



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

2021 – 2022

Enquire Learning Trust

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Version History

Date	Author	Version	Comment
05.11.2021	School Business Manager	1	

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

- 2.1 Southcoates Primary Academy has a Foundation Stage Unit that is staffed by the legally required number of teachers and nursery nurses.
- 2.2 Our admission limit to the Reception Year (F2) is 60, which means we are able to offer 39 morning and 39 afternoon Nursery places. Attendance at our Nursery is part-time, either mornings or afternoons and is for 3 hours each day; this equates to the 15 hour weekly Universal Early Education provision.

3. Criteria for admission to the Nursery

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

Child born between	Universal government funding starts
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 Parents/carers should approach the Academy directly if they would like the child to attend our Nursery and complete a 'Request for a Nursery Place' form.
- 4.2 The Academy maintains a register/list of parents/carers who have expressed an interest in a Nursery place. Early registration of interest will not, however guarantee a place in the Nursery.
- 4.3 Nursery applications will be considered throughout the year if places are available.

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; or
- 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; or
 - 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>

5.3 Parents/ carers may wish to privately "top-up" their 15 hour entitlement by paying themselves for the extra 15 hours and allowing their children to attend all day. These available hours are reviewed by the Academy termly aligned to availability. Please contact the Office Manager in school for details regarding the exact costs and to agree a payment schedule. These additional paid for hours will be offered when the parent/carer has signed the Academy's 'Agreement for Additional Nursery Sessions' document. This document is issued termly to parents/carers by the Academy.

6. Decisions on places

- 6.1 Decisions will be made by the Nursery Teacher and the Principal at the Academy. 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 Academy's 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 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 Academy 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 and loss of Nursery places

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. Parents/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 Academy 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 Academy

- 12.1 All parents and carers must be aware that a place in the Nursery does not guarantee a place in the Academy (Reception) and that they must still go through the correct Local Authority Admissions Procedure. This is a separate application process for School Admissions facilitated by Hull City Council. Full details of the School Admission process can be found on their website (www.hull.gov.uk). In addition, there is a direct link to this on our Academy's website: (www.southcoatesacademy.co.uk).
- 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.