

Local Authority Nursery Admission Policy 2014/15

This is a common admissions policy for Worcestershire Local Authority (LA) maintained nursery provision. It has been drawn up in consultation with headteachers and ensures that nursery admissions are based on common principles but at the same time are sensitive to local and individual needs.

The LA reserves the right to advise and, where necessary, to take responsibility for the allocation of nursery places in individual schools.

All children have an entitlement to a maximum of 15 hours per week free early years education over a minimum of 38 weeks (570 hours per annum maximum). This entitlement can be accessed flexibly across a range of providers with LA maintained nurseries offering all or some of the free entitlement.

- The area served by any nursery is wider than the catchment area of the providing school and may vary according to local circumstances.

Over subscription criteria

If the demand for places exceeds those available, the following criteria will be used to allocate places:

- Looked After* children;
- Children with additional needs**, with priority given to those who meet the County Council's criteria for statutory assessment;
- Siblings if the older sibling will still be on the roll of the nursery class when the younger sibling starts in the nursery class;
- Children living nearest to the school measured by the shortest straight line distance.

Priority will be given to those wishing to access full time provision (15 hours), over those wishing to access less than 15 hours provision.

*'Looked after' means all those currently accommodated by a Local Authority under the terms of the Children Act 1989 and children who were previously accommodated by a Local Authority but immediately after being looked after, became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.

***Additional needs** includes those children whose needs are monitored by LA or external support agencies. Needs may be physical / emotional / social or intellectual. The decision will be taken by the LA in consultation with the Headteacher, SENCo and early years teacher / co-ordinator.

The **sibling** connection, as well as brother and sister will include half-siblings, adopted children, step-siblings or a child of the parent/carers partner. They must also be living at

the same home address. Children who are brought together as a family by a same sex civil partnership and who are living at the same address, are also considered to be siblings.

Access to statutory education

Attendance at an LA maintained nursery does not give entitlement or greater priority for a reception place in the school providing the nursery provision, for the period of statutory education. Places in reception classes are allocated as per the admissions policy for the school.