

Admissions criteria for entry September 2025

St Peter's Nursery School
Servia Street
Belfast BT12 4EJ

Maintained Nursery School
Admissions No: 52 (Full-time)

Principal: Mrs Ríoghnach Hall
Chair of Board of Governors: Ms Margaret Sloan

Session Times: 9am-1.30pm
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Respective Functions of the Board of Governors and the Principal in relation to admissions.

The Board of Governors has drawn up the school's admissions criteria and has delegated to the principal its function and responsibility in relation to the application of the criteria and the admission of pupils to the school.

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.

The Board of Governors has determined that, in the event of more applicants than the places available the following admissions criteria will be applied, in the order set down, to select children for the available places.

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

In the event of more pupils satisfying the last criterion which can be applied, in the order of priority set down above, then selection for the remaining places will be on the basis of the following sub-criteria.

- A. Children who are returning to St Peter's Nursery School for a second year.
- B. Children who have named St Peter's Nursery School as their first preference school and whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is/are currently a permanent employee in the school or a member of the current Board of Governors.
- C. Children who have named St Peter's Nursery School as their first preference school and reside in the Parishes of St Peter's/St Mary's with his/her parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) and have brother(s)/sister(s), half-brother(s)/half-sister(s) step-brother/step-sister attending/attended St Peter's Nursery School. (Indicate name and dates of attendance)
- D. Children who have named St Peter's Nursery School as their first preference school and reside in the Parishes of St Peter's/St Mary's with his/her parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) and are the First/only child in the family. (Twins or multiple births will be considered as a first child)
- E. Children who have named St Peter's Nursery School as their first preference school and have brother(s)/sister(s), half-brother(s)/half-sister(s) step-brother/step-sister attending/attended St Peter's Nursery School. (Indicate name and dates of attendance)

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F. Children who have named St Peter's Nursery School as their first preference school.

G. All other children.

If over-subscribed in any of the above sub-criteria taken in order – final selection will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname in order set down below. The surname used will be as registered on the birth certificate or as subsequently legally changed and documented.

The order was determined by random selection on 11.11.24

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

In the event of surnames with the same initial letter the subsequent letter of the surname will be used in alphabetical order.

In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the forename as registered on the birth certificate will be used.

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.

Tie Breaker – Non Statutory Criterion 3

Children within Criterion 3 will be selected in Chronological Order of Age – eldest child first with those having St Peter's Nursery as their first preference school given priority. In the event of two or more children having the same DOB the above random selection of letters will be used.

Important Notice

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application.

Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application or attached to it. Examples of such information include:

Name of siblings attending/previously attended St. Peter's Nursery School:-

- Year of attendance
- Residency in St. Peter's or St. Mary's Parish

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 applicant's Application.

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

Should a vacancy arise after all applications for admissions to St. Peter's Nursery School which were:-

- initially refused
- new applications
- late applications

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- applications with new/additional information

will all be treated equally and the published criteria applied.

This waiting list will be in place from 10 June 2025 until 30 June 2026. The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place by this method in St. Peter's Nursery School.

Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish to have your child's name removed from the list.