WINGATE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

**ADMISSIONS POLICY**

**Admission to Community and Voluntary Controlled Nursery Schools and Nursery Units**

The LA has adopted principles in relation to the admission of children into Community, Voluntary Aided and Controlled nursery schools and units. For Roman Catholic and Church of England Voluntary Aided Schools the admission of children is a matter for the school governors. However, almost all Aided Schools follow the LA’s criteria for admission.

Places are allocated according to the criteria listed below:

**1.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.

In addition, Durham County Council has determined that children of families where English is not the main language of the family will be considered under this criterion.

A maximum of two part-time nursery places are retained until the end of the Autumn half term in order to accommodate emergency referrals of children "in need" as defined in the requirements of the Children Act, 1989.

**2. Children Transferring from One Nursery Setting to Another**

Once a child has begun attending a particular nursery school/unit, it is usually in the child's best interest to remain at that nursery school/unit until transfer to the next phase of their education. However, where parents move house, for example, it may be impractical to remain at the same setting.

There may also be other exceptional reasons as to why a transfer from one Maintained Nursery School or Unit to another would be appropriate, but this would be rare and subject to the agreement of the school following guidance from the Local Authority. Where possible nursery schools/units will aim to provide for children who have already started Early Years Provision.

**3. Allocation of 2-Year-Old Places**

* Where a child has been accessing a 2-year-old place in Wingate Childcare, they shall receive priority for admission to Wingate Nursery School in order to preserve continuity and work in partnership with childcare to help create more spaces for them.
* Where a child has not been accessing the free entitlement for 2-year-olds in our onsite Childcare, they shall be placed on a waiting list that will offer places based on date of birth. Where applicants have the same date of birth, priority will be given to the earliest date of application.

**4. Allocation of 3-Year-Old Places**

* Where a child has been accessing the free entitlement for 2-year-olds in Wingate Childcare, they shall receive priority for admission as a 3-year-old to Wingate Nursery School.
* Where a child has not been accessing the free entitlement for 2-year-olds in our onsite Childcare, they shall be placed on a waiting list that will offer places based on date of birth. Where applicants have the same date of birth, priority will be given to the earliest date of application.

**5. Children Living in Other Authorities**

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

Latest Review; September 2024

Next Review: September 2025