of application.

## **Those children who are only entitled to the universal entitlement of 15 hours free early education per week**

Those children who are not eligible for the extended 30 hours offer should be offered the 15 hours universal entitlement for a minimum of three terms before they are due to enter a full-time school place in the Reception year. The Academy will plan for this provision to ensure those who are only entitled to 15 hours are offered a place.

## **Children Living in Other Authorities**

Although there are no catchment areas for places, preference will be given to children whose parents live within the Academy's administrative area. Only when all children living within the County boundary have been allocated a place, may a child living in a neighbouring area be offered a place.

## **30 hours funded early education per week, term time (Meadowdale Academy only)**

This is for 3- & 4-year-olds from working families that meet the eligibility criteria. The 30 hours funded place will consist of the current 15 hours universal entitlement for all 3- & 4-year-olds, which will be extended by an additional 15 funded hours. The additional 15 funded hours will be known as the 'extended entitlement'.

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The school will undertake a validation check on the eligibility code and details provided by the parent/carer on the application form. On confirmation the code is valid the following will be applied to all applicants:

- If there are more places available than applications, all children will be offered a place.
- Subsequent applicants will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis on receipt of a verified code.

Once all places have been allocated, further applications will be included on a waiting list and places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis on receipt of a verified code i.e. based on the date the verified code is received.

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