



# Admission Policy

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<b>Date of Issue:</b>	September 2023
<b>Review Date:</b>	September 2024

## **Ribbon Academy Admissions Policy**

Ribbon caters for pupils from 3 - 11 years. Prospective parents/carers wishing to view the school are asked to contact the school to arrange an appointment. Admission to the Nursery and School is in accordance with Durham LA policy for admissions.

### **ADMISSION TO COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED NURSERY AND ACADEMY SCHOOLS AND UNITS**

Places are allocated according to the oversubscription criteria listed below:

Children in need The Children Act 1989 defines a child 'in need' as:

- a) He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by the Local Authority under Part 3 of the Act.
- b) His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services.
- c) He/she is disabled. In addition, Durham County Council has determined that children of families where English is not the main language of the family will be considered under this criterion.

A maximum of two part-time nursery places are retained until the end of the Autumn half term to accommodate emergency referrals of children "in need" as defined in the requirements of the Children Act, 1989.

### **Children Transferring from One Nursery Setting to Another**

Once a child has begun attending a particular nursery school/unit, it is usually in the child's best interest to remain at that nursery school/unit until transferring to the next phase of their education. However, where parents/carers move house, for example, it may be impractical to remain at the same setting. There may also be other exceptional reasons as to why a transfer from one Maintained Nursery School or Unit to another would be appropriate, but this would be rare and subject to the agreement of the school following guidance from the Local Authority. Where possible, nursery schools / units will aim to provide for children who have already started Early Years Provision.

### **The Two-Year-Old Free Entitlement**

Where a child has been accessing the free entitlement for 2-year-olds in day care that is directly associated with a maintained nursery school or unit, for a minimum of 15 hours per week for two terms immediately prior to the child becoming eligible for free entitlement, they shall receive priority for admission to that maintained nursery school or unit to preserve continuity, providing that they also live within County Durham's administrative area.

### **Age**

The offer of a place will be prioritised according to date of birth. Normally, the earliest date your child can be accepted for Early Years Provision is at the age of 3, although some 2-year-olds can access the free entitlement, provided by Ribbon Day-care. Where applicants have the same date of birth, priority will be given to the earliest date of application.

### **Nursery Education**

This is full-time or part-time education, suitable for children who have not reached compulsory school age.

### **Attendance**

Children normally attend on a part-time basis for either a morning or afternoon session, lasting 3 hours.

### **Catchment Areas**

Although there are no catchment areas for places in specific Nursery Schools, Nursery Units or Primary Schools, preference is given to children whose parents/carers live in County Durham.

## **Offer of a Place**

The offer of a place in a Nursery Unit attached to an Infant or Primary School does not entitle either a place or a greater priority for a place in that school for a child's statutory education.

## **Waiting List**

Parents/Carers may place their child's name on a waiting list, starting at the beginning of the school year (1 September to 31 August) of their child's second birthday. Children on the waiting list, who are in their pre-school year during the Autumn Term, will be admitted first. Children who are three years old will then be admitted as places become available.

## **Emergency Referrals**

To accommodate emergency referrals of children "in need" as defined by the Children Act 1989, Trustees should keep two part-time places until the end of the Autumn Half-Term.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Regardless of race, gender, religious belief, or affiliation, intellectual or physical ability, social or cultural background, children have equal access to places in Nursery Schools or Nursery Units or Primary Schools.

## **Inclusion**

County Durham LA recognises the clear educational, social, and moral benefits to all providing an inclusive education system which values a diverse range of skills and needs. To meet our overall vision, we will ensure that educational provision in County Durham is flexible, appropriately resourced, and able to respond to the needs of individuals. We will work to ensure that each school uses its organisation, ethos, and the allocation of its resources to secure equality of opportunity, allowing all children and young people the opportunity to be fully included in the life and work of their school and their community.

## **Admission to Nurseries**

This is determined by the Authorities' published admissions criteria

## **Admissions to Primary School**

Children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 will be admitted to school in September 2024.

## **ADMISSION TO RIBBON ACADEMY, AS WELL AS COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED INFANT, JUNIOR, AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

The Academy currently uses the Local Authority (Durham) as its Admission's Officer.

## **ADMISSION TO COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED INFANT, JUNIOR, AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

## **Oversubscription Criteria**

If more children want a place than there are places available, we will offer places according to the following criteria, strictly in order of priority:

- I. **Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence/child arrangement, or special guardianship order\***. A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
- II. **Medical Reasons**

Children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement.

### III. **Sibling Links\*\***

Children who have a sibling already attending the school and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission.

### IV. **Distance**

Children who live nearest the preferred school measured by the shortest walking route\*\*\*. This will be based on the child's address. Where the last place to be allocated would mean that a multiple birth sibling group i.e., twins, triplets, or other multiple birth sibling groups, would be split, the sibling group will be given priority over other children. Otherwise, if only one final place can be offered and two applicants live equidistant from the school, the LA's system of random allocation will apply. \* An adoption order is an order under section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976 or section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

\*\* Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half-brothers, or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters and children of the parent/carer's partner. Some schools give priority to siblings of pupils attending another community and voluntary controlled school with which they have close links (for example, schools on the same site). Where this is the case, details will be published in the Local Authority's Admissions Brochure.