



St. Andrew's Church of England (VC) Primary School

Policy for Admissions to Nursery

Rationale:

At St. Andrew's Primary School it is our vision for every child in our school to have

- * positive self-esteem through inner confidence and strength
 - * creativity of thought within a life-long passion for learning
 - * excellence, high personal achievement and the experience of success
 - * a set of values by which to live
 - * an enjoyment of childhood
- developed within a caring Christian environment.

St. Andrew's School is a one-form entry Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. Although we are affiliated to the Church of England, the denomination of children is not a factor for determining admission. **The school is responsible for setting the Admissions Policy and the Admissions process for Nursery applications.**

Admission to Nursery Class 2021/22

All maintained schools with Nurseries in Hertfordshire are responsible for making their own Nursery allocations in accordance with the school's own published Nursery admission arrangements. (see Appendix 1 below).

Admission information for Nursery is available from the School website or School Office. The application timeline for 2021/22 is detailed under Appendix 2 below. Parents are required to complete a Nursery Application Form 2021/22 for Nursery admission from September 2021, along with a Supplementary Nursery form, detailing their individual preferences for additional provision. On allocation of places, parents will then be required to complete the Parent Declaration form, to be used by school to apply for the appropriate funding via HCC.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g. SEN needs), applications for the Nursery will be for the whole academic year and all Nursery children will start in September 2021. (see Appendix 2).

Once all the available places (30), have been offered, a Continuing Interest List will be held by the school. Prospective parents are encouraged to come and visit our Nursery if Covid restrictions in place at the time permit. Appointments to view the Nursery and meet with the Headteacher will be available for the duration of the application process whilst it is open.

Once parents have accepted an offered place, they are invited to a meeting for new Nursery parents prior to their child starting. This meeting usually takes place in the summer term. If, at the time of the parents' meeting, Covid restrictions do not permit a group meeting, the school will send out information and will invite parents to contact the school individually with any queries. Our new Nursery children are also invited to visit our Nursery for sessions in September, prior to their allocated start date, and parents/carers will also receive a home visit from our Nursery staff if Covid restrictions allow.

HCC is required by law to deliver 15 hours a week of free early years provision for all 3 and 4 year olds. St Andrew's offers full time provision of 3 hours per session, 5 days a week from rising 4 years. Places will be allocated in the first instance to 30 children for the mornings only Nursery, from 8.45 – 11.45am. Consideration will then be given to any preferences these parents have for the afternoon. Any applications received for afternoon sessions only (see 30 hr childcare provision below – i.e. parents who are taking up their free 15 hour universal provision with another provider) will be considered after the initial allocation of 30 Nursery places has been completed.

Hertfordshire County Council will continue to circulate admission information to parents of Hertfordshire children – (parents of children born between 1.9.2017 and 31.8.2018 during October / November 2020).

APPENDIX 1

Admission Arrangements for St Andrew's Church of England VC Primary School Nursery for 2021/22

The school's published admission number is 30.

If there are fewer applications than places available at St Andrew's C of E VC Primary School Nursery, all applicants will be admitted. If there are more applications than places available (30), the criteria outlined below will be used to prioritise applications.

Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 requires the Governing bodies of all maintained schools to admit a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names their school.

Rule 1 **Children looked after** and children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order)*

Rule 2 **Medical or Social:** Children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a particular medical or social need to go to the school, which includes children previously from abroad who were cared for by the state because he or she would not otherwise have been cared for adequately and subsequently adopted. It also includes a child who is the subject of an inter-agency child protection plan and has been placed on the Child Protection Register.

The school Governors will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements for this rule. The evidence must relate specifically to the school applied for under Rule 2 and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only Nursery setting that meets the child's needs. Clarification may also be sought from HCC Admissions Team.

Rule 3 **Sibling:** Children who have a sibling at the school at the time of application.
(This applies to Reception through to Year 5)

In Year Admissions: the sibling may be in the school's final year (Year 6), as long as they will still be in attendance at the time of the admission.

Rule 4 **Any other children**

Tiebreak

If more children qualify under a particular rule than there are places available, a tiebreak will be used by applying the next rule to those children. If more children qualify under criterion 4

than there are places available, priority will be given to those who live nearest to the Nursery as measured in a straight line.

Where there is a need for a tie-breaker where two different addresses measure the same distance from a school, in the case of a block of flats for example, the lower door number will be deemed nearest as logically this will be on the ground floor and therefore closer. If there are two identical addresses of separate applicants, the tie break will be random.

Distance Measurement

All distances will be by a 'straight-line' measurement from the postal address point of each individual house to the address point of the school, (address point data taken from AddressBass Premium dataset).

If there are more than 30 applicants, St. Andrew's Primary will hold a Continuing Interest List for any places which may become available.

Once parents have accepted an offered place, they are invited to a meeting for new Nursery parents prior to their child starting. Our new Nursery children are also invited to visit our Nursery for sessions prior to their allocated start date and parents/carers will also receive a home visit from our Nursery staff.

APPENDIX 2

Nursery Admissions Timeline 2021/22

Event	Date	Additional Information
Applications open	Wednesday, 6th January 2021	To apply: Please complete the online application form which can be found on the school website or download the application form from the website and return by email to: admissions@standrews323.herts.sch.uk or contact the School Office
Application deadline	Friday, 26th February 2021	Applications received after this date will not be considered for a Nursery place until after 26th April 2021.
Offer date	Monday, 22nd March 2021	We will email you with the outcome of your application on this date. Notification letters will be posted to any applicant requesting a paper response.
Acceptance date	Monday, 12th April 2021	Last date for accepting the place offered. Please ensure that you have accepted the place in writing or sent an email to: admissions@standrews323.herts.sch.uk

The Nursery operates term time only and follows the school calendar observing the same holidays.

Allocation of a Nursery place does not guarantee subsequent admission into St Andrew's Church of England VC Primary School Reception class. Parents must re-apply for a school place through Hertfordshire County Council and not directly to the school. (see

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx> for further information)

30 Hours Free Childcare

Bobtails Playgroup, (situated on St Andrew's school site and runs every weekday morning during term time from 8.45am – 11.45am), in partnership with St Andrew's Primary School offer parents 30 hours free childcare provision. This is an entitlement for working parents of 3 and 4 year old children.

This is an extra 15 hours per week entitlement in addition to the children's existing 15 hours free early education funding.

Eligibility

Parents can check their eligibility for the scheme via an online HMRC site, at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. The site will generate a voucher code for eligible parents, which they will pass to their chosen provider. The voucher code will enable the provider (Bobtails Playgroup or St Andrew's Nursery) to claim funding from the local authority for the number of hours each child requires.

Further information and where to apply can be found at <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow>. This site also has the most up to date information regarding eligibility criteria.

The free 15 hours afternoon sessions for eligible parents is offered as follows:

St Andrew's Church of England VC Primary School offers full days from 8.45 – 11.45am (usual Nursery provision) plus 11.45 – 2.45pm additional afternoon cover on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons = 6 hours per day.

Bobtails Playgroup offer full days from 8.45am to 11.45am and 11.45am to 2.45pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons = 6 hours per day.

- The second session in the afternoon for both providers will include an allotted time for lunch.
- Parents who are ineligible for the additional funding will be able to pay for the afternoon sessions if required.
- As the funding requires that the provision for 6 hours per day is 'seamless', parents will have the opportunity to purchase further 'top up' childcare cover with either provider to cover their child's care until 3.15pm
- All parents would be able to pay for the additional top up sessions, not just those who receive 30 hours free childcare. The extra hours in the afternoon would be within the limitations of the hours on offer by each of the providers.