



**Nursery Admissions Policy  
(3 and 4 year olds)**

# The Enquire Learning Trust

<b>Approved by:</b>	Trustees		
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## Contents

Section	Title	Page
1	Aims	3
2	Nursery Session Options	3
3	Criteria for Admission to the Nursery	4
4	Application Dates	4
5	Part-time and full-time places	5
6	Decisions on places	5
7	Home Visits	5
8	Oversubscription Criteria	6
9	Reserves Lists	6
10	Leavers during the year	6
11	Attendance and loss of Nursery place	6
12	Transfer from Nursery into School	7

## Version History

Date	Author	Version	Comment
March 2022	LT	1	Policy Created
April 2024	HS	2	Easterside Updates

## 1. Aims

Our aims are:

- 1.1 To ensure access and entitlement to the benefits of high-quality child centred Nursery education on a fair and equitable basis, for children and families in our local community.
- 1.2 To establish an admissions policy governed by clearly defined criteria that may be articulated to parents and other professionals.
- 1.3 To help promote consistency of practice and procedure between Nursery classes in The Enquire Learning Trust.
- 1.4 To ensure, as far as possible, that all children who gain a place will fully benefit from their Nursery education with us, their needs being fully met, whilst we make the very best of our available resources.

## 2. Nursery Session Options

### Three and four-year old room

The term after children turn 3, all children are eligible for 15 hours a week free childcare during term time. Easterside Academy offer this as three hours a day, five days a week during term time (38 weeks of the year) in our Nursery setting. Our morning session runs from 8:45 – 11:45 and our afternoon session runs from 12:15 – 15:15. Children will be allocated either the morning or afternoon group – we will consider parental preference wherever we can but cannot make guarantees about which group your child will be in.

Children in the morning group have the option of coming in for breakfast club starting at 8:00. The cost for this is £3.00 per child per day, inclusive of supervision and a nutritious breakfast. This is served in the EYFS setting, not the main hall, as it is separate from the main school breakfast club.

Some families are eligible for thirty hours a week free childcare. See here for the criteria: <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>. You will need to obtain a code from the .gov website and let the school office know this code. These children will attend the Nursery 8:45 – 15:15. This works out as slightly over 30 hours per week as it includes lunch supervision. A packed lunch must be provided.

## 3. Criteria for Admission to the Nursery

The school will offer children a place in the Nursery from the term after their third birthday:

<b>Child born between</b>	<b>Universal government funding starts</b>
1 September – 31 December	Term beginning on or after 1 January
1 January – 31 March	Term beginning on or after 1 April
1 April – 31 August	Term beginning on or after 1 September

Places will be offered according to the criteria in the following order of priority:

- 3.1 Places will be offered on a first come first serve basis in line with the application dates below.
- 3.2 The Nursery will take children from the term after their third birthday.
- 3.3 A child will remain in Nursery until the end of the academic year in which they are 4 years old.
- 3.4 A child's intake into Nursery may be staggered over two or more weeks.
- 3.5 Any spare places will be allocated during the year, as they become available, to children who are in the half-term after their third birthday or older.

## 4. Application dates

4.1 We have a 'throughout the year' policy – you may apply for a place at our Nursery at whatever time you wish, but please remember that places will be offered on a first come first serve basis

## 5. Part-time and full-time places

5.1 All children applying to our Nursery are entitled to a part-time place (15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year) the term after their third birthday.

5.2 Full-time places will be given to children whose parent(s) qualify for 30 hours free childcare:

You can usually get 30 hours free childcare if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- In work – or getting parental leave, sick leave or annual leave;
- Each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week

This earnings limit doesn't apply if you're self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago.

You're not eligible if:

- Your child doesn't usually live with you;
- The child is your foster child;
- Either you or your partner has a taxable income over £100,000.

You can get 30 hours free childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits or childcare vouchers.

See - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-tax-free-childcare>

## 6. Decisions on places

6.1 Decisions will be made by the Principal. Decisions to offer a place will be based on the criteria and procedures laid out in this admission policy.

6.2 Decisions will be final and there is no right of appeal.

6.3 The offer of a nursery place DOES NOT mean automatic entitlement to a place in one of the Reception Classes.

6.4 Parents/Carers who accept a place, will be expected to commit to taking up the place for the rest of the academic year.

## 7. Home Visits

7.1 These may be made before a child takes up their place.

## 8. Oversubscription criteria

8.1 Children who, at the time of admission, are in the care of a local authority or are provided with accommodation by the authority (looked after children). Also, children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a residence order, child arrangements order or a special guardianship order. This includes children in these situations outside of England.

8.2 Children who will be 3 the soonest in the academic year of their admission.

8.3 Children who have an Education Health and Care Plan which names the academy.

8.4 Children of a member of staff at the academy in either of the following circumstances:

8.4.1 The member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or;

8.4.2 The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

8.5 Children with siblings at the academy. Siblings include step siblings, foster siblings, adopted siblings and other children living permanently at the same address. Priority will not be given to children with siblings who are former pupils of the school.

## 9. Reserves Lists

9.1 If the academy is oversubscribed, a reserves list will be maintained and will remain in place until the end of the relevant academic year. All pupils on the waiting list will be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria. Any places will be offered to the highest ranked application received immediately after a place becomes available.

## 10. Leavers during the year

10.1 If a child is withdrawn by their parents from Nursery during the school year, we request that parents/carers 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 and will be automatically made available to allocate to a child on the waiting list. If parents/carers later wish their child to return to the Nursery, then they will have to re-apply for a place and the application will be considered according to the criteria along with any other applications at the time, 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.

## 11. Attendance & loss of nursery place

11.1 If attendance and / or punctuality is poor or erratic, the Nursery teacher will talk to the child's parents/carers and remind them that for the child to benefit fully from Nursery education attendance needs to be regular and punctual due to the great demand for places. This conversation should be recorded and dated in the child's Learning Journey.

11.2 If after a period of two weeks, attendance and/or punctuality remain poor, a letter will be sent to the parents/carers inviting them to meet with the Principal.

- 11.3 If following the meeting, there is no sustained improvement in attendance and/or punctuality within an agreed period, then the child may lose their place. Parent/carers will be notified of the loss of place in writing.
- 11.4 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 Principal, and a letter explaining the situation will be sent to the parents/carers.

## **12. Transfer from Nursery into School**

- 12.1 All parents and carers must be aware that a place in the Nursery does not guarantee a place in the academy and that they must still go through the correct Local Authority Admissions Procedure.
- 12.2 The Nursery staff will liaise closely with colleagues in Reception classes to plan for a smooth transition into our Reception class, or any other chosen or allocated school. Nursery staff will send on reports and other agreed records to other schools as appropriate.