

St Oliver Plunkett Primary School Nursery Unit
9 Laragh Road
Beragh
Omagh BT79 0TH

Voluntary Maintained Nursery Unit
Admissions No: 26 (Full-time)
Nursery Opening Times: 9:15am – 1:45pm
A mid-day meal is available.

Telephone: 028 8075 8594

E-mail: info@stoliverplunketts.beragh.ni.sch.uk

Principal: Mr Barry Conroy

Chair of Board of Governors: Mrs Oonagh Donnelly

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

The Admissions Criteria will be applied by a Selection Committee consisting of the Principal and three Governors subject to the final approval of the Board of Governors. If parents have any difficulty in completing the form then they should consult the Principal of the school.

Children who are not normally resident in Northern Ireland will not be considered for places until all children in Northern Ireland have been considered. The Board of Governors have determined that, in the event of there being more applicants than places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set down, to select children for the available places.

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 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 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 2021 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; 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,
 - 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 2026.

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).

Sub Criteria

If there are more pupils satisfying the last criterion that can be applied, then selection for the remaining places will be on the basis of the following sub-criteria in the order set down below.

- (a) Children with special 'home' or other circumstances applied in order of:
 - (i) Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (or pending).
 - (ii) Children on the Child Protection Register.
 - (iii) Children who are "Looked After".
 - (iv) Children who are adopted.
 - (v) Children/parent with a serious long-term illness – documented medical evidence*
 - (vi) Children who have one or both parents deceased.
 - (vii) Children from a family with 3 or more pre-school children at 1st September 2025 and born before the selection panel meets on 1st February 2025.
 - (viii) Children who are twins (or multiple births).

*Serious long-term illness – Medical evidence should be provided to the Principal, this evidence may be shared with an independent medical practitioner to verify that:

- The medical evidence is documented by a registered medical practitioner
- The child or parent has a serious long-term illness and
- The child is likely to face significant educational challenges as a result of the medical condition and would therefore benefit substantially from an earlier school placement.

(b) Children who have siblings enrolled at the school.

(c) Children from the traditional catchment areas of St Oliver Plunkett Primary School in the Parish of Beragh.

(d) Children who are first born in the family.

(e) Other children.

In the event of over-subscription in the last sub-criterion which can be applied, then selection for all remaining places will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as per the birth certificate in the order set out below:-

Mc C L W I Q X M K D N P J S Mac U R Y H Z G T A E V F O B

The order was determined by a randomised selection. In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used as per the birth certificate.

Non-statutory criteria

Note: Applications falling under Criterion 3 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 2021 - 1 July 2021 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
 - 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 2022 and 1 July 2023 (inclusive); or,

on or between 1 April 2022 and 1 July 2022 (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 2027.

In the event of over-subscription in the last criterion which can be applied then selection for all remaining places will be on the basis of chronological order of age, oldest first.

However, in keeping with arrangements set out in the Department of Education Circular the Board of Governors will give priority consideration to all children in their final pre-school year including, where appropriate, late applications in preference to applications from children who will be in their penultimate pre-school year.

It is important that parent(s)/guardian(s) when submitting the application form give all the relevant supporting information and written evidence that may be needed. If a place is offered on the basis of incorrect or misleading information then the Board of Governors may withdraw the offer.

Admissions Criteria after 1 September 2025

The same criteria will be used for applicants after 1 September 2025.

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's policy on the consideration of applications after the Open Enrolment Admissions procedures concludes on Tuesday 10 June 2025 is available directly from the school. Should a vacancy arise, the above criteria will be applied to select pupils from our waiting list.

Parents should also note that if their child is seeking nursery provision for the 2nd year, they MUST reapply.