

St Joseph's Primary School Nursery Unit
28 Convent Hill
Bessbrook
Newry BT35 7AW

Maintained Nursery Unit
Admissions No: 52 (Full-time)
Session Times: 9:00am – 1:30pm
A mid-day meal is available for pupils

Telephone: 028 3083 0356

Principal: Mrs Frances Hannaway
Chair of Board of Governors (Acting): Mrs. Roisin Ward

E-mail: info@stjosephs.bessbrook.ni.sch.uk

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 responsibility for initial application of admissions criteria to the school Principal. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes the Principal 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 7 January 2021 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 29 January 2021 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 29 January 2021 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.

- 1 Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 (*both dates inclusive*) who reside in the *Parish of Lower Killeavy.

Note: Children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' means a child whose parent is in receipt of (i) Income Support, or (ii) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or (iii) an award of Income Support which has been converted into an Employment and Support Allowance and the level of benefit remains the same, or (iv) Universal Credit. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must provide Benefit Verification to confirm that they are in receipt of a qualifying payment. This should be provided to the Pre-School of first preference and the application procedure for Pre-School will outline how this can be submitted.

- 2 Other children from socially disadvantaged circumstances born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 (both dates inclusive).
- 3 Children born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 (both dates inclusive) who reside in the *Parish of Lower Killeavy in the traditional catchment area of St. Joseph's P.S. School.
- 4 Children born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 (both dates inclusive) who reside in the *Parish of Lower Killeavy.
- 5 Other children born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 (both dates inclusive).
- 6 Children born between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 (both dates inclusive) who reside in the *Parish of Lower Killeavy in the traditional catchment area of St. Joseph's P.S. School.
- 7 Children born between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 (both dates inclusive) who reside in the *Parish of Lower Killeavy.
- 8 Other children born between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 (both dates inclusive).

Admissions 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:-

- (i) Children who reside in the *Parish of Lower Killeavy, with brother(s)/sister(s)/half-brother(s)/half-sister(s), including those fostered or adopted, presently enrolled in St Joseph's Primary School and Nursery Unit;
- (ii) Children with brother(s)/sister(s)/half-brother(s)/half-sister(s), including those fostered or adopted, presently enrolled in St Joseph's Primary School and Nursery Unit;
- (iii) Children who have nominated St Joseph's Primary School Nursery Unit as their first preference;

- (iv) Children who, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, have exceptional home circumstances considered 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/serious physical disability; (medical evidence required);
 - c) children who are twins (or other multiple births);
 - d) a child from a family of three or more pre-school age children;
 - e) a child whose younger sibling has a serious long-term illness/serious physical disability; (medical evidence required).
- (v) A child who is a 'Looked After Child' (LAC) by definition of the local Health & Care Trust.
- (vi) First child in the family
- (vii) Only child in the family.

In the event of there being more applicants than places remaining for the last sub-criterion which can be applied then selection will be on the basis of chronological age starting with the oldest. Where two or more children have the same date of birth (except twins or other multiple births) final selection will be on the basis of alphabetical order of surname. If two or more children have the same surname the alphabetical order of the first forename will be used and if required thereafter subsequent forenames. If this results in a tie a Random Selection Tie-breaker will be applied.

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 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 waiting list policy on the consideration of applicants after the admissions procedure concludes on the 9th June is available from the school.

The school will contact you in writing if your child is to be offered a place by this process. Your child's name will automatically be added to the waiting list. Please contact the school should your child gain a place in another pre-school setting or that you want your child removed from the list.

Note

It is expected that all children will be toilet trained by the time of admission. If parents feel there may be difficulties with this they should contact the Principal.