

Nunthorpe Primary Academy Admission to Nursery Policy



Issue Date:	Sept 2026
Next Review:	Sept 2027

Policy on Admission to Nursery

Background

Redcar & Cleveland local authority is required in legislation (Childcare Act 2006, section 7 (1)) to secure funded 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 funded early years provision is known as the Funded Entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds.

All three- and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of government-funded early education per week for 38 weeks of the year (570 hours annually), from the relevant date following their third birthday. Eligible working families may also be entitled to additional funded childcare hours in accordance with the government's current early years entitlement arrangements. Eligibility for additional funded hours is determined under national criteria and is subject to the Academy being able to offer the requested provision.

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 Admission Limits

Our school Nursery 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.

Admission to Nursery does not give a child priority for admission to Reception at Nunthorpe Primary Academy. Parents/carers must make a separate application for a Reception place through the appropriate school admissions process.

Reception places are allocated in accordance with the Academy's published admission arrangements.

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 Funded Early Education

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 earlier, soon after their third birthday, at our discretion, subject to a place being available. Where the Academy agrees to admit a child before the date on which their funded entitlement begins, parents/carers will be informed of any applicable funding or charging arrangements before the place is accepted.

A child born in the period	Will be eligible for a funded 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 offers parents/carers their funded 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 funded place may be offered at an alternative local authority-approved private or voluntary setting.

Eligible families may access up to 30 funded hours per week. Eligibility for the additional funded hours is determined under the government's eligibility criteria. The Academy's ability to offer a 30-hour Nursery place is subject to available places, staffing and the organisation of Nursery provision. Eligibility for 30 funded hours does not in itself guarantee the availability of a 30-hour place at the Academy.

Over-subscription Criteria

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

1. Looked after children 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 siblings 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 siblings attending the school in the current school year.

If it is necessary to distinguish between children within categories 1-5, places will be offered using the criteria listed above in priority order and determined by criteria 5 – measurement on a straight line basis using the number and postcode of the house and the postcode of the school.

In the case of a tie break in category 5, the final allocation will be determined using the shortest walker route using the number and postcode of the house and the postcode of the school.

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 encourage parents and carers to support their child with toilet training in preparation for starting Nursery. We recognise that children develop at different rates and that some children, including those with SEND or medical needs, may require additional support. A child not being toilet trained will not, in itself, prevent admission to Nursery. Where support is required, the Academy will work in partnership with parents/carers to meet the child's individual needs.

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 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 by email at enquiries@nunthorpeprimary.org.uk or by telephone on 01642 315508. The school office 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.