



TweedLearning

— FEDERATION —

Nursery Admissions Policy 2026-2027

Document monitoring and evaluation

This policy has been officially adopted by the Governing Body.

Version History		
Version	Date	Description
Initially adopted	June 2018	Adopted within new EY Unit structure
Update	June 2020	Updated
Update	Sept 2021	Updated
Update	Sept 2022	Updated
Update	Sept 2023	Updated
Update	Sept 2024	Updated
Update	Sept 2025	Updated
Update	Sept 2026	Updated

Approval & Authorisation			
	Name	Job title	Date
Approved by	Gary Hilton	Head Teacher	Sept 2026
Approved by	F Simpson	Early Years Lead	Sept 2026
Date of next review			Sept 2027

Nursery Admissions Policy 2026-2027

The Northumberland County Council Schools Admissions Policy states that:

Individual Governing Bodies set the Admission Policy for the nursery class attached to their own school. The criteria should reflect available nursery provision within the wider community and not just the school's catchment area. There is an expectation that any child attending a nursery class should remain in that setting until transfer to a reception class.

From September 2026, eligible working parents can claim up to 30 hours of free childcare a week for children aged 9 months to 4 years. All 3 and 4-year-olds are universally entitled to 15 hours per week. Funding applies the term after your child reaches the relevant age.

All children have an entitlement to 15 hours per week free early years education for 38 weeks a year from the beginning of the term following their third birthday. Some children from eligible working families are also entitled to an additional 15 hours of free childcare. This entitlement can be accessed flexibly across a range of providers with Local Authority maintained nurseries offering all or some of the free entitlement.

Currently **all** children at St Mary's are offered **30 hours full time** provision at Nursery, in line with national recommendations and funding. School supports parents in managing requests for funding from the Government, all parents need to do is ask at the school office for support. Governors believe all children should have an equal start to life in school, therefore St Mary's committed to ensuring an outstanding Early Years provision remains consistent to all, whatever the need or background..

This is the nursery policy set out by the governors of St Mary's C of E First School for admission into our maintained nursery provision

- The admission number at St Mary's C of E First School allows up to the equivalent of 20 full time places or 52 part time places (or a combination of both with most children taking up 15 hours and some entitled to 30 hours).
- Subject to availability of places, children will start Nursery immediately after their 3rd birthday via our 'Rising 3's' initiative. Designed to provide a smooth transition into school, the Rising 3's approach allows children to access education at the earliest opportunity ensuring the school and families are able to quickly develop long-lasting and clear relationships to the benefit of the child.
- Parents should contact the school as soon as possible after the child's 1st birthday and complete an application form. The school will record the application.

Securing a place at nursery does not necessarily secure a place or give greater entitlement to a place in the Reception class. These places must be applied for following Northumberland County Council's Procedure.

- If the nursery is oversubscribed the following criteria, in order, will be used to allocate places. This criteria will also be used in allocating 30 hour places.
 1. Looked After Children
 2. Children an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) naming St Mary's C of E First School as the appropriate provision to meet the child's needs
 3. Children who have a sibling living at the same address and who will still be attending St Mary's

C of E First School at the time of entry.

4. Proximity to the school with those living nearest being admitted first (distances will be measured using a straight line between school and home)
5. Chronological order of dates of birth with the oldest being admitted first. • Additional paid nursery sessions will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Nursery application forms are available from the school office.