

Admissions criteria for entry September 2024

Dromore Nursery School
18 Banbridge Road
Dromore
BT25 1NB

Controlled Nursery School
Admissions No: 26 (Full-time), 52 (Part-time)
Full-time Session (26): 9.00am – 1:30pm
Part-time Morning Session (26): 8:45am – 11:15am
Part-time Afternoon Session (26): 11:45am – 2:15pm
A mid-day meal is available for full-time pupils

Principal: Mrs S Beattie BA Hons MEd PQH
Chair of Board of Governors: Mr L Haslem

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Website: www.dromorenurseryschool.com

Respective Functions of the Board of Governors and the Principal in relation to admissions.

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the admissions criteria.

Admissions Criteria

A timetable of pre-school admissions procedures setting out the dates by which an application is to be submitted is available at www.eani.org.uk/admissions under 'Pre-School Admissions'. During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered.

The application procedure opens on 9 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 26 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 26 January 2024 will be treated as a late application.

As the pre-school admissions procedure is in two stages the timetable also specifies the relevant dates at Stage 2 which will determine if an application is to be considered as punctual or late.

Statutory Criteria

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:

- on or between 2 July 2020 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
- on or between 1 April 2020 and 1 July 2020 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
 - have not attended or are not currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged child; and,
 - that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2025.

Note: Children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' means a child whose parent has an entitlement to (i) Income Support, or (ii) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or (iii) Income related Employment and Support Allowance, or (iv) Universal Credit. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must provide Benefit Verification to confirm that they have an entitlement. The application procedure for Pre-School will outline how Benefit Verification can be submitted.

2. Children not from socially disadvantaged circumstances (as defined above) who are in their final pre-school year (as defined by criterion 1).

Admissions Sub-Criteria

In the event of oversubscription in any of the above Statutory Criteria children to be selected for admission will be identified by applying the following sub-criteria:- in the order set down

1. Children in their final pre-school year, who have listed Dromore Nursery School as their first preference choice, whose brothers, sisters, attend or have previously attended the school, or eldest child in the family. Children fostered within such a family are included. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to ensure that all relevant sibling names and ATTENDANCE DATES are included on the application;

Evidence required:

Documented evidence with reference to a fostered child is required. Please specify on application name of sibling and year attended or indicate if eldest.

2. Children in their final pre-school year, who have listed Dromore Nursery School as their first preference choice, who in the opinion of the Board of Governors have special home circumstances in the following order:-
 - (a) A child who has one or both parents deceased;
 - (b) A child whose parent has a serious long-term illness – medical evidence required;

Evidence required:

*Applicants whose family circumstances fall into this criterion must seek an appointment with the school Principal **before** the closing date for application and maybe asked for supporting information.*

3. Randomised Selection

Remaining places will be allocated on a randomised selection of 1st preference applications using Random.org to allocate a rank number at random to each application. In the case of multiple births they will be allocated the same number. The random selection will be carried out by the Principal, verified by a member of the Board of Governors and an independent person;

Evidence required

Birth Certificate in order to verify the age and full names of a child.

4. Any places remaining after the above sub criteria has been applied shall be allocated on the basis of closest home address to the school as calculated using the home address and Google Maps using walking distance. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to ensure that all relevant documents are submitted before 4pm on the 31st January 2024

Evidence required:

Birth Certificate in order to verify the age and full names of a child and two documents to verify their address.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on the application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school admissions criteria is stated on the application.

Note 1 - Home is the child's permanent place of residence. It is not the child-minder's or a relative's address.

Non-statutory criteria

Note: These applications are processed only during Stage 2 of the admissions process, after final pre-school year (Statutory 1 and 2) applications.

3. Children who were born:

- on or between 1 April 2020 - 1 July 2020 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and have attended or are currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged (not penultimate aged) child; and, that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1: or,
- on or between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive); or,
- on or between 1 April 2021 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2026.

Tie Breaker – Non Statutory Criterion3

Children within Criterion 3 will be selected in Chronological Order of Age – eldest child first. In the event of two or more children having the same DOB sub criteria 4 will be used.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

Waiting List Policy

The school publishes a Policy on the Operation of Admissions Waiting List. The policy is available on the school website at www.dromorenurseryschool.com or copies are available on request at the school.