

Warwickshire County Council policy on admissions to nursery schools

Introduction

The six nursery schools in Warwickshire are distinctive institutions, established as schools, with qualified teachers, although funded on a different basis. They are exemplars of best practice in early years education, well placed to meet the government's agenda of providing early education to the most vulnerable children of Warwickshire.

While admission to nursery schools is non-statutory, Warwickshire County Council has adopted the following local policy for admission to its nursery schools named below. Warwickshire County Council and the nursery schools will have regard to the Schools Admissions Code 2012.

The Nursery Schools

Name	Address	No. of places
Atherstone		100
Bedworth Heath		80
Stockingford		80
Kenilworth		80
Warwick		80
Whitnash		80

Timing of admission to nursery schools

In Warwickshire children normally start nursery education from the term following their third birthday.

All three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free nursery education per week, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year. This applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday).

For the 2016/17 academic year children become eligible for the free entitlement on the dates set out in the table below:

A child born in the period:	Will become eligible for a free place:
1st April 2014 to 31st August 2014	1st September 2016 (Autumn school term)
1st September 2014 to 31st December 2014	1st January 2017 (Spring school term)
1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015	1 st April 2017 (Summer school term)

Each nursery will administer its own applications. Children will be admitted at the beginning of each term. The closing dates for applications and the dates on which offers will be made are set out below:

Term	Closing date for applications	Offers made
Autumn	Monday of the second week in January	Friday of the fourth week in January
Spring	Monday of the last week in September	Friday of the third week in October
Summer	Monday of the last week in February	Friday of the third week in February

Parents will have two weeks to accept the place offered.

Oversubscription criteria

In the event that the number of applications to a maintained nursery school exceeds its published admissions number (PAN), the following criteria will be applied in the order below when allocating places:

1. Children with a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the nursery school.
2. Children in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority (under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
3. A child with a child protection plan in place.
4. A vulnerable pupil with a CAF in place (or its replacement) or where evidence from the relevant professional(s) can demonstrate to the governing body that a nursery school place will benefit the child's educational, social, emotional or health development rather than any other provider.
5. A child known by the local authority to have additional educational needs where evidence from the relevant professional(s) can demonstrate to the governing body that a nursery school place will benefit the child's educational development rather than any other provider.
6. A child with a serious ongoing medical condition, where evidence from the relevant professional(s) can demonstrate to the governing body that a nursery school place will benefit the child's educational, social, emotional or health development rather than any other provider.

7. A child who has previously attended the nursery school as a funded 2 year old.
8. Any remaining places will be allocated to applicants living at a Warwickshire address, with priority being decided on the basis of distance between the nursery school and the child's home address.

Distance will be calculated by straight line measurement from the applicant's home address to the school in question. If the distance between two addresses is identical then further measurements will be carried out by the admissions team at the council.

Non-admission to a nursery school

Admission to a nursery school is non-statutory and therefore there is no appeal against a decision to offer a place. Parents who are not satisfied that their child has not been offered a place may express their concerns to the nursery school's governing body who will consider each case on its merits, balancing the need to maintain child:adult ratios.

Late applicants

Late applications will be considered after those received on time. Where places cannot be offered to late applicants, they will be added to the waiting list, in the order set out in the oversubscription criteria above.

Waiting lists

Waiting lists will operate for the term of entry. Where places become available, they will be offered from the waiting list in the order set out in the oversubscription criteria above. Waiting lists will be closed at the end of each term.

If no waiting list is operating, any places which become available during the term will be offered according to the same criteria.

Admission to school

Admission to a nursery school does not guarantee admission to any particular school. A separate application must be made.