SELE*first*
SCHOOL

Sele First School Nursery Admissions Policy

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Sele First School Nursery Admissions Policy

Introduction

The school is responsible for admissions to our nursery. This policy will be used to determine admissions to the Sele First nursery classes. As parents do not have a statutory right to appeal to an independent appeal panel in relation to nursery admissions we have adopted a clear set of admissions criteria upon which admission decisions can be made. This allows fair and impartial decisions to be made.

Provision

Sele First Nursery has 78 part-time places and operates two sessions of 3 hours each day. We have some flexibility on how these places can be filled. Children attend for either five morning or five afternoon sessions or children can also attend two full days and one half day per week. Children who stay for full days have a school lunch. Non-attendance and persistent unauthorised absence may result in your child being taken off role. We can also accommodate the 30 free childcare entitlement based on your eligibility.

Nursery follows all school policies, including attendance. Policies are found on our website.

At what age can my child start Nursery?

A child can be considered for a place in nursery class from their third birthday. A Nursery place will normally be for the three terms prior to entry into Reception however, if places are available autumn term birthday children may have up to five terms prior to entry into Reception.

How do I apply for a place for my child?

If you would like your child to attend Sele First nursery, you must complete an application form and send it back to us. You can apply for admission any time from the day the application process opens at the start of the school year (September) preceding the year your child will start in Nursery.

Application forms are available for collection from the school, via email admin@sele.northumberland.sch.uk or they can be downloaded from our school website at www.selefirst.org.

How are places allocated?

We operate an equal preference allocation scheme. This means that all applications are considered together. Applications are ranked in accordance with the admissions criteria. Once the applications are prioritised and compared to the number of places available it is possible to determine who will be offered a place.

How will I know if I have a place for my child?

If your child is offered a place, you must confirm your acceptance to the school within two weeks of receipt of the offer otherwise the school may have to refuse places for other children unnecessarily. The final decision on when a child is admitted, the number of sessions a child is able to attend and his or her pattern of attendance rests with the head teacher.

Admission Criteria

Applications will be considered in accordance with the following criteria, set out in priority order.

Category A 'Special Educational and Social Need / Disability.'

A child who is "looked after" by the Children's Services Department, a child on the child protection register or a child who has a Statement of Special Educational Needs will be given priority followed by:

Children for whom there is a recommendation in writing for nursery education from a health professional, social worker, educational psychologist, area SENDCO, outreach worker or education welfare officer on the basis of the child's special educational needs or perceived social need.

Examples of special educational needs might include:
•emotional and behavioural problems
•hearing difficulties
•lack of personal interaction and stimulation
•physical disabilities
•speech and language problems
•visual difficulties

Examples of social need might include
•children who were multiple births (twins, triplets)
•a child with parents under 20 years of age
•a child in sole care of grandparents / relatives
•a child who has two or more siblings under five years of age •a child of parents with disabilities
•a child with English as an additional language

Category B

Children with a brother or sister (including children living as siblings in the same family unit) with disabilities (as in A) that require a significant amount of additional support.

Category C

Children who have a brother or sister (including children living as siblings in the same family unit) on the school roll who will still be attending Sele First School, or who will be attending the following academic year.

Category D Other Children

Preference will be given to children living within the catchment area of the school.

Morning, Afternoon, 2.5 Days or 30 Hour Preference

Applications may state a preference for a morning or an afternoon place, two full days and one half day per week or from 15 – 30 hours if parents are eligible for this extended hours funding. Applications for full days may state a preference for their full and half days. The criteria above will be applied allocating a preference wherever possible. The alternate session will be offered if first choice is not available.