



St Benet's Catholic Primary School

Nursery Admission Policy 2024- 2025

There are 60 part time/30 full time Nursery places for 3 and 4 year olds at St Benet's. Nursery places are available for September starts, however if spaces are available for January/April, we can admit children from the term after they turn 3 years old.

15 or 30 hours provision –We offer 15 or 30 hours Nursery provision. 30 hours are only available to eligible children. If you are entitled to Free School Meals, your child is eligible for 15 hours Nursery provision.

If you would like to apply for a place for your child in our Nursery class, please contact the school for further information or please visit the school to complete an application form or access our application form at <https://stbenetsouston.bwcet.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Nursery-Application-Form.pdf>

You can apply for a Nursery place for your child from your **child's first birthday**. Visits and tours around the school are most welcome.

Parents will be notified if their child has a Nursery place for September 2024 in May 2024. If your child is eligible for a Nursery place in January/April 2025, you shall be notified in November 2024 (January starters) or January 2025 (April starters).

Please note that we currently do not take 2 year olds, but if your child shall be three this term and is eligible for 15 hours funding, please contact us.

Waiting List

Once places have been allocated, and where it is not possible to offer some children a nursery place because places are all taken, it will be possible for children's names to be added to a waiting list if parents specifically request it. Any places that then become available will be offered from the waiting list according to the oversubscription criteria. Places will be offered when they become available.

Parents may choose not to accept the offer of a place for their child but they must indicate whether they wish their child's name to remain on the waiting list for admission in the following term. They will then be considered for a nursery place along with any other eligible children. This may mean that a place is no longer available and a place at another setting may need to be sought.

Admission to the Nursery does not guarantee admission to Reception- you will still need to apply for a primary school place following the guidance from the local authority.

Oversubscription Criteria:

First priority in each category will be given to children who will have an older sibling attending the school in September 2024.

1. Children in Need

The Children Act 1989 defines a 'child in need' as:

- a) He/she 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 of services by the Local Authority under Part 3 of the Act.
- b) His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services.
- c) He/she is disabled. In addition, Durham County Council has determined that children of families where English is not the main language of the family will be considered under this criterion.

2. Age

The offer of a place will be prioritised according to date of birth. The earliest date your child can be accepted for Early Years Provision is at the age of 3 -the term after their third birthday, unless they have funding for Nursery places for the term before they turn 3 (please contact us for more information). Where applicants have the same date of birth, priority will be given to the earliest date of application.

3. Children Living in Other Authorities

Although there are no catchment areas for places, preference will be given to children whose parents live within County Durham's or parish boundaries administrative area.