

Preschool Admissions Policy

2023

Policy Updated: February 2023

**Policy Review
Date:** February 2024

As an academy school, the Trust is the admission authority and has responsibility for setting these admission arrangements and for making decisions regarding admissions applications. These schools set their own oversubscription criteria.

1. The Ethos of Bearness School

- 1.1.** Our Ethos - we ask parents to respect our ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of all parents to apply and be considered for a place here:

As a Multi Academy Trust we want to be nationally recognised for putting our pupils first by:

- Delivering educational excellence underpinned by strong moral values
- Each learner exceeding their aspirations in a quality learning environment
- Highly motivated, research-led, passionate teaching
- Schools being at the heart of and an integral part of their community
- Being a partner of choice

Our mission is to deliver the best for our children, families and communities through:

- Innovative approaches to learning
- The development of partnership and collaborative working to create a cutting-edge approach
- An uncompromising approach to health, safety, nurturing and inclusion

We will achieve this by investment in:

- High quality provision for staff and their pathways to success
- School environments that provide stimulating learning spaces
- Strong business planning to maximise the Trust's geographical range and collective expertise

Every Academy within our Trust has considered exactly what they offer their pupils and this has been summarised as:

Small Schools, Big Opportunities

- Unforgettable experiences - setting the foundations for life
 - No ceiling, the highest possible achievement for all
 - Individuality valued, collaboration not competition

- People matter, every interaction, every moment

2. Early Years Funding for three and four year olds

- 2.1.** All three- and four-year-olds are entitled to a funded early years place for 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year. Some children, whose parents are working, will be entitled to 1140 hours a year.
- 2.2.** We expect to admit children that will be using their Early Years Funding as well as children whose parents are buying additional hours and those that are both funded and buying hours. There may be some children who are only attending for bought hours and some that only attend for funded hours. The maximum amount of funded time that can be taken in a day is 10 hours; parents cannot use more than two sites for funded early years places in one day.

3. Admissions to the preschool

- 3.1.** Bearness Primary School admits:
- Early Years funded three- and four-year-olds from the start of the funding period following their third birthday.
 - Non-funded three- and four-year-olds from the start of funding period following their third birthday.

4. Points of Admission to preschool

- 4.1. Generally, children will start at preschool at the beginning of a term. Eligibility for all three-years-olds to receive the Early Years Funding is at the start of the funding period following their third birthday. This funding will be paid up until the time when the child reaches statutory school age if the parent chooses to defer or delay entry into school.
- 4.2. There is a legal requirement that all children begin full time education by the beginning of the term following their **fifth** birthday. All places offered in reception at the normal round are for **full-time admission** in the September following the **fourth** birthday. This is a legal requirement on schools but not on parents who retain a right to defer admission or send their child part time.
- 4.3. All children attending Bearness Preschool need to be toilet trained.

5. Patterns of attendance available

- 5.1. We are required to offer the Early Years Funding in a flexible way. Our school makes a **core offer** for the **universal** 570-hour funding entitlement of:
- Morning sessions of 9.00am to 12.00pm and
 - Afternoon sessions of 12.15pm to 3.15pm and
 - All day sessions of 9.00am to 3.15pm during term time only.
- 5.2. If you choose an afternoon or an all-day session this includes the lunchtime period that is 12.15 – 1.15pm. This time is part of the day when children continue their learning and will be funded as part of the Early Years Funding if that is what parents/carers choose. We are not permitted to charge separately for this time if it is being taken as part of a funded session.

6. Extended Hours

- 6.1. Families that have an 11-digit code because they are working and eligible for the 30-hour **extended entitlement** can have up to 1140 hours **stretched across a year** or 30 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year.
- 6.2. If parents want to buy additional hours on top of the 15 funded hours or the 30-hour extended entitlement, they can do this during any of our opening times. We sell 3 hours at £13.20.
- 6.3. Families that require a longer day than we can offer should contact the providers available via [Pinpoint](#)
- 6.4. The table below sets out our session times. **We only consider requests for sessions AFTER the oversubscription criteria have been applied.**

Session choices	Hours	Funded/bought hours
9.00am – 12.00pm	3	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.
12.15pm – 3.15pm	3	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.
9.00am – 3.15pm	6	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.

- 6.5. Parents wishing to use their 15 funded hours during term times only with us need to choose sessions carefully so that they can access the full 15 hours e.g., sessions of 6 + 3 + 3 + 3 hours = 15 OR 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 15 OR 6 + 6 + 3 = 15

7. Charging

- 7.1. There is no charge for applying for a place, for admission or for the provision of the funded entitlements. We will not request donations before or during the admissions process and any donations made to the school following admission are entirely voluntary. No bought activities, such as visits, are compulsory.
- 7.2. The school must comply with Devon County Councils [Provider Agreement](#).
- 7.3. Details about buying additional sessions in the preschool are set out in the Trust's **Charging and Remissions Policy** which is available on the school website.
- 7.4. We are unable to refund fees for sessions not taken due to illness, absence, holidays or where the Preschool is forced to close due to circumstances beyond our control.
- 7.5. If a child's place is no longer required at the Preschool, (apart from at normal expected entry into primary/secondary school) then we ask that a minimum of four weeks' notice is given otherwise regular booked sessions will need to be paid for. This includes funded sessions. If you move to another provider without giving 4 weeks' notice, you will forfeit 4 weeks of entitlement funding and you will need to pay for your child to attend another provider as Bearnese Preschool will claim the 4 weeks funding in lieu of 4 weeks' notice.

8. Childcare Vouchers and Tax-Free Childcare

- 8.1. Our school accepts childcare vouchers.
- 8.2. Our school is [registered](#) for [tax free childcare](#) parents can apply through [Childcare Choices](#) this helps make childcare more affordable.

9. School Lunches

- 9.1. [Free school meals](#) (FSM) must be provided for children (whose parents meet the [eligibility criteria](#)) and if their child attends **both** before and after the lunch time period. This generally means an all-day session. A free school meal will be provided whether the child is attending for funded or bought time and regardless of their age. Parents must check eligibility through the [Citizens Portal](#).
- 9.2. Children who do not meet the eligibility criteria for free school meals are offered the opportunity to either buy a school lunch or bring a packed lunch.

10. Visiting

- 10.1. We welcome visits from parents and children who are considering applying for a place here. This is an opportunity for you to see what we have to offer. Visits are not a compulsory part of the admissions process and will not affect decisions on whether a place can be offered at our preschool. If you would like to visit Bearnese

Primary School Preschool, you should contact the school to make an appointment. Our Administrator is contactable on 01626 353980.

- 10.2.** We offer Stay and Play sessions before your child starts. Please discuss these with our Early Years Teacher, when looking around school.
- 10.3.** Most children will start at the preschool at the start of the term. Other children join us at other times. This may be because they are new to the area or would like to transfer from another early year's provider.
- 10.4.** To apply for a place here you must use the registration form at Appendix one.
- 10.5.** Places are not allocated to a child automatically, even where:
- there is an older sibling attending the school.
 - a child attends a particular toddler group or Children's Centre attached to the school.
 - a parent has expressed an interest at any time in the school; or
 - the child has always lived close to the school.
- 10.6.** No places will be held in reserve for a child who applies late; the school cannot hold places empty if another child applies for admission. We will publicise the need to apply on our website but the responsibility for making an application will be with you as the parent.

11. How to apply for a Preschool place

- 11.1. Parents must complete the Registration form at Appendix one and return it to the school.**
- 11.2.** The closing dates for applications for the preschool intake are 1 April, 1 July and 1 January. You can apply after these dates, but your application may not be considered until after all the applications that were on time. If you couldn't apply before because, for instance, you moved to this area, you should make sure that you inform the school. If the reason for applying after the closing date is accepted, your application will be considered at the same time as everyone who did apply on time if this is still possible.

12. Information provided in an application

- 12.1.** We would like all applications to be fully and honestly completed. It is important that where we offer places to some and refuse others we do so fairly and consistently. Where we have reason to believe that information is false and has been provided knowingly, we may withdraw the offer of a place. This is particularly relevant where an address is given which is not the one from which a child will actually attend preschool, and this disadvantages another child.
- 12.2.** If you know or believe that your child's address will change before admission, you must inform the school as this may affect your application.
- 12.3.** You will be asked to provide date of birth evidence so we can check your child's age.

13. What happens next

- 13.1.** If there are fewer applications than places, then no application will be refused. Only if there are more applications than there are places available will the Admissions Committee prioritise applications according to the oversubscription criteria.
- 13.2.** We will endeavour to give the hours requested on the Parent Registration Form. It is inevitable, however, that some parents who have been prioritised will not be able to access the hours they have requested. In these instances, we will offer times (days/hours/weeks) that fall closest to the hours requested.
- 13.3.** By 1 May, 1 October and 1 February we will contact successful parents to welcome them to the preschool and to make arrangements for admission itself. You will also be contacted if we do not have a place available so that you can apply to another provider.

14. Overview of the Admissions Process

1) Visit the preschool in:	Spring term	Summer term	Autumn term
2) Apply by:	1 May	1 September	1 January
3) Admissions panel meet in:	May	September	January
4) Receive a letter about your application before:	May half term	October half term	February half term
5) Reply to the letter	Reply to the letter within 2 weeks to accept a place (or ask why you did not get a place). You can telephone, email or write to the school		
6) Start at Preschool (or at the start of term closest to that month)	September Autumn Term	January Spring term	April Summer term

15. Published Nursery Admissions Number (PNAN)

- 15.1.** This is the number of places we intend to make available for our normal preschool intake. Once we set this number, we will not refuse admission for applications below the PNAN. If there is unexpectedly high demand and we believe we could admit more children, we inform Devon County Council's Early Years and Childcare Team and either some children will be admitted above the PNAN or we will increase the PNAN. The number of children that can be admitted will depend on their age, the amount of floor space we have and whether additional staff will be required.
- 15.2.** The trustees also factor in the local demand for places. If there is a change to the PNAN part way through the year this will be published.
- 15.3.** If there is an increase in the demand for places the trustees may decide to increase the PNAN in order to accommodate children on the waiting list and conversely reduce the PNAN if there is a very low demand.
- 15.4.** The table below sets out our Published Nursery Admissions Number (PNAN)

The maximum number of 3 and 4-year-old children that will be admitted at any one time:	12
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- 15.5.** Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the Admissions Committee will use the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order including those who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.2. Priority will next be given to children based on their exceptional medical or social needs or those of their parents.3. Priority will next be given to children living within the catchment area who are siblings of pupils on roll at this school.4. Priority will next be given to other children living within the catchment area.5. Priority will next be given to children living outside the catchment area, who are siblings of pupils on roll at this school.6. Priority will next be given to children of members of staff who have been employed at this school for more than two years or recruited within the past two years to fill a vacancy for which there was a skills shortage.7. Other children. |
|---|

16. Waiting lists

- 16.1.** Following the allocation of preschool places the school will retain a waiting list. Waiting lists will be kept in order of the oversubscription criteria above. Places on lists will not be prioritised according to how long a child's name has been on that list or by the age of the child or by whether the sessions are funded or bought. It is possible that a child's name could go down on a list as well as up.
- 16.2.** If a place is only available for a short period of time, i.e., half a term or less, then the school will discuss with the parent whether it would be in the child's best interest to attend the preschool for such a short period of time before having to find a place at another provider. Continuity and consistency of care is most important in the early years and having lots of transitions can be disruptive for a child.
- 16.3.** Parents with children that are not due to start within the next two terms, will be asked to complete a **Note of Interest for a Preschool Place** at Appendix two and told when they should apply.

17. Increasing the hours attended

- 17.1.** If a place/session becomes available part way through a term and there is a waiting list, priority for the place/session will be given to the children on the waiting list. If the parents on the waiting list do not want the sessions at the times that are available, then they can be offered to parents of children who are already attending the preschool. Similarly, if there is not a waiting list and there are parents of children that already attend the preschool who want to either take up additional funded hours and/or buy extra hours then a list of those parents will be made, and the

oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine who should be given priority for that place.

18. Admissions appeals

- 18.1.** If a preschool place is refused, parents can go through the Trust's complaints process, which is available via the Complaints policy on our website to express their concerns. The Admissions Committee will review the decision and decide whether the refusal was justified on the grounds that the preschool is full. Even if it is agreed that the preschool was full, it will also consider the impact on the child and family and may still award a place at the preschool if there is both the physical space and sufficient staff available.

19. Transport

- 19.1.** No transport is available for preschool children.

20. Uniform

- 20.1.** Children attending Bearnese Primary School Preschool are not expected to wear a uniform.

21. Claiming the Early Years Funding

- 21.1.** The Early Years Funding can be taken at more than one provider; parents cannot use providers on more than two sites in one day. The provider claims the funding on your behalf.
- 21.2.** It is important that both the school and parent can see what time is funded and what time is being bought.
- 21.3.** Parents must not claim more than the 570 or 1140-hour entitlement, checks are carried out to ensure that over claims are not made.

22. Changes to attendance

- 22.1.** Changes to the times when a child is attending will generally only be agreed to take effect from the start of a term. The oversubscription criteria will be applied to both a) and b) below to determine within each group which children should be given priority. Order of priority for the consideration of unfilled places.
- a) New applications from parents whose children do not yet attend the preschool.
 - b) Requests by parents whose children attend the preschool, and they want to increase OR change the times their child attends
- 22.2.** It is expected that parents will ensure that their child will attend at the times agreed so that children can establish a routine and be ready to start school.

23. Induction and transition arrangements for starting preschool

At Bearnese we recognise that parent and teacher relationships are key to the children's development. Prior to starting we encourage families to visit Bearnese FSU with their children, allowing them the time to ask questions, join in with Stay and Play sessions and explore our setting. Every child is individual and in discussion with the Early Years Leader about the child's personal needs, we allow children to

take up their full allocation of hours. During the first few sessions we invite parents in to settle their children at the beginning of the session if this is in the child's best interest. On a daily basis the Early Years staff are available at the beginning and end of each session to discuss the children's day and answer any questions.

24. Contacts and further information

Academy Head	Dan Turner
E-mail:	adminbarnes@thelink.academy
Telephone:	01626 353980
Website:	https://www.barnes.thelink.academy/website
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/barnesprimary

25. This policy was reviewed and approved by the Admissions Committee

Barnes Early Years Unit registration form

CONFIDENTIAL

- All children must be toilet trained to attend Barnes Preschool
- We take children from the term in which they turn three; Children are eligible for 15hrs funding the term after they turn three.
- Children who qualify, can also claim 30hours funding the term after they turn three, please refer to the (DFE) Department for Education for guidelines

Child's details

Child's first name(s)		Surname	
Name known as			
Child's full address			
Gender		Date of birth	
		Birth certificate seen Yes/No (<i>delete</i>)	
Family details			
Name of parent(s)/carer(s) with whom the child lives:			
Contact details 1 (including emergency information):			
Parent/carers full name			
Relationship to child			
Daytime/work telephone		Mobile	

Home telephone		Email	
Home address			
Work address			
Does this parent have parental responsibility for the child? Yes/No (<i>delete</i>)			
Does this parent have legal access to the child? Yes/No (<i>delete</i>)			
Contact details 2 (including emergency information):			
Parent/carer full name			
Relationship to child			
Daytime/work telephone		Mobile	
Home telephone		Email	
Home address			
Work address			
Does this parent have parental responsibility for the child? Yes/No (<i>delete</i>)			
Does this parent have legal access to the child? Yes/No			
Contact details 3 (including emergency information):			
Parent/carer full name			
Relationship to child			

Daytime/work telephone			Mobile	
Home telephone		Email		
Home address				
Work address				
Does this parent have parental responsibility for the child? Yes/No (<i>delete</i>)				
Does this parent have legal access to the child? Yes/No (<i>delete</i>)				
Emergency contact details if parents are not available <i>Emergency contacts must be local.</i>				
Contact 1 - Name				
Daytime/work tel				
Home telephone		Mobile		
Address				
Relationship to child				
Contact 2 - Name				
Daytime/work tel				
Home telephone		Mobile		
Address				
Relationship to child				

Persons other than parent(s) authorised to collect the child *Must be over 16 years of age*

Person 1 - Name			
Daytime/work tel			
Home telephone		Mobile	
Address			
Relationship to child			
Person 2 - Name			
Daytime/work tel			
Home telephone		Mobile	
Address			
Relationship to child			

About your child

Has your child received the following immunisations? (Please confirm and date)

Two months old		Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio and haemophilus influenza type b (Hib). Pneumococcal infection.
Yes/No (<i>delete</i>)		
Date:		
Three months old		

Yes/No <i>(delete)</i>		Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio and haemophilus influenza type b (Hib). Meningitis C (meningococcal group C).
Date:		
Four months old Yes/No <i>(delete)</i>		Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio and haemophilus influenza type b (Hib). Meningitis C (meningococcal group C). Pneumococcal infection.
Date:		
12 months old Yes/No <i>(delete)</i>		Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) and meningitis C.
Date:		
13 months old Yes/No <i>(delete)</i>		Measles, mumps and rubella (German measles). Pneumococcal infection.
Date:		
Two and Three years Yes/No <i>(delete)</i> Date:		Flu vaccine (annual) Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and polio. Measles, mumps and rubella.
Three years and four months or soon after Yes/No <i>(delete)</i>		
Date:		

Details of professionals involved with your child

GP

Name		Telephone	
Address			

Health Visitor (if applicable)

Name		Telephone	
Address			

Social Care Worker (if applicable)

Name		Telephone	
Address			
Please arrange to speak with your child's key worker if this is applicable.			

Any other professional who has regular contact with the child

Name 1		Role	
Agency		Telephone	
Name 2		Role	
Agency		Telephone	

Name 3		Role	
Agency		Telephone	

Toilets

Is your child toilet trained? **Yes / No**

Is your child confident using the toilet alone? **Yes / No**

*We encourage the children to be reasonably independent in using the toilet though we understand that accidents do happen. We therefore ask that every child is equipped with a **full** spare set of clothes to change into. If children cannot manage the toilet alone they will be helped in accordance with our Intimate Care Policy. All staff and volunteers are fully DBS checked.*

Has your child previously attended another setting? If so, please list the name and contact details below;

Will your child be attending another setting whilst at Bearnese Early Years Unit? If so, please list the name and contact details below;

Please list any known allergies, dietary requirements or medical conditions below;

What is the main religion in your family (if applicable)?

What language(s) is/are spoken at home?

Key persons - Information for parents

Each child joining the setting will have a key person appointed to them. It will be the key person's responsibility to ensure that your child receives the best possible attention whilst in our care and to ensure that their records are kept up-to-date. Your child's key person will change as your child progresses through the setting. You will be notified of these changes. Your child's key person is your first point of contact for anything you wish to discuss about your child. Please keep us informed if there are any family circumstances that may affect your child during the year e.g. the birth of a baby, recent move or loss of a close relative.

Your child's key person will

be

Tara Ashton (Preschool leader)

General parental permissions

Emergency treatment declaration

In the event of an accident or emergency involving my child I understand that every effort will be made to contact me immediately. Emergency services will be called as necessary and I understand my child may be taken to hospital accompanied by the setting manager (or authorised deputy) for emergency treatment and that health professionals are responsible for any decisions on medical treatment in my absence.

Signed

Date

I give/do not give consent to Early Years staff to administer first aid to my child in emergency situations.

For prescribed medicine only

I give/do not give consent to Bearnese School to administer prescribed medication to my child if provided and requested to do so by myself in writing.

Note: Bearnese School will not provide other medication under any circumstances

Signed

Date

Outings

I give permission for my child_____ to take part in trips/ general outings.
For any major outings, we will inform you and ask for your specific consent.

Signed

Date

Animals

We may occasionally have supervised visits of animals to our setting. We will ensure that our pets are healthy and fully inoculated as appropriate and that animals showing any signs of disease are treated. A risk assessment will be carried out for visiting animals, and parents informed. Please state below any known allergies or aversion your child has to animals:

Signed _____

Date _____

Equipment

It is helpful if the children can bring a bag to school daily in which they can carry books, letters and artwork.

On Fridays we do PE so they will need a change of clothes, including plimsolls.

We regularly go on welly walks so it is helpful if you can leave a spare pair in school, we are also outside a lot so warm/waterproof coats are required every day!

Sun cream

During the sunny weather the children are encouraged to wear sun cream. We ask that children come to school with their own, labelled sun cream. These will be kept in a box in the classroom. Please sign below to give your permission for reapplication.

Signed _____ Date _____

Snacks

As a snack we generally offer a selection of fruit (a £2 donation is requested each term to cover alternative snacks such as smoothies, croissants or pancakes). Milk will be offered to drink at snack time and water is freely available throughout the day. Please let us know if you have any concerns regarding snacks/drinks including any known allergies.

Equalities monitoring

White – British

- Irish
- Traveller of Irish Heritage

Asian or Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani

- Gypsy/Roma

- Any other white background

- Bangladeshi

- Any other Asian background

Mixed – White and Black Caribbean

- White and Black African

- White and Asian

- Any other mixed background

Black or Black British

- Caribbean

- African

- Any other Black background

Chinese

- Chinese

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Any other ethnic background

- Please
state

Special Educational Needs

Does your child have any of the following in place?

Early Years Action

Early Years Action Plus

Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan

No special educational need identified

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Which sessions would you like your child to attend?

	a.m.		p.m.	
Monday:	8.55am to 12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	12.15 to 3.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday:	8.55am to 12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	12.15 to 3.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday:	8.55am to 12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	12.15 to 3.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday:	8.55am to 12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	12.15 to 3.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday:	8.55am to 12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	12.15 to 3.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lunch is from 12.15pm so our full day and afternoon sessions include 'lunch club'.

30 hours Entitlement Code (if applicable):

FSM code (if applicable):

Note of Interest for a Preschool Place

You can complete this form if your child is not yet old enough for you to make a preschool application.

We will send the Registration Form via email when you need to apply.

Please check [on the Citizens Portal](#) now to see if you are eligible for free school meals in the preschool as this may help when completing the application form.¹

Childs Details
First name:
Last name:
Date of birth:

Siblings Name/s
First name:
Last name:
Date of birth:

First name:
Last name:
Date of birth:

First name:
Last name:
Date of birth:

¹ If your circumstances change you must recheck your eligibility.

Parent/Guardians Details	
First name:	
Last name:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
Relationship to the child:	

Privacy and Data Protection

Your personal data is being used by us because you have showed an interest in applying for a place in our school preschool when your child is old enough. We undertake to ensure your personal data will only be used in accordance with our privacy notice which can be accessed via the school website. Please confirm that you give your consent to the School using your personal data as outlined in our privacy notice, by signing below.

Applicant's signature:	
Date:	

You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time. Should you wish to withdraw consent, please contact the school administrator on 01626 353980 or adminbearnese@thelink.academy. If you wish to exercise any of your rights under the General Data Protection Regulation, please contact the schools Data Protection Officer, Susan Stansfield, at DPO@thelink.academy.