

Bligh's Lane Nursery School
3 Bligh's Lane
Derry City
BT48 9PJ

Controlled Nursery School
Admissions No: 52 (Full-time)
Session Times: 8:45am – 1:15pm

Principal: Mrs L Woods BA (Hons) PGCE
Mrs D Doherty BA (Hons) PGCE
Chair of Board of Governors: Mr Charles O'Donnell

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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. Responsibility for the application of the admissions criteria after the Selection Meeting will be delegated to the principal subject to the final approval of the Board of Governors.

Children who are not normally resident in Northern Ireland, will not be considered for places until all children who live in Northern Ireland have been considered.

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 form. Parents/guardians should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it.

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 2022 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 28 January 2022 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 28 January 2022 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.

Admissions Criteria - Statutory Criteria

- 1 Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances born between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019.
- 2 Children born between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019.

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.

Sub-Criteria

If there are more children who satisfy any one of the statutory criteria when they are being applied then selection for the available places will be on the basis of the following sub-criteria, in the order set down below:

- (i) Children who have a family association with the school in the following order:
 - A Children whose parent/guardian have selected Bligh's Lane Nursery School as their 1st Preference.
 - B Children who have a brother/step-brother or sister/step-sister currently attending the school. (As verified by the current Attendance Registers).
 - C Children whose brother/step-brother or sister/step-sister have attended the school previously. (Parents/guardians must clearly record the full name(s), date(s) of birth, and year(s) that siblings have attended so that previous attendance registers can be checked).
 - D The Board of Governors reserves the right to give certain applications special consideration due to Compelling Individual Circumstances. Children who, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, have special home circumstances, considered in the following order:-
 - (i) A child who has one or both parents/guardians deceased.
 - (ii) A child who has a serious long term illness (medical evidence required).
 - (iii) A child whose parent(s)/guardian(s) or sibling has a serious long-term illness – medical evidence required.

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

M K Nic J Nig W T Q D Mc I B O' H G Ni Z

S X De F O Mac Y Ó P N C R V U L E A

The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters carried out by the governors of the school at a meeting on 03/11/2021.

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 2 identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames as per the birth certificate will be used.

Non-Statutory Criteria

If any places remain vacant after children born between 02/07/2018 and 01/07/2019 have been placed, applications will be considered for children born between 02/07/2019 and 01/07/2020. Places will be allocated in strict chronological order (date of birth – eldest first). Where 2 or more children have the same date of birth the randomised letters above will be used to select children.

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 including the child's birth certificate.

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.

If parents/guardians have any difficulty in completing the form then they should consult the Principal of the school.

Late Applications

The same criteria will be used for applications received after 1 September 2022.

Waiting List Policy

Should a vacancy arise after **Wednesday 9th June 2021** all applications for admission to the Nursery that were initially refused, new 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 **the end of the academic year**.

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