

## THE VICTORY PRIMARY SCHOOL

### NURSERY ADMISSIONS POLICY

#### INTRODUCTION

The Victory primary School is responsible for admissions to nursery classes in our community.

This policy should be used to determine admissions to our nursery. Parents do not have a statutory right to appeal to an independent appeal panel in relation to nursery admissions so it is essential, therefore, that all admissions decisions can be justified by reference to the following criteria, taking into account the particular circumstances of the school.

A child is entitled to 15 hours a week, free learning and care in an early years setting from the start of the term following their third birthday, for 38 weeks in a full year. The key dates are 1 January, 1 April and 1 September. This entitlement will be offered to parents on a flexible basis and the nursery will advise parents of the patterns of attendance they can offer. Our offer will be all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday a.m. OR Wednesday p.m., Thursday and Friday.

#### PROCEDURES FOR THE VICTORY PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY

The Victory nursery can accommodate a maximum of 50 children. The patterns of attendance available are 25 children on each of the two attendance sessions offered as described above.

If you would like your child to come to this nursery, you must make enquiries to the school when your child is 2 years old, or as soon as possible after that.

The governors, head teacher and nursery manager will consider applications in accordance with the admission criteria. They will let parents know by letter of their decision where possible at least half a term before admission, ordinarily this will be by the end of October, February and May. If your child is offered a place, you must confirm your acceptance to the school within two weeks otherwise the school may have to refuse places for other children unnecessarily.

The final decision on when a child is admitted, the number of hours a child is able to attend and his/her pattern of attendance, rests with the head teacher.

#### ADMISSION CRITERIA

The school will consider all enquiries in accordance with the following criteria, set out in priority order. Length of time on a waiting list will not be taken into account.

Categories B & C contain examples of both special educational and social need.

- A. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, residence, or special guardianship order (A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).
- B. Children for whom there is a recommendation for nursery education by a health professional, social worker, educational psychologist, outreach worker or education welfare officer on the basis of the child's special educational needs.

Examples of special educational needs, in no order of priority, might include:

- Emotional and behavioural problems;
- Hearing difficulties;
- Lack of personal interaction and stimulation;
- Physical disabilities;
- Speech and language problems;
- Visual difficulties.

- C. Children with social needs, based on information gained by the head teacher as part of the enquiry procedure.

Examples of social needs, in no order of priority, might include:

- Children who were multiple births (twins, triplets);
- A child with a confined play space;
- A child from a one parent family;
- A child in a large family (four or more children);
- A child with parents under 20 years of age;
- A child in sole care of grandparents;
- A child who has two or more siblings under four years of age;
- A child on the child protection register;
- A child of parents with disabilities;
- A child with English as an additional language.

- D. Children with a brother or sister (including children living as siblings in the same family unit) with disabilities (as in A) that require a significant amount of additional support.

E. Children who have a brother or sister (including children living as siblings in the same family unit) on the school roll who will still be attending The Victory Primary School, the following academic year.

F. Other children.

## TIEBREAKER

If the nursery is oversubscribed **within** any of the above categories (A-F), children in the year before they may start school will be given priority. Then preference will be given to children who live closest to the school based on a straight line measurement from school to the entrance of the property.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### **Priority for children eligible for the pupil or service premium.**

All schools now have the freedom, if they wish, to give admission priority to all children attracting the pupil premium, the early years premium and the service premium. This change is fuelled by government policy to support fair access and to support the most disadvantaged in society.

### **Priority for nursery children eligible for the early years pupil premium, pupil or service premium.**

Schools which have a nursery can now give priority for admission into Reception to disadvantaged children attending the nursery.

### **Applying for a place in year R**

Admission to a reception class will be in accordance with United Learning's Admission Policy.

**Admission to a nursery unit does not constitute any right of entry to the nearest local school, and places will be allocated according to that schools admissions policy.** Parents have the right not to send their children to school until the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Only in exceptional circumstances can children remain in the nursery beyond the normal admission date for reception classes (i.e. the September of the school year concerned).

### **Admission of summer born children**

These provisions have been amended to provide clarity to parents and to aid decision making on the part of the school. Parents of a summer born child who choose not to send that child to school until September following their fifth birthday - which is when that child becomes of statutory school age – can request that they are admitted outside their normal age group – to Reception rather than Year 1.

The decision (a governor one since it relates to an admission issue) must be made on the facts of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of

parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; any relevant medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group had they not been born prematurely. They must also take into account the views of the head teacher of the school. When informing a parent of their decision on a year group the child should be admitted to, the governors must set out their reasons for their decision clearly.

In addition, the governors must make it clear in their arrangements that there where they have offered a child a place:

- That child is entitled to a full time place in the September following their fourth birthday;
- The child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; and
- Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

The effect of this is that if a parent wishes to defer the start of schooling to the year in which the child reaches compulsory school age, the application for a place has to be made through the Local Authority for that later year. However, parents can apply for a place in the previous year, i.e. when the child is a rising 5, and decide subsequently whether or not to accept that place.

Revised guidance on Summer Born children can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>.

## **Transport**

Transport from home to the nursery will only be provided where the child has been directed to the placement as part of an SEN assessment or statement against an agreed criteria. In such circumstances, transport can only be recommended following an assessment of individual need by the Local Authority Children's Services.

## **Schools and those with parental responsibility for a child:**

(Guidance from the Department for Children, Schools and Families)

The definition of a *parent* in the Education Acts includes:

- All natural parents whether they are married or not;
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental *responsibility* for a child or young person; and
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, *has care* of a child or young person.

Having *parental responsibility* means assuming all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority that a parent of a child has by law. It is defined by the Children Act 1989. It gives parents the legal right to make decisions and choices, such as where the child will live or go to school etc. If the parents were married to each other at the time of a child's birth, or if they have been married to each other at any time since the child's conception, they each have parental responsibility.

Having care of a child or young person means that a person who the child lives with, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child, is considered to be a parent in education law.

Reviewed: March 2015

Review: March 2016

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