

Naíscoil na mBeann
127a Newcastle Road
Kilkeel
BT34 4NL

Voluntary Playgroup
No of Funded Places (Part-time): To be determined
Session Times: Monday to Friday: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Person in Charge/Leader: Cailín Cunningham
Chair of Management Committee: Niall Loughran

Telephone: 028 4125 8418
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Respective Functions of the Management Committee and Playgroup Leader in relation to admissions.

The Management Committee draws up admissions criteria and delegates responsibility for applying criteria to the Playgroup Leader.

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 2023 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 27 January 2023 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 27 January 2023 and up to 4 pm on 31 January 2023 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 31 January 2023 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 27 April 2023. 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.

Places will be offered based on meeting the criteria listed below. The criteria are listed in order of priority.

Statutory Criteria

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:
 - on or between 2 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
 - on or between 1 April 2019 and 1 July 2019 (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 2024.

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 within any of the above criteria, children will be selected for admission using the following sub-criteria agreed by the setting's Management Committee:-

- a) Children who are currently attending the playgroup and or have attended Naíscoil na mBeann on a fee-paying place.
- b) Children who have sibling(s) attending or who have attended Naíscoil na mBeann and/or Gaelscoil na mBeann.
- c) The geographical location of the child's home relative to Naíscoil – those living closest will be given priority. We will use the distance as determined by Google Maps.
- d) Remaining places will be allocated on the basis of the initial letter of the surname, with the application being selected in the order set out below. The order was selected by the randomised selection of letters:
E G D B I O' R S O L P N Q C V J U F M T X M c W K H Y A Z

In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the letters of the first forenames appearing on the application will be used.

Sub-criterion d) will also be used as a deciding factor in the event of oversubscription occurring when sub-criterion a), b) or c) is applied.

Admissions criteria for entry September 2023

The above arrangements do not apply to fee-paying places. Parents interested in obtaining a fee-paying place for their child in the playgroup should contact the playgroup leader directly.

Duty to Verify

The Management Committee 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 Management Committee 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 Friday 9th June 2021 all applications for admission to Naíscoil na mBeann that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This waiting list will be in place until 30 June 2022.