



A thriving community of exceptional schools, united together by a shared commitment to inspiring every individual to reach their full potential.

ADMISSIONS TO STAR MAT NURSERY SCHOOLS, NURSERY CLASSES, PRE-RECEPTION CLASSES AND SCHOOL/TRUST RUN PRE SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO TRUST GOVERNANCE

As nursery provision is non-statutory, the school's decision to admit a child to nursery and their allocation of hours will be final.

There is no formal right of appeal.

Year of birth admissions

All STAR Nursery provision will ordinarily prioritise admissions and allocations to those children who are in the immediate pre-reception class; that is, the children who will move into the Reception year in the following September. However, on a case-by-case basis, some exceptions may be prioritised for admission earlier under the priority groupings below. This will be the headteacher's decision and is not subject to appeal.

Children with an EHCP naming the school

The Trustees are required to admit to a setting a child with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) where the specific setting has been named. This is not an oversubscription criterion. This relates only to children who have undergone statutory assessment and for whom a final EHCP has been issued. This means that a child with an EHCP will be prioritised for a place, but may not have a fulltime offer.

Oversubscription criteria

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places the school will apply the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications for admission once applications are being considered for that year group. These criteria are used to prioritise places and not the allocation of hours/sessions.

First priority:

Looked after children and all previously looked after children for whom the school has been expressed as a preference. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (1) or became subject to a child arrangement order (2) or special guardianship order.

This applies to all looked-after children, including those who are in the care of another local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services function at the time of making an application.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order. In the case of previously looked after children, a copy of the relevant documentation will be required in support of the application. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under the Adopted & Children's Act 2002. Child Arrangements Orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a Child Arrangements Order.

A child is regarded as being in state care outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Second priority:

Children who are recommended by the Chief Executive Officer and/or Headteacher. This *may* include those who come from a more vulnerable background, those who are under assessment for an Education Health and Care

Plan or where a recommendation is received by the child's appropriate designated medical officer or other assigned professional, such as those who are part of a Child Protection or Child in Need plan, or those whose application is supported by Early Help professionals and other extended services for reasons related to social background and welfare.

Note: we will only consider applications in this category if they are supported by a recommendation from a doctor, social worker or other appropriate professional which sets out the particular reason(s) why the school in question is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.

Third priority:

Children within the normal area of the school, giving priority to the oldest children first.

Fourth priority:

Children of staff at the school.

Priority in this oversubscription criteria is given in either or both of the following circumstances:

- a) Where a member of staff has been employed at the school for more than two years at the time when the admission to the school is made, and/or
- b) the member of staff has been recruited to fill a demonstrable skill shortage.

Fifth priority:

Children from outside the school's normal area, giving priority to those whose home is nearest to school first.

Allocation of sessions

The allocation of sessions is complex, as schools look to meet cohort needs, alongside childcare requests from families. The actual allocation of the number of hours/sessions is NOT subject to the above oversubscription criteria. i.e. eligibility for funded hours may not be subject to a full offer owing to demand.

Changes to allocation of sessions

Changes to hours/sessions may be considered after the school offer date, but may be subject to sessional charge if it occurs after any incoming funding determination.