



# Devon Moors **Federation**

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## **LITTLE ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2020 - 2021**

Signed by Chair of Governors.....*Jayne Hooper*.....

Agreed at the Full Governing Body Meeting on 26th March 2020

The governing body will review the policy annually.

## **Little Acorns Pre-school Oversubscription Criteria**

**September 2020 to July 2021**

The Governing Body of the Devon Moors Federation is the admission authority and has responsibility for setting these admission arrangements and for making decisions regarding admissions applications for the Pre-school.

These arrangements seek to comply with the government's School Admissions Code, the Provider Agreement, the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and the Co-ordinated Admission Schemes of Devon County Council, the local authority (LA) for this area.

### **The Ethos of Little Acorns Pre-School**

Our core value at Chittlehampton is the belief that every person has a right to be respected as an individual and to be given opportunities to develop and thrive emotionally, spiritually, and morally in their everyday education.

### **Early Years Entitlement Funding (EYEF)**

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a free early education place for 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year.

We expect to admit children that will be using their EYEF funding as well as children whose parents are buying 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. Funding can be shared between settings, although parents cannot use more than two sites in one day.

### **Admissions to the Pre-School/ FSU**

#### **Little Acorns Pre-school**

- Funded three and four year olds from the start of term following their third birthday.
- Unfunded three and four year olds after their third birthday.

### **Patterns of Attendance Available**

Our school makes a core offer, during term time only of:

Morning sessions of 8.50am to 11.50am before lunch or until 1.30pm after lunch

If you choose a session that includes the lunchtime period it is considered to be part of the day when children continue their learning and will be funded as part of the Early Years Entitlement. Parents may provide a packed lunch for their child or order a school lunch (£2.30).

For additional hours please see Appendix 1.

## Extended Hours

Families that have an 11 digit code because they are working and eligible for the **extended entitlement** can have up to 1140 hours stretched across a year. This equates to 30 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year.

When allocating places the governing body take these extended services for three and four year olds to be an integral part of the nursery provision.

If parents want to buy additional hours on top of the 15 funded hours or the extended entitlement they can do this during any of our opening times. Funding can be shared between settings.

## Charging

There is no charge for applying for a Pre-school place here, 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 activities such as visits are compulsory.

The school must comply with Devon County Councils Provider Agreement.

## Childcare Vouchers

Our school accepts childcare vouchers. If your employer has a different voucher scheme please come to the school office to discuss your requirements. More information on childcare vouchers can be found here: <http://www.devon.gov.uk/cypsfactsheets-disc3-employerchildcarevouchers.pdf>

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
8.50 – 11.50am	3	As part of the EYEF or bought.
8.50 – 1.30pm	4.67	As above

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  $5 \times 3 = 15$ .

## Visiting

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. If you would like to visit you should contact the school to make an appointment.

## How to Apply For a Preschool Place

Most children will start at the Pre-school 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 simply would like to transfer from another school or early years setting or wish to start immediately after their third birthday.

Places are not allocated to a child automatically, even where:

- there is an older sibling attending Chittlehampton Primary School;
- a parent has expressed an interest at any time in the school; or
- the child has always lived close to the school.

**To apply for a place at the Pre-School you must complete the Registration and booking forms (available from the school office) and return them to the school.**

No places will be held in reserve for a child who applies late and we cannot hold places empty if another child applies for admission.

## What happens next?

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 Governing Body prioritise applications according to the oversubscription criteria below.

## Waiting Lists

Following allocation of pre-school places the school will retain a waiting list. Waiting lists will be kept in order of the oversubscription criteria below. 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. It is possible that a child’s name could go down on a list as well as up.

## Points of Admission

Generally children will start at Pre-school at the beginning of a term, or half term. Eligibility for all 3 years olds to receive the Early Years Entitlement Funding (EYEF) 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 - 3 years old</b>		
<b>On or after</b>	<b>And on or before</b>	<b>Funding starts this term</b>
1 September	31 December	Spring (after Christmas holiday)
1 January	31 March	Summer (after Easter holiday)
1 April	31 August	Autumn (after Summer holiday)

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.

The offer of a place at Little Acorns Pre-school does not mean automatic entitlement to a place at Chittlehampton Primary School and applications must be made through Devon County Council Admissions Team who allocate places. For further information visit the website <http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissions> or telephone 084551551019.

### **Published Nursery Admission Number (PNAN)**

This is the number of places we intend to make available for our normal 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 LA 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, the number of toilets and hand basins we have and what additional staff may be required.

The Governing Body also factor in the local demand for places and the age ranges of the children wanting a place. If there is a change to the PNAN part way through the year this must be published.

If there is an increase in the demand for places the Governors may decide to increase the PNAN at the start of the following term in order to accommodate children on the waiting list and conversely reduce the PNAN if there is a very low demand.

### **Our PNAN for 2020-2021**

The maximum number of 3 and 4 year old children that will be admitted at any one time in 2020-2021	6
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When there are more applications than places available the following oversubscription criteria are applied.

## Over-subscription criteria for 2020-2021

### **If there are more applications than places for any admission**

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available in the Pre-School the Governing Body will use the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the School will be admitted.

1. Children in Care or who ceased to be in Care because they were adopted, made the subject of a residence order or made the subject of a special guardianship order.
2. Children for whom exceptional medical or social need is demonstrated.
3. Children who live in the school's designated area with a sibling on roll at the time of application.
4. Other children living inside the school's designated area.
5. Children who live outside of the school's designated area with a sibling on roll at application.
6. Other children.

Notes to oversubscription criteria:

i) If it is necessary to distinguish between children in a particular category, priority will be determined on the basis of distance between home and the School measured as a direct line from the entrance of the residential dwelling, to the School as plotted on Geographical Information System (GIS) [i.e. the shorter the distance, the higher the priority].

ii) If the tie-breaker at (i) is not sufficient to distinguish between applicants in a particular category, there will be a random ballot.

iii) Where applications are received from families with multiple birth siblings (twins, triplets, etc.) places will be allocated together at the Pre-School/FSU wherever possible, including offering place(s) above the PNAN.

iv) Where applications are received from families with multiple birth siblings (twins, triplets, etc.) resident in our designated area, every effort will be made to allocate places here, including offering place(s) above the PNAN wherever possible. This recognises the exceptional nature of the emotional bonds between multiple birth siblings. Where that is not possible, parents will be invited to decide which of the children should be allocated the available place(s) or seek places at an alternative setting with sufficient vacancies to accommodate both or all of the multiple birth siblings.

v) Waiting lists are kept where there are more applications than places available and as long as there is at least one name.

vi) Where two or more children reside within a block of flats, they will be deemed to live at an equal distance from the School.

vii) For children of UK service personnel and other Crown Servants the School will consider a family posted to the area as meeting residence criteria for the designated area even if a residential address has not been identified. This would require confirmation in the form of a letter from the relevant government department (for example, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or Government Communications Headquarters).

viii) Evidence of exceptional medical or social need will be demonstrated according to the protocol below:

Protocol for Admission of Children with Exceptional Medical or Social Need 2020/21:

#### Background

1. Parents are invited to express preference for the school they would like their child to attend, together with reasons for preference on the Application Form.

2. In a small number of cases, a preference for this nursery provision will be because a parent feels there is 'exceptional medical or social need' for their child to attend here.

3. The 'exceptional' nature of these cases denotes that they will be individual in circumstance, however, exceptional need could include:

- A serious medical condition, which can be supported by medical evidence;
- The death of a parent associated with another school or early years provision;
- Significant caring responsibilities which can be supported by Social Services;
- Where one or both parents or the child has a disability that may make travel to a school further away more difficult. \*

4. It is intended that this protocol may pre-empt some admission appeals where it is considered that exceptional justification to attend this school can be demonstrated before applications are prioritised and processed.

5. It is expected that professional evidence from a social care, medical or education expert, independent of the family would be provided which sets out a reasoned and unequivocal opinion that the child would suffer a significant detriment by not being admitted here.

#### Practice

6. Where a parent cites exceptional need, or where the Trust/ Governing Body feel the reasons given by a parent for preferring this school on their application form could be considered as such, the protocol will apply. Admissions in the Normal Round

7. Pre-School application forms that indicate exceptional need will be discussed by the Governing Body. Further information may be sought from the applicant if necessary.

8. If the Trust/Governing Body accepts that exceptional need has been demonstrated, the parent will be advised that the application is considered to meet criterion 2. This is not a guarantee of a place although we would not expect to be in a position where criterion 2 applicants would be refused admission.

9. Where the Trust/Governing Body does not agree that the need is exceptional, the application will be prioritised according to the school's over-subscription criteria and a place will be offered or refused accordingly.

10. Where the Trust / Governing Body do not agree that the need is exceptional and a place is refused, the parent will have the right of appeal through the schools complaint process.

11. Where the Trust / Governing Body do not agree that need is exceptional, the parent will be able to provide further information for consideration.

\* These examples are not meant to be exhaustive or exclusive. Neither should it be assumed that similar circumstances would impact on different children and families in the same way.

#### In Year Admissions - 'Out of Normal Round'

12. If the Pre-School/FSU has vacancies, the application should not be refused. If the provision has reached or exceeded the Published Nursery Admission Number or other agreed admission limit, the Governing Body will consider whether exceptional need is demonstrated.

13. If the Governing Body feels that exceptional need has been demonstrated, the parent will be advised that a place can be offered to the child here or alternatively the school will signpost the parent to a setting where there are places available.
14. Where the Governing Body do not agree that the need is exceptional, the application will be prioritised according to the school over-subscription criteria and a place will be offered or refused accordingly.
15. Where the Governing Body do not agree that the need is exceptional and a place is refused, the parent will have the right of appeal through the schools complaints process.
16. Where the Governing Body does not agree that need is exceptional, the parent will be able to provide further information for consideration.

## **Contacts and Further Information**

Sarah Bunyard – Pre-school Administrator

Telephone: 01769 540286

[admin@chittlehampton.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@chittlehampton.devon.sch.uk)

### **Policy version**

This policy was determined by the Devon Moors Governing Body

It will be reviewed annually in the first half of the Spring Term.

Reviewed: Devon Moors Federation February 2020



### **Additional hours**

If you want to buy additional hours on top of the 15 funded hours you can do this during any of our opening times at our current hourly rate. Please see the Administrator for details.

This schedule is to be reviewed annually in the summer term.