

MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOLS

Oversubscription criteria 2018/19



Plymouth City Council is the admission authority for community nursery schools in Plymouth.

The admission arrangements outlined within this document apply to community nursery schools in Plymouth in the 2018/19 academic year.

Nursery admission criteria

The admission arrangements outlined in this document apply to admissions to community nursery schools in the 2018/19 academic year.

Determining the admissions policy for community and voluntary controlled maintained nursery schools and classes is the responsibility of the local authority. The local authority delegates the responsibility for administering the admission process for nursery schools and classes to the governing bodies of these schools. Places in nursery schools and classes usually become available when the oldest children enter a Primary School. Places may become available at other times if children leave nursery.

Children are entitled to access free nursery education on a part-time basis at the request of the parent/carer and in the best interest of the child, from the beginning of the term after their third birthday. The nursery will ensure that children accessing their free entitlement should not incur any additional charges or costs. Whilst the Local Authority works within 6 terms for maintained schools, for the purposes of nursery education the term dates are defined by the DFE. These are as follows:

1 April to 31 August

1 September to 31 December

1 January to 31 March

In the case of children who have attained their fourth birthday by 1 September, parents/carers may request that their child attend on a part time or full time basis until compulsory school age. Approval is subject to the recommendation of the school following discussion with the parent/carer and the nursery/pre-school (if appropriate) and is in the best interest of the child.

Oversubscription Criteria

Each maintained nursery school and class has a limited number of places available depending largely on the physical capacity of its buildings. The number of places available is called the published admission number (or PAN for short). In the event that the number of applications to a maintained nursery school or class exceeds its PAN, the following admission criteria will be applied in the following order of priority;

1. **Looked after children and all previously looked after children.** A 'looked after child' is a child who is (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) at the time of making an application to a school. 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 arrangements order or special guardianship order).
2. **A child known by the local authority to have special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND) and whose needs can be best met at the preferred nursery –** applications made under this criterion would need to be supported by written evidence from an appropriate professional;

3. **A vulnerable child with either a Child Protection or a Child in Need Plan or Common Assessment Framework** – applications made under this criterion would need to be supported by evidence from the child's social worker and/or health visitor explaining the advantage of the child attending the preferred nursery as opposed to any other;
4. **A child with exceptional medical or social grounds.** Applicants will only be considered under this heading if the parent/carer or their representative can demonstrate that only the preferred school can meet the exceptional medical or social needs of the child. This can be in the form of a testimony from a medical practitioner, social worker or other professional who can support the application on an 'exceptional' basis.
Exceptional medical or social grounds could include, for example:
 - a serious medical condition, which can be supported by medical evidence
 - a significant caring role for the child which can be supported by evidence from social services;
5. **Children with a sibling already attending the school at the time of admission.** Children are siblings if they are a full, half, step, or adoptive brother or sister, and live in the same family unit and household;
6. **Other children.**

NOTES:

Application for primary school: Attendance at a nursery class attached to a primary school gives no guarantee that a child will continue into the school where the nursery is located.

Attendance: Attendance will normally be up to 15 hours a week.

Home address: A child's home address is defined as the address at which the child is normally resident or, where a child lives at more than one address, the address at which the child lives for the majority of the time. Where the home address is unclear, the Admission Authority will determine the appropriate address taking into account factors such as the address to which the Child Benefit Allowance or Child Tax Credit is payable, registration for medical services etc. Oversubscribed nursery schools and classes are advised to ask parents/carers to provide proof of residence before admitting the child.

Multiple births: Multiple births are defined as children of multiple birth (including those born within the same academic year cohort). We understand that parents/carers would like to keep twins, triplets and other children of multiple birth together. Where the admission criteria is applied and it is not possible to offer places to all children of the same multiple birth family we would work with the family to find the best solution for them and their children. Should it transpire that it is not possible to offer place(s) to all children within that multiple birth, the parent/carer will be invited to nominate which child should be allocated the place(s).

Tie-breaker: Where we have to choose between two or more children in the same category as each other, then the nearer to the school the child lives - as measured by a straight line on the map using Plymouth City Council's electronic mapping system - the higher the priority. Measurement points will be from the spatial locator identified by the National Land and Property Gazetteer. The spatial locator is the address point based on a general internal point. Flats are therefore taken to be the same measurement point regardless of floor of location. If the tie-breaker is not sufficient to distinguish between applicants in a particular category, there will be a random ballot as set out in the School Admissions Code. This will be undertaken by an officer of Plymouth City Council by the operation of an electronic random number generator.

PAN

Nursery Schools	PAN 2017/18	PAN 2018/19
Ham Drive Nursery School	54	52
Plymbridge Nursery School	62	65