

Admissions criteria for entry September 2024

Holy Rosary Nursery School
Sunnyside Crescent
Belfast
BT7 3DB

Maintained Nursery School
Admissions No: 52 (Full-time)
Session Times: 9:00am – 1:30pm

Principal: Mrs Sarah Morrison B.Ed (Hons), PGCert
Chair of Board of Governors: Christine McGrenaghan

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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 9 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 26 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 26 January 2024 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 2020 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
 - on or between 1 April 2020 and 1 July 2020 (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 2025.

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

Should the school be oversubscribed in any of the above criteria (1 or 2), the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down:

- a) Children whose parent has listed Holy Rosary Nursery School as their first preference school
- b) Children whose siblings, half-brother/sister currently or previously attended Holy Rosary Nursery School, within the last 7 years. (**Indicate sibling(s) name and date of attendance**)
- c) Children who live with their parent/guardian in Holy Rosary Parish. (**See Holy Rosary Nursery School website re map of Parish boundaries**)
- d) Children who live with their parent/guardian in St Anthony's Parish. (**See Holy Rosary Nursery School website re map of Parish boundaries**)
- e) Walking distance from the school to the child's home as measured by google maps.

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In the event of two or more children's permanent residence being measured equal distance for the final place, children will be selected on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as entered on the birth certificate in the order as set out below as determined by a randomised selection of letters.

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

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters 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.

In the event of vacancies remaining after the above criteria have been applied applicants will be selected, **as above**, using the **same** randomised selection of the letters of the alphabet.

Non- Statutory Criteria

3. Children who were born:

- on or between 1 April 2020 - 1 July 2020 (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 2021 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive); 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 that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2026.

Tie Breaker-Non Statutory Criterion 3

Children who fall under this criterion will be considered on the basis of rank order of age – oldest first. In the event of two or more children having the same DOB the above random selection of letters will be used.

Where applications are made on the basis of socially disadvantaged circumstances, the relevant section MUST be verified by the Social Security / Jobs and Benefits Office.

Where applications are made in January 2024 on the basis of - living with their parent/guardian in Holy Rosary Parish or in St Anthony's Parish, the relevant documentation to verify such information must be provided by the parent **prior to 4pm (GMT) on 31st January 2024**. The Education Authority will publish guidance in relation to the provision of such supporting documentation on their website. **All relevant documentation received after this time and date will be considered as late within Stage 1.** Information more than 1 year will not be suitable for these purposes.

Any 2 of the following original documents can verify address at which child is resident –

- Bank or building society statement;
- Utility bill (electricity, gas, Television Licence)
- Letter awarding Child Benefit to the child
- Electoral ID card
- Current Driving Licence
- Addressed payslip
- Mortgage statement
- Rental agreement
- Land and Property Services rates demand

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to ask for additional supplementary evidence 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.

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Waiting List Policy

Should a vacancy arise after Tuesday 11 June 2024 all applications for admission to Holy Rosary Nursery School 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 the end of the academic year.

The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method.

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

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 whether the child had brothers or sisters attending the school.