

McArthur Nursery School
Susan Street
Belfast
BT5 4FE

Principal: Mrs N Compton MA Hons PGCE
Chair of Board of Governors: Anne Miller

Controlled Nursery School
Admissions No: 52 (Full-time)
Session Times: 8.30am – 1pm

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Website: www.mcarthurnurseryschool.co.uk

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

The Board of Governors has drawn up the school's admissions criteria and has delegated to the principal its function and responsibility in relation to the application of the criteria and the admission of pupils to the school.

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 10 January 2023 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 27 January 2023 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 27 January 2023 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.

Admissions criteria to be used in the event of the school being oversubscribed with applications for available places.

Statutory Criteria

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:
 - on or between 2 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
 - on or between 1 April 2019 and 1 July 2019 (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 2024.

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 over-subscription, within any of the above criteria, the following sub-criterion will be applied:

- A. Preference will be given to children who are siblings or half siblings of pupils and/or former pupils and other children living permanently at the same address. (Indicate full name, year group and date of attendance) or who are the first or only child in the family.
- B. Preference will be given to children whose permanent residence is the closest to the nursery. Distance will be determined by a straight line measurement generated electronically using a computer program provided by the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland.

Non-statutory criteria

Note: Applications falling under Criterion 3 are processed only during Stage 2 of the admissions process, after final pre-school year (Statutory 1and 2) applications.

3. Children who were born:
 - on or between 1 April 2019 - 1 July 2019 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,

- 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 2020 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive); 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 that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2025.

Tie Breaker – Non Statutory Criterion 3

Children within Criterion 3 will be selected in Chronological Order of Age – eldest child first. In the event of two or more children having the same DOB Sub-Criteria B will be used.

Note

These admission arrangements will apply for the 2023/2024 school year but may be revised in subsequent years at the discretion of the Board of Governors.

Supporting Information

The Governor's request that all applicants submit the following:

An original birth certificate for the child (either long or short)

Any two of the following to verify the child's home address:

A recent bank or building society statement which shows the address at which the child is resident

A recent utility bill (electricity, gas, television licence or phone) which shows the address at which the child is resident

A recent letter awarding child benefit to the child or another recent letter relating to this benefit

Electoral identification

Driving licence for parent/guardian showing the address at which the child is resident

A recent payslip

A recent mortgage or rental document

A recent land/property document

Recent documents are defined as being within the last 6 months, with the exception of mortgage or land property documents, where within the last year is accepted

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

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 applicant's 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

Should a vacancy arise after Tuesday 13 June 2023 all applications for admission to McArthur Nursery School that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This waiting list will be in place until 30 June 2024.

The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method.

Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish for your child's name to be removed from the list.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it. Examples of such information include whether the child has brothers or sisters attending the school.