



## 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 Yeoford Primary School**

- 1.1.** We provide our pupils with an exciting, rich curriculum involving a wide range of experiences linked to our local environment and the wider world.  
We ensure children feel confident, safe and secure so that they are able to experiment with their learning.  
We value the contributions of all members of our school's communities, responding positively, rewarding and celebrating together.  
We provide a stimulating and varied environment which pupils have a say in, and enjoy; where their curiosity, ability to question, think and argue rationally is fostered.  
We encourage children to understand the way they learn, the purpose of learning and its relevance to the real world and their future.  
We foster sensitivity, tolerance, understanding and responsibility within our school's communities and within our multi- cultural society.  
We provide opportunities for pupils to develop creatively, emotionally, physically, morally and spiritually.  
We foster a healthy lifestyle by developing understanding and encouraging good practice.

## **2. Early Years Education Funding for 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.** 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 2.5 hours and the maximum is 10 hours.

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

- 3.1.** Yeoford Primary School admits:
- 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 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 9.00am to 12.00pm and
  - Afternoon sessions of 1.00pm to 3.30pm and
  - Lunchtime sessions of 12.00pm to 1.00pm
- 4.2.** If you choose an afternoon or an all-day session this includes the lunchtime period that is 12.00 – 1.00pm. 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 Yeoford 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
9.00am – 12.00pm	3	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.
12.00pm – 1.00pm	1	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.
1.00pm – 3.30pm	2.5	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.

## 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

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

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 offered the opportunity to either buy a school lunch or 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 Yeoford Primary School, you should contact the school to make an appointment.
- 8.2.** We offer your child a taster session free of charge, parents are welcome to stay.
- 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 here you must use the application form 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.**
- 9.2.** You can apply for a pre-school place at any time to start at the beginning of each half term.

## **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 parents to welcome them to the pre-school and to make arrangements for admission and to book a taster session.
- 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 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.

Children who are eligible 3 year olds		
On or after	And on or before	Funding starts:
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</b> (or at the start of term closest to that month)	September Autumn Term	January Spring term	April Summer term
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## 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>	10
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- 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 Yeoford 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 place 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 Yeoford Primary School Preschool will wear a Yeoford T Shirt and Sweatshirt.

### **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. Contacts and further information**

<b>Executive Academy Head</b>  <b>Alex Waterman</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:adminyeoford@thelink.academy">adminyeoford@thelink.academy</a>
	<b>Telephone:</b>	01363 84234
	<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://yeoford.thelink.academy/website">http://yeoford.thelink.academy/website</a>

## **23. Policy Version**

- 23.1.** 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

### ***Foundation Stage Unit Admissions Information and Session Request Form***

Dear Parents and Carers

Yeoford Primary School Foundation Stage Unit offers morning, afternoon and full day sessions for 3-4 year olds on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Our aim is to provide a variety of sessions in order to facilitate the needs of all families.

#### **3 Year Olds**

All 3 year olds currently receive 15 hours of government funding available from the term after their third birthday, however extra hours can be taken and are charged at £4 per hour.

If you are interested in placing your child in our care we will need you to complete and return the forms that are downloadable from the 'Bumblebees – The Foundation Stage Unit' page of our website. To facilitate this process please use the checklist below to ensure we have all the necessary documentation to get you started!

Thank you

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#### **Admissions Paperwork Checklist:**

Please ensure that you return all of the following documentation to the school office:

All Applicants

- ☐ Foundation Stage Unit Registration Form
- ☐ School Data Forms S11
- ☐ Foundation Stage Unit Session Request Form
- ☐ Early Years Pupil Premium Application Form
- ☐ Birth Certificate (for copy to be taken)

## Yeoford Primary School

### Foundation Stage Unit Termly Session Request Form

<b>Pupil Name</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Parent/Carer Name</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Email</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Mobile tel.</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Home tel.</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Start Date</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Work tel.</b>	<input type="text"/>

Please indicate below the hours you would like your child to attend our Foundation Stage Unit. If your requested sessions are **not available** you will be informed as soon as possible to discuss alternative days or add your child's name to our waiting list. Our waiting list operates in line with our Admissions Policy. We will require proof of Date of Birth and Address in due course.

For details of charges and eligibility for free childcare, please see our website.

#### Sessions in Foundation Stage Unit – Please indicate with \* if flexible

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9.00am – 12.00pm			
12.00pm – 1.00pm (only with am/pm session)			
1.00pm – 3.30pm			

Is your child in receipt of funding?	Yes / No
Are you sharing funding with another childcare setting and if so where?	
How many hours of funding do you wish to claim at Yeoford Primary?	
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

Office Use

- ☐ Availability Confirmed
- ☐ Entered onto System
- ☐ Parent confirmed