



Nursery Admissions Policy September 2017

Introduction

Outlined below is the current system in relation to early years provision in County Durham which explains the entitlement parents have and the admissions criteria that are applied when allocating a place to one of the LA's maintained nursery schools and units. A revision to the criteria is proposed by Sure Start County Durham.

Background

Parents can access the free entitlement to early years provision, which includes early learning, care and development for their child. The current entitlement of 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year is available for all three and four year olds and can last for up to two years, until their child reaches statutory school age. It can be taken flexibly over a minimum of 3 days per week with up to 2 providers and parents can access as little or as much of the entitlement as they choose. From September 2017, this will rise to 30 hours for working families who meet the criteria set out by central government.

A limited number of 2 Year Olds are also able to access this up to 15 hours early learning, care and development in the same way as three and four year olds. Parents whose children are eligible will be informed locally and will be invited to take up the provision.

This entitlement can be delivered in any of the following:

- the LA's maintained nursery schools and units;
- Children's Centres; and
- the Private, Voluntary and Independent Day Nurseries and Play Groups.

Admission of Children into the LA Maintained Nursery Schools and Units

It should be noted that a parent can place their child's name on a waiting list for a LA maintained Nursery School or Unit at the beginning of the school year (1 September to 31 August) in which the child has his or her second birthday.

In Ludworth Primary School, we offer 8 'Play and Learn' places for 2-year-old children who meet the criteria set out by the Local Authority. We also offer 26 Nursery places, inclusive of 30 hours provision from September 2017.

Parents of entitled 2-year-old children will have received a 'Golden Ticket' from the Local Authority and are asked to present this in school so that a start place can be arranged for their child, where spaces are available. If spaces are not available, then the child's name will be placed on a waiting list. Places are allocated dependant on the child's birthday, with the earliest birth date being offered first.

To apply for 15 hours Nursery provision, parents should contact school and apply directly to us. Places will be allocated a term after the child's third birthday, subject to availability.

To apply for 30 hours provision from September 2017, parents should contact school where they will be directed to complete an eligibility check. When this has been

completed successfully and eligibility has been confirmed, parents will be asked to submit an application form and identify how they would like to structure their child's 30 hours. Options for hours in addition to 30 hours are available and if required, parents should contact school to discuss how individual requirements will be met and what additional charges may be incurred.