

Nunthorpe Primary Academy Admission to Nursery Policy



Issue Date:	April 2025
Reviewed:	April 2026

Policy on Admission to Nursery Class

Background

Redcar & Cleveland local authority is required in legislation (Childcare Act 2006, section 7 (1)) to secure free early years provision for all eligible children in the area from the relevant date following their third birthday until they reach compulsory school age.

This free early year's provision is known as the Free Entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds. From September 2010 the Free Entitlement increased to 15 hours a week (570 hours a year) over at least 38 weeks of the year.

This policy supports the Redcar & Cleveland local authority in fulfilling its statutory duties and applies to how the provision at Nunthorpe Primary Academy is managed.

Nursery Class Admission Limits

Our school nursery class admission limits are: 26 places (at some periods of the year we may operate with more pupils)

This is set in conjunction with the local authority.

Attendance at our nursery cannot guarantee admission to the school when the child reaches compulsory school age. Parents will still need to apply to the local authority for a place at our school if they want their child to transfer to reception class.

Parents do not have to enrol their child at our school nursery to secure a school place. Places for full time education in our school will be allocated in accordance with criteria as described in the local authority Admissions Guide for Parents.

Eligibility for the Free Entitlement

A child first becomes eligible the term after their third birthday, subject to a place being available. We may admit three-year-old children to our nursery class earlier, soon after their third birthday, at our discretion, subject to a place being available.

A child born in the period	Will be eligible for a free place from:
1 st April to 31 st August	1st September following child's 3rd birthday (Autumn school term)
1 st September to 31 st December	01st January following child's 3rd birthday (Spring school term)
1 st January to 31 st March	01st April following child's 3rd birthday (Summer school term)

The School Flexible Offer

Nunthorpe Primary Academy usually offer parents/carers their free entitlement in the following way:

- 15 hours per week or
- 30 hours per week

Our school will consider any requests from parents/carers to take their entitlement in a more flexible way that meets their families' needs. If the request cannot be accommodated, the parent /carer will be referred to the local authority. A free place may be offered at an alternative local authority-approved private or voluntary setting.

If parents are eligible, we may be able to offer 30 hours. This is dependent on pupil numbers and staffing.

Over-subscription Criteria

In allocating places in our nursery class, children will be admitted in accordance with the order of the criteria listed below:

1. Looked after children in local authority and previously looked after children.
2. Children aged 4+ who are permanently resident in the admission zone defined for the school.
3. Children aged 4+ not living in the admission zone who have elder brothers or sisters attending the school in the current school year.
4. Children aged 3+ who are permanently resident in the admission zone defined for the school.

5. Children aged 3+ not living in the admission zone who have elder brothers or sisters attending the school in the current school year.
6. Children not living within the admission zone who have exceptional social and/or medical reasons for attending a particular school, professionally supported by an independent third party and sustained by the Authority's professional advisors. (Taken from LA admissions policy)
7. Children living closest to the school aged 4+
8. Children living closest to the school aged 3+
9. Other children aged 4+
10. Other children aged 3+

When decisions must be taken on prioritising admissions for pupils within the same admissions category, priority will be given to the oldest child in that category. The oldest children will be admitted first.

School will contact families through the details provided on the registration form, families and carers are responsible for ensuring that these details are kept up to date.

Access & Inclusion

We kindly encourage parents to ensure their child is toilet trained before starting nursery, as this will help support a smoother transition into our setting.

All children will be given the opportunity to experience a challenging and enjoyable programme of learning and development, irrespective of ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties or disabilities, gender, or ability.

Staggered Intakes

Admission of children to our nursery class may be phased in over a period, depending on individual circumstances and always with the best interests of the child, at the beginning of the term in which they first become eligible. We will notify parents/carers of their child's confirmed admission date as soon as possible.

Application Information

If you would like to apply for a place in our Nursery we encourage you to register your child for a place as soon as you can. You can do this by contacting the school

office enquiries@nunthorpeprimary.org.uk or 01642 315508 who will take your contact details and your child's name and date of birth.

You will be contacted approximately three months before your child turns three to check you still require the place and to offer you the opportunity to look around our setting with your child.

At this time we will have a one-to-one meeting to get to know you and your child and find out more about their interests, medical needs and stage of development.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the school governing body.

In matters of contention, the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of the Trust will make a decision that is reasonable and communicate this with all parties.