



## Preschool Admissions Policy and Oversubscription Criteria

**Policy Updated:** January 2021

**Policy Review Date:** January 2022

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.

These arrangements seek to comply with the government's [School Admissions Code](#), the [Local Conditions of Funding the Early Years Education for two-, three- and four-year-olds](#) and the [Early Years Pupil Premium](#), the [Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities September 2014](#) and the [Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes of Devon County Council](#), the local authority (LA) for this area.

## **1. The Ethos of Ilsington C of E School**

- 1.1.** We promote a love of learning within a safe and happy school in which every person matters. Christian values and spirituality are at the heart of all aspects of school life. We aim to provide a love of learning within a safe and happy school in which every person matters. Christian values and spirituality are at the heart of all aspects of school life. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

## **2. Early Years Education Funding for two, three and four year-olds**

- 2.1.** All three and four year-olds are entitled to a free early years education place for 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year. Children whose parents are working may be entitled to 1140 hours a year.
- 2.2.** Some two-year-olds are eligible for a funded place in provision that Devon County Council has approved as being good or better quality. Our foundation stage unit (FSU) is an approved provider and can admit two-year-olds from the start of the term following their second birthday.
- 2.3.** We expect to admit children that will be using their Early Years Education 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 minimum amount of funded time in a day is 3.0 hours and the maximum is 6 hours.

## **3. Admissions to the Preschool**

- 3.1.** Ilsington C of E School admits:
- Eligible two-year-olds funded from the start of the term following their second birthday.
  - Non-funded two-year-olds from their second birthday.
  - Early Years Education funded three- and four-year-olds from the start of term following their third birthday.
  - Non-funded three and four-year-olds from the start of term following their third birthday

## **4. Patterns of attendance available**

- 4.1.** We are required to offer the Early Years Education Funding in a flexible way. Our school, during term time only, makes a core offer of:
- Morning sessions of 9.15am to 12.15pm or
  - 9.15am to 13.15pm (including lunch).
  - Afternoon sessions of 12.15pm to 15.15pm and
  - All day sessions of 9.15am to 15.15pm
- 4.2.** If you choose an afternoon or an all-day session this includes the lunchtime period. This time is considered to be part of the day when children continue their learning and will be funded as part of the Early Years Education Funding.

## 5. Charging

- 5.1. There is no charge for applying for a place, for admission or for the provision of education. 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.
- 5.2. The school must comply with Devon County Councils [Local Conditions of Funding](#)<sup>1</sup>. A charge cannot be made if a child is only attending the Preschool as part of their Early Years Education Funding.
- 5.3. Voluntary donations may be requested to help fund off site activities taking place during the school day. The Trust's Charging & Remissions Policy, available on our website provides more details.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. 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 Ilington Preschool will claim the 4 weeks funding in lieu of 4 weeks' notice.

## 6. Childcare Vouchers

- 6.1. Our school accepts [childcare vouchers](#). If your employer has a different voucher scheme, please contact the school office to discuss your requirements.
- 6.2. The table below sets out our session times. When applying for a place please tell us what sessions you need. We only consider requests for sessions AFTER the oversubscription criteria have been applied.

Session choices	Hours	Funded/bought hours
9.15am – 12.15pm	3	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.
9.15am - 13.15pm	4	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.
12.15pm –15.15pm	3	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.
9.15am – 15.15pm	6	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.

- 6.3. Parents only wishing to use their 15 funded hours 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

---

<sup>1</sup> The Local Conditions of Funding are continually being updated so please make regular visits to the document.

## 7. School Lunches

- 7.1. [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.
- 7.2. Children who do not meet the eligibility criteria for free school meals are advised to bring a packed lunch.

## 8. Visiting

- 8.1. 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 Ilsington C of E Primary School, you should contact the school to make an appointment.
- 8.2. Taster sessions are available upon request.
- 8.3. Most children will start at the Preschool at the start of the term or half term. Other children join us “in-year” at other times. This may be because they are new to the area or would like to transfer from another school or early years’ provider.
- 8.4. To apply for a place you must use the application form which is attached as Appendix A
- 8.5. Places are not allocated to a child automatically, even where:
- there is an older sibling attending here;
  - 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.
- 8.6. 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 but the responsibility for making an application will be with you as the parent.

## 9. How to apply for a Preschool place

- 9.1. Parents must complete the application form and return it to the school. You can apply for a place at any time during the year

## 10. Information provided in an application

- 10.1. 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. If necessary, we will ask for evidence of a child’s home address and date of birth before admission.

- 10.2.** 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.
- 10.3.** You will be asked to provide date of birth evidence so we can check your child's age.

## **11. What happens next**

- 11.1.** 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 Trust prioritise applications according to the oversubscription criteria below.
- 11.2.** 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.
- 11.3.** If you need help finding a place at another provider please visit <https://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk/>

## **12. Points of Admission to Preschool for funded hours**

- 12.1.** Generally children will start at Preschool at the beginning of a term. Eligibility for the Early Years Education Funding for two-year-olds is from the start of the term following a child's second birthday and eligibility for all three-years-olds to receive the Early Years Education Funding is at the start of the term 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.

<b>Children who are eligible 2 or 3 year olds</b>		
<b>On or after</b>	<b>And on or before</b>	<b>Funding starts:</b>
1 September	31 December	Spring (after Christmas)
1 January	31 March	Summer (after Easter)
1 April	31 August	Autumn (after Summer)

- 12.2.** 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.

## **13. The Admissions Process**

<b>1) Children become eligible for a place when they were born:</b>	On or after 1 April and on or before 31 August	On or after 1 September & on or before 31 December	On or after 1 November & on or before 31 March
---	--	--	--

<b>2) Visit the Preschool in:</b>	Spring term	Summer term	Autumn term
<b>3) Receive a letter about your application before:</b>	May half term	October half term	February half term
<b>4) Reply to the letter</b>	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		
<b>5) Start at Preschool (or at the start of term closest to that month)</b>	September Autumn Term	January Spring term	April Summer term

#### 14. Published Admissions Number (PAN)

- 14.1.** 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 PAN. 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 PAN or we will increase the PAN. 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.
- 14.2.** The Trustees also factor in the local demand for places. If there is a change to the PAN part way through the year this must be published.
- 14.3.** If there is an increase in the demand for places the Trustees may decide to increase the PAN at the start of the following term in order to accommodate children on the waiting list and conversely reduce the PAN if there is a very low demand.
- 14.4.** The table below sets out our Published Admissions Number (PAN)

<b>The maximum number of 3 and 4 year old children (this includes rising 3 year olds) that will be admitted at any one time:</b>	16
<b>The maximum number of 2 year old children that will be admitted at any one time: OR</b>	4
<b>The maximum number of 2,3 and 4 year old children that will be admitted at any one time:</b>	12

- 14.5.** Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the Trustees will use the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

- 14.5.1.** A child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming Ilstington C of E Primary School will be admitted.
- 14.5.2.** Looked After Children or those who were Looked After but ceased to be because they were adopted, made the subject of a child arrangements order or made the subject of a special guardianship order.
- 14.5.3.** Children with an exceptional medical or social need to attend this setting.
- 14.5.4.** Children who live in the designated area and are eligible for the Early Years Education Funding for two-year-olds.
- 14.5.5.** Children who live in the school's designated area who have a sibling at the school.
- 14.5.6.** All other children who live in the designated area.
- 14.5.7.** Children who live outside of the designated area with a sibling at the school.
- 14.5.8.** Children who live outside the designated area who are eligible for the Early Years Education Funding for two-year-olds.
- 14.5.9.** Other children.

## **15. Waiting lists**

- 15.1.** 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.
- 15.2.** 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. Increasing the hours attended**

- 16.1.** If a place becomes available part way through a term and there is a waiting list, priority for the place will be given to the child/children on the waiting list. If the parents on the waiting list do not want the places at the times that are available then the places 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.

## **17. Admissions appeals**

- 17.1.** If a Preschool place is refused, parents can go through the school's complaints process to express their concerns. The Trust 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.

## **18. Transport**

- 18.1.** No transport is available for pre-school children.

## **19. Uniform**

- 19.1.** Children attending Illington C of E Primary School Preschool are not expected to wear a uniform.

## **20. Claiming the Early Years Education Funding**

- 20.1.** The Early Years Education Funding can be taken at more than one provider. Although there is no upper limit on the number of providers a child can attend careful consideration must be given to ensuring that the child feels settled, safe and can form relationships with significant adults.
- 20.2.** It is important that both the school and parent can see what time is funded and what time is being bought.
- 20.3.** Parents must not claim more than the 15/30 hour entitlement, checks are carried out to ensure that over claims are not made.
- 20.4.** You may be asked to help complete a [Conflict Buster](#) if you want some funded time with us and some at another provider.

## **21. Changes to attendance**

- 21.1.** 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 1 and 2 below to determine within each group which children should be given priority. Order of priority for the consideration of unfilled places.
- 1) New applications from parents whose children do not yet attend the Preschool.
  - 2) Requests by parents whose children attend the Preschool and they want to increase OR change the times their child attends
- 21.2.** It is expected that parents will ensure that their child will attend at the times agreed on the so that children can establish a routine and be ready to start school.
- 21.3.** If a child is sick the parent must inform the school. If a child does not attend the Preschool for a period of more than two weeks without informing the school that child's place may be offered to another child.

## **22. Induction and transition arrangements for starting Preschool/FSU**

- 22.1** To support successful induction, we encourage a phased start. Parents are requested to stay with their child for part of session 1 for information sharing. If a child transfers from another setting, we will contact them for their records. Within the first few weeks, a letter



will be sent allocating a key worker and parents of 2 year olds will be invited in to discuss compulsory 2-year checks.

## 23. Contacts and further information

<b>Academy Head – Samantha McCarthy- Patmore</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>	admin@lsington@thelink.academy
	<b>Telephone:</b>	01364 661208
	<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.lsington.thelink.academy/website">http://www.lsington.thelink.academy/website</a>

## 24. Policy Version

- 24.1.** This policy was reviewed by the Standards & Curriculum Committee on 27 January 2021 and approved by the Trust Board of Trustees on 8 February 2021.

## Appendix One – Ilstington Preschool Registration Form

Child details	
Forename(s):	Surname/Family name:
Name your child prefers to be known by:	
Home address: (This must be the address where the child is normally resident)	
Postcode:	
Date of Birth: (certificate required)	Gender (M or F):
Religion:	Ethnic origin:
What languages are spoken at home?	Is English the main language spoken at home?
Does your child have special educational needs or have a disability?	<b>YES / NO</b>
If yes, please give brief information (we will contact you for more details)	

Parent/Carer details		
	Parent/carers 1	Parent/carers 2
Title		
Forename(s)		
Surname		
Relationship to child		
Home address (if different from child's)		
Postcode:		
Telephone number (home)		
Telephone number (mobile)		
Telephone number (work)		
Email address		
Does this person have parental responsibility?	<b>YES / NO</b>	<b>YES / NO</b>
Does this person have legal access for the child?	<b>YES / NO</b>	<b>YES / NO</b>
Is this person responsible for payment of fees?	<b>YES / NO</b>	<b>YES / NO</b>
Details of any brothers/sisters		
<b>Names</b>	<b>D.O.B</b>	<b>School/s (if any):</b>

Emergency contact and Doctor Details		
Emergency contact details (minimum of two – <u>additional</u> to those above)	Name:  Address:  Telephone:  Relationship to child:	Name:  Address:  Telephone:  Relationship to child:
Doctors details	Address:   Telephone:	
Does your child have any involvement with outside professional agencies e.g. speech and language therapist, social worker, paediatrician? <b>YES / NO</b> – if yes please give details		
Do you give permission for your child to be taken to the doctor or hospital in an emergency? <b>YES / NO</b> (parents would be contacted as soon as possible)		
Do you consent to staff of Woodhouse Pre-School and Ilstington C of E Primary school administering first aid to your child in the event of an accident/incident? YES/NO		
Does your child have any dietary requirements? (Please give details)		
<b>Two year old progress check – children aged 24-36 months</b> If your child is aged between 24-36 months, has a two year old progress check already been completed? <b>YES / NO</b> If not, as per the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage we will complete a progress check on your child between the ages of 24-36 months. We will ask you to be involved in completing the check and will discuss it with you.		
Your child's health		
Has your child been vaccinated against the following: Tetanus/diphtheria/polio? <b>YES/NO</b> Whooping cough? <b>YES/NO</b> Meningitis C? <b>YES/NO</b> MMR? <b>YES/NO</b>		
Does your child have any health issues/allergies? <b>YES/NO</b> If yes please give details		
Does your child take any long term prescribed medications? <b>YES/NO</b>		

*If yes please give details*

Prescribed medications must be labelled with a prescription label and handed into the school office at the start of each session. You will be required to complete a consent form for the administration of the medication.

#### **Additional information**

Will your child be attending any other nursery or preschool whilst at Woodhouse Pre-School **YES / NO**  
(If yes, please provide details)

Which primary school will your child be attending (*this information will help us to support transition*):

Have you any skills you would like to share with the school?

Are you interested in volunteering in the school? **YES / NO**

Does your child have a special toy or comforter? **YES/NO**  
*If yes please give details.*

Does your child have a favourite song or story? **YES/NO**  
*If yes please give details.*

Does your child have any fears i.e. animals, getting messy? **YES/NO**  
*If yes please give details*

Is your child confidently dry during the day? **YES / NO**  
Please supply any relevant information.

If your child requires nappies/pull-ups you will need to ensure the preschool has enough nappies/pull-ups to keep your child dry and comfortable for the duration of the session. Parents can leave a supply of named nappies and wipes with the Preschool.

Who will usually be bringing/collecting your child?

Any changes should be notified to the Pre-School staff before the start of the session.

Consent and permissions	
<b>Intimate care consent</b>	
<p>Your child should arrive at Pre-School clean and dry every day. Sometimes your child will need to get changed or have help to get changed. Please provide a spare set of clothes, including underwear. However, we cannot avoid accidents at this young age and so from time to time, your child may need help with their personal care, such as toileting, nappy changing or a change of clothes following an 'accident'. The Pre-School staff will treat your child with dignity, privacy and professionalism.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>I give my consent</u></b> for the staff of Woodhouse Pre-School and Ilington C of E Primary School to help the child named above with their personal care needs.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>I do not give my consent</u></b> for the staff of Woodhouse Pre-School and Ilington C of E Primary School to help the child named above with their personal care needs, and therefore an individual plan will be put in place to accommodate this request.</p>	
Signed:	Date:
<b><i>If your child has had a toilet accident you will be informed when you collect your child.</i></b>	

Trips and visits	
<p>As part of the early learning curriculum, the Pre-School aged children will often visit the local area to support children's knowledge and understanding and provide real life experiences. For your child to take part in such activities, we require written permission from their parent or carer. All outings will be assessed to identify risks and measures put in place to ensure children, staff and other adults are safe during their time away from the Pre-School. Adult to child ratios will comply with current regulations. Parents will be notified of trips that require any form of transport.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>I give my consent</u></b> for the child named above to be taken off the school premises for various outings as described above.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>I do not give my consent</u></b> for the child named above to be taken off the school premises for various outings as described above.</p>	
Signed:	Print Name:
Date:	

Sun cream consent	
<p>As our weather is unpredictable, please remember to apply sun cream on your children before their Pre-School session when necessary as we always have outdoor play. We are aware that at hand washing time even water-proof sun cream can be removed from hands, arms and faces and we are happy to re-apply cream to those areas as necessary. Please provide sun cream (marked with child's name) in their bags and indicate your agreement by completing and signing the permission slip below. Please note that children who do not have sun cream may not be able to participate in outdoor activities.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>I give my consent</u></b> for the child named above to have sun cream applied by staff at Woodhouse Pre-School and Ilington C of E Primary School</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>I do not give my consent</u></b> for the child named above to have sun cream applied by staff at Woodhouse Pre-School and Ilington C of E Primary School</p>	
Signed:	Print Name:
Date:	

### Password to be used by other people collecting my child

We are aware that on occasion changes need to be made regarding who will be collecting your child from Pre-School. In order for us to know that this adult is someone you have approved, we ask that you choose a password that is only shared with the school and the adult collecting your child. The adult collecting your child will be expected to know the password when they arrive at school.

Password for collection:

**(please write clearly)**

Shared information (please tick yes or no)		YES	NO
I understand the circumstances in which information may be shared without my consent. (This relates to 'Safeguarding and child protection') Please familiarise yourself with the child protection policy which is available on our website or you can request a copy via email).			
I give my consent for information to be shared with external professional agencies with regard to any special educational needs should it be required.			
I consent to my child's development summaries being transferred to his/her next preschool/ school prior to starting.			
Signed:	Print Name:		
Date:			

### Photo consent

We take photographs, video recordings or webcam recordings of the pupils at our Pre-School. This could include displaying or using the images on project boards, school newsletters, at school conferences, in school projects or taking pictures of pupils for historical purposes such as class photographs.

There are times when our school is visited by the media who will take photographs or video footage of a visiting dignitary or a high profile event. Pupils will often appear in these images, which may be published in local or national newspapers, or televised programmes.

We would be grateful if you could read the following, sign and date the form and return it to school as soon as possible to ensure we comply with your wishes.

We realise that there may be occasions when parents/guardians would prefer their child's picture not to be used in any publication whether it is for legitimate educational use or for promotional purposes.

If you have any concerns about your child's image being published or displayed, please inform us below

.....  
  
.....

**Conditions of Use** - Please find below our conditions for using your child's image(s):

- We will only use the minimum amount of personal information about your child in any publication i.e. your child's first name and will never reveal personal email addresses, home telephone numbers, home addresses or surnames.
- We will not use your child's image(s) for any purpose if it would prejudice the interests of your child.
- We will not use your child's image(s) for any reason other than that/those stated, unless we have a legal obligation/legal power or have received further consent from you.
- We will keep your child's image(s) and personal information secure.

**I have read and understood the Conditions of Use and understand that I can withdraw my consent in writing at any time.**

☐

**I give my consent to my child's image and first name being used for any school purposes, e.g. class displays, prospectus, school Facebook page, school Twitter account, local media, school website and correspondence with other schools.**

☐

**I do not give my consent to my child's image and first name being used for any school purposes, e.g. class displays, prospectus, school Facebook page, school Twitter account, local media, school website and correspondence with other schools.**

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

### Register

Children should be in Woodhouse for the start of their session time. The morning session starts at 9am and **children cannot be left unattended** before this time.

The afternoon session finishes at 3.30 and Pre-School staff will bring the children out at the top gate of the school for collection.

Children will not be sent home with anyone under the age of 18.

Children will not be sent home with anyone not named on this form unless prior notice is given and the agreed password is given.

Signed:

Print Name:

Date: