

Admissions criteria for entry September 2024

St Catherine's Primary School Nursery Unit
Barrack Street
Strabane
BT82 8HE

Principal: Mrs B Wilders
Chair of Board of Governors: Mrs B Allen

Voluntary Maintained Nursery Unit
Admissions No: 52 (Full-time)
Session Times: 9:00am – 1:40pm

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Respective Functions of the Board of Governors and the Principal in relation to admissions.

The Admissions Criteria will be applied by a Selection Panel appointed by the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors of St Catherine's Primary School have determined that, in the event of there being more applicants than places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set down to select children for the available places. Children who are not normally resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will not be considered for places until all children who reside in Northern Ireland have been considered.

Preference will be given to those applications that place St Catherine's PS Nursery Unit as their 1st choice of pre-school provision.

Admissions Criteria

A timetable of pre-school admissions procedures setting out the dates by which an application is to be submitted is available at www.eani.org.uk/admissions under 'Pre-School Admissions'. During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered.

The application procedure opens on 9 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 26 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 26 January 2024 will be treated as a late application.

As the pre-school admissions procedure is in two stages the timetable also specifies the relevant dates at Stage 2 which will determine if an application is to be considered as punctual or late.

Statutory Criteria

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:

- on or between 2 July 2020 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
- on or between 1 April 2020 and 1 July 2020 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
 - have not attended or are not currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged child; and,
 - that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2025.

Note: Children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' means a child whose parent has an entitlement to (i) Income Support, or (ii) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or (iii) Income related Employment and Support Allowance, or (iv) Universal Credit. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must provide Benefit Verification to confirm that they have an entitlement. The application procedure for Pre-School will outline how Benefit Verification can be submitted.

2. Children not from socially disadvantaged circumstances (as defined above) who are in their final pre-school year (as defined by criterion 1).

Sub-Criteria

In the event of there being more applicants than places available for the last criterion which can be applied, then selection for the remaining places will be on the basis of the following sub-criteria set out in the order below:

- N.B.** Children of the family includes brother/sister, half-brother/half-sister, adopted or foster brother/sister living at the same address.
- (a) Children who have a child/children of the family currently enrolled in St Catherine's PS Nursery Unit or St Catherine's Primary School.
 - (b) Children who are the eldest/only child in the family.
 - (c) Children whose parents/guardians reside in the Parish of Camus.

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- (d) Children whose parents/guardians reside in the East Ward.
- (e) Children who normally reside in the North South and West Wards of Strabane (on an equal basis)

In the event of over-subscription when the last sub-criterion is applied, then selection for all places remaining in this category will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as per the birth certificate, in the order set out below:-

L D W K Q B U T X J H R S O Z C Mc F Mac Y O' E P N V G I M A

The order was determined in randomised selection of letters. In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames as per the birth certificate will be used.

Non-Statutory Criteria

- 3 Children born between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 who are considered by the Education Authority as having significant special educational needs which indicate that the child would benefit from nursery education. Documentary evidence must be submitted to the Board of Governors.
- 4 Children who were born:
 - on or between 1 April 2020 - 1 July 2020 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and have attended or are currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged (not penultimate aged) child; and, that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1: or,
 - on or between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive); or,
 - on or between 1 April 2021 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2026.

Tie Breaker – Non Statutory Criterion 4

Children within Criterion 4 will be selected in Chronological Order of Age – eldest child first. In the event of two or more children having the same DOB the above random selection of letters will be used.

It is important that parents/guardians when submitting the application form give all the relevant supporting information and written evidence that may be needed, including the child's birth certificate.

Please ensure, in particular, you read the sub-criteria and include relevant information relating to these criteria. "Parents/Guardians Please Note: If any of the sub-criteria are relevant to your application please write this on your Application Form so that due consideration may be given."

If a place is offered on the basis of incorrect or misleading information then the Board of Governors may withdraw the offer. All criteria will apply as at the closing date on the application form.

Applications after 1 September 2024

The same criteria will be used for admissions after 1 September 2024.

If parents/guardians have any difficulty in completing the application form, or wish for clarification on any aspect of it, they should consult the Principal.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

Waiting List Policy

The Waiting List Policy is available directly from the Nursery.

Parents/Guardians should also note that if their child is seeking nursery provision for the 2nd year they MUST reapply.