

Kirton Nursery School
Admissions Policy

Demand for places at Kirton Nursery School is traditionally high. When considering applications, the school will use the criteria outlined in this policy to allocate places fairly and transparently.

All children are entitled to access free nursery education on a part-time basis (15 hours per week) from the beginning of the term after their third birthday.

Some children will be entitled to 30 hours of Early Education and childcare. Parents of three and four year olds will need to meet the certain criteria in order to eligible for 30 hours free childcare and education. Details can be found on the Childcare Choices website:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Our main intake is in September. To apply for a place parent/carers need to return an application form on or before the closing date which is the last day of February. Application forms can be collected from the school office, downloaded from the school website or we can post them out on request. We will continue to allocate places after the cut off on a first come first served basis.

Details of options available can be gained through contacting the school.

If there are more applicants than places, the following process will be followed:

All applications will be allocated places in the same order using the following priority criteria:

1. All looked after and all previously looked after children
2. Children who have an Education and Health Care plan
3. Children with a "Child in Need Plan" or a "Child Protection Plan"
4. A brother or sister attending the Nursery school at the time of application who will still be attending at the expected time of admission
5. Children who will be taking either a full 15 hours or a full 30 hours entitlement with us
6. Closest distance from home to the Nursery school (measured using google maps driving distance)

If distance is not sufficient to distinguish between applicants for the last place, a ballot will be conducted. All applicants names will be placed in a box and will drawn out until all session places have been filled. Twins/triplets will be treated as one application. The ballot committee will consist of the Head teacher and the School Business Manager.

We will retain a list of unsuccessful applicants and in the event of spaces becoming available during the academic year, they will be offered from the waiting list in line with the admissions criteria given above.

If there are places remaining after the initial allocation for the start of the school year in September, these can be offered to children who become three years of age on or after September 1st and will be offered in line with admission criteria as set out in this policy.

- Children born between September 1st and December 31st may be offered a place from January.
- Children born between January 1st and March 31st may be offered a place from April.

Once we have made an offer we can consider withdrawing the place in the following cases:

- Where a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application led to an offer of a place. For example, a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim.
- Where parents/carers do not respond to our offer or any of our follow-up letters.
- Where an error has led to an offer of a place.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The Governors and Head teacher of the school are responsible for publishing this policy. Parents and carers should contact the school for more details.

There is no legal requirement that nursery children must have a place in a class or school and as such, there is no right of appeal against a decision not to offer a child a place at a particular nursery school or class.

Attendance at the nursery will not guarantee admission to any Reception class and does not give advantage to the child's application to any Reception class.

A separate application for admission to Reception class will always have to be made.

Lincolnshire County Council has an inclusive education policy and children will not be discriminated against as laid down by the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, The Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, The Human Rights Act 1998 and The Special Educational Needs and Disability Discrimination Act 2002. This includes reasons such as:

- Developmental delays, eg a child's self-help skills are delayed affecting activities such as dressing, feeding or toilet training.
- Additional educational needs, including emotional or behavioural difficulties.
- Physical or sensory impairment.

Looked after and post looked after: Definition

Sometimes referred to as child in public care, a looked after child is a child in the care of the local authority or is provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children's Act 1989, at the time of 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 arrangements order or special guardianship order.

Children in Need: Definition

Section 18 (10) Children Act 1989 says that a child is defined as being in need if:

- a) He is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him of services by a Local Authority under Part III of the Children Act 1989, or
- b) His health or development is likely to be significantly impaired or further impaired, without the provision for him of such services, or

c) He is disabled.

In practice any child who meets the following criteria should be regarded as a Child in Need:

- Those referred by Social Services, with particular reference to those considered to be at risk in terms of child abuse.
- Those with a Child in Need plan
- Those with a Child Protection Plan

Brother or sister attending the school at the time of application, or who will be attending the school at the expected time of admission.

In all cases both siblings must live at the same address.

A sibling is defined as:

- A brother or sister who shares the same biological parents
- A half-brother, half-sister, step-brother or step-sister
- A legally adopted child
- A child legally adopted by a biological or step-parent

Home Address

By home we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of term time with a parent as defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996 who has parental responsibility for the child as defined in the Children Act 1989.

Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of term time. If a parent can show that their child spends an equal amount of time both addresses during school term time, they can choose which address to use on the application.