



Exwick Heights Primary School

Nursery Admissions Policy and Oversubscription Criteria

September 2021 onwards



Exwick Heights Primary School is an academy, within the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust and has responsibility for setting admission arrangements. The decision-making process is delegated to the local governing body and closely mirrors Devon County Councils admission arrangements.

These arrangements seek to comply with the government's School Admissions Code, the Local Conditions of Funding, the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on the Delivery of Free Early Education for Three and Four Year Olds and Securing Sufficient Childcare and the co-ordinated admission schemes of Devon County Council, the local authority (LA) for this area.

The Ethos of Exwick Heights Primary School

Staff at Exwick Heights Primary School encourage everyone to give of their best, to be independent and lifelong learners, and to be proud of their own and others' achievements.

Early Years Entitlement Funding (EYEF)

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a free early education place for 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year. Some working parents may qualify for up to 1,140 hours of EYEF.

We expect to admit children who will be using their EYEF, as well as children whose parents are buying additional hours and those who are both funded and buying hours. There may be some children who are only attending for bought hours and some who only attend for funded hours.

Admissions to the Nursery/ FSU

Exwick Heights admits:

- Funded 3 and 4 year olds from the start of term following their third birthday.
- Unfunded 3 and 4 year olds following their third birthday.

Patterns of Attendance Available

We are required to offer early learning and care in a flexible way. Our school makes a core offer of:

Morning sessions of 9.00am to 12.00 and

Afternoon sessions of 12.00 to 3.00pm and

All day sessions of 9.00 to 3.00pm during term time only.

If you choose an afternoon or an all day session, this includes the lunchtime period that is 12.00 – 1.00pm. This time is considered to be part of the day when children continue their learning and will be funded as part of the Early Years Entitlement.

Extended Hours

If you are only funded for 15 hours, you can purchase any available additional sessions during any of our opening times. We sell sessions which are 3 hours long. A 3-hour long session is charged at £13.50

Charging

There is no charge for applying for a nursery place here, for admission or for the provision of education. We will not request donations before or during the admissions process and any donations made to the school following admission are entirely voluntary. No activities such as visits are compulsory.

The school must comply with the LAs Local Conditions of Funding¹

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/eycs/eycs-childcareproviders/eycs-childcareproviders-funding/eyef.htm> for all settings that offer the EYEF. A charge cannot be made if a child is only attending the nursery as part of their EYEF.

The school is able to offer parent/carers the opportunity to purchase a limited number of extra sessions on a first come first served basis. Session times and costs are as follows:

Morning:	9:00am to 12:00pm	Cost: £13.50
Afternoon:	12:00pm to 3:00pm	Cost: £13.50

A charge of £4.50 (1 hour) will be made for persistent late collection of children from nursery,

Payment for extra sessions must be made monthly in advance. In the event of the school not receiving payment by the middle of the month in question, the extra sessions will be withdrawn, (this does not affect the child's entitlement to the free provision). If a child is absent from the Nursery for two weeks or less payment must be made in full for the missed sessions. For long term absences, i.e. over two weeks, a retainer of 75% of the fees due must be paid in order to keep these sessions.

Parents / carers are advised to contact the school if the operation of this policy for charging and remissions of fees for school activities presents any problems.

Childcare Vouchers

Our school accepts any recognised childcare voucher provider. More information on childcare vouchers can be found here:

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/cypsfactsheets-disc3-employerchildcarevouchers.pdf>

The table below sets out our session times. When applying for a place, please tell us which sessions you need. We only consider requests for sessions AFTER the oversubscription criteria have been applied.

Session Choices	Hours	Funded/Bought
9.00 -12.00	3	As part of the EYEF or bought.
12.00 - 3.00	3	As above
9.00 – 3.00	6	As part of the EYEF or bought.

School Lunches

Free school meals (FSM) can be provided for children (whose parents meet the eligibility criteria)

¹ New Local Conditions of Funding will be published in April 2012 following consultation.

and if their child attends **both** before and after the lunch time period – this means an all-day session. A FSM will be provided whether the child is attending for funded or bought time, regardless of their age.

Children who do not meet the eligibility criteria for free school meals are offered the opportunity to either buy a school lunch or bring a packed lunch.

Visiting Exwick Heights Primary School

We welcome visits from parents and children who are considering applying for a place here. This is an opportunity for you to see what we have to offer. Visits are not a compulsory part of the admissions process and will not affect decisions on whether a place can be offered at our nursery. If you would like to visit Exwick Heights Primary School, you should contact the school to make an appointment.

Most children will start at the nursery or FSU at the start of the term or half term. Other children join us “in-year” at other times. This may be because they are new to the area or simply would like to transfer from another school or early years setting.

To apply for a place here you should use the School Nursery Application Form. The form is on our school website www.exwickheights.devon.sch.uk Parents are also welcome to contact the school office to make their application (01392 209030).

Places are not allocated to a child automatically, even where:

- there is an older sibling attending here;
- a parent has expressed an interest at any time in the school; or
- the child has always lived close to the school.

No places will be held in reserve for a child who applies late. The school will not reserve places and such places may be allocated to another child who applies for admission. We will publicise the need to apply but the responsibility for making an application will be with you as the parent.

How to Apply For a Nursery Place

Parents must complete the School Nursery Application form and return it to the school.

The closing dates for applications for the Nursery/ Foundation Stage Unit intake are: **1st April, 1st July and 1st January**. You can apply after these dates but your application may not be considered until after all of the applications that were received on time. If you couldn't apply before because, for instance, you moved to this area, you should make sure that you inform the school. If the reason for applying after the closing date is accepted, your application will be considered at the same time as those applications which were received on time.

Information Provided in an Application

We would like all applications to be fully and honestly completed. It is important that where we offer places to some and refuse others, we do so fairly and consistently. Where we have reason to believe that information is false and has been provided knowingly, we may withdraw the offer of a place. This is particularly relevant where an address is given which is not the one from which a child will actually attend nursery and this disadvantages another child. If necessary, we will ask for evidence of a child's home address before admission.

If you know or believe that your child's address will change before admission, you must inform the School as this may affect your application.

What happens next?

If there are fewer applications than places then no application will be refused. Only if there are more applications than there are places available will the Governing Body prioritise applications according to the oversubscription criteria below.

By the previous term's half term holiday, we will contact parents/carers if an application is successful, to welcome them to the school and to make arrangements for admission itself. You will also be contacted if we do not have a place available so that you can apply to another setting.

If you need help finding a place at another setting please contact DISC (Devon's Family Information Service) on discinfo@devon.gov.uk/telephone: 0845 155 1013. Or search for childcare online <http://devon.childreancesservicesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/devon/disc/home.page>

30 Hours Funding

Parents are required to check and confirm their eligibility for 30 hours free child care by registering with the government's Childcare Services (<https://childcare-support.tax.services.gov.uk> or <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>). If they are entitled to this funding they will be issued with a unique code. This code together with both parents NI No. and the relevant child's date of birth will need to be supplied to Exwick Heights Primary School

Funding will be claimed by Exwick Heights Primary School through Devon County Councils provider portal.

Devon County Council will validate the code before any payments are made to the school. This validation will be carried out 6 times a year and a report issued to the school indicating each child's eligibility.

There will be a grace period for each child who becomes ineligible until the end of the relevant funding period (see table below).

Date when parent becomes ineligible	DCC eligibility check date	End of grace period
1 January – 10 February	11 February	31 March (end of spring term)
11 February – 31 March	1 April	31 August (end of summer term)
1 April – 26 May	27 May	31 August (end of summer term)
27 May – 31 August	1 September	31 December (end of autumn term)
1 September – 21 October	22 October	31 December (end of autumn term)
22 October – 31 December	1 January	31 March (end of spring term)

The cessation of the 30 hours free entitlement does not affect the 15 hours of free entitlement.

Points of Admission

Generally children will start at nursery at the beginning of a term. Eligibility for all 3 year olds to receive the Early Years Entitlement Funding (EYEF) is at the start of the term following their third birthday. This funding will be paid up until the time when the child reaches statutory school age if the parent chooses to defer or delay entry into school.

Children who are eligible 3 years old		
On or after	And on or before	Funding starts this term
1 September	31 December	Spring (after Christmas holiday)

1 January	31 March	Summer (after Easter holiday)
1 April	31 August	Autumn (after Summer holiday)

There is a legal requirement that all children begin full time education by the beginning of the term following their **fifth** birthday. All places offered in Reception at the normal round are for full-time admission in the September following the **fourth** birthday. This is a legal requirement on schools but not on parents who retain a right to defer admission or send their child part time.

Deferred Admission

September is the earliest point for admission to the Reception class at this school but is not a compulsory start date. All parents can defer admission within the Reception year until the beginning of the term following their child's fifth birthday. This is a decision for the parent to make, taking all factors into account including the advice of educational professionals.

Those parents who decide that their child should defer must inform the Head teacher. The place offered for their child will be held open until the beginning of the term following the fifth birthday and will not be offered to another child. Where a parent does not inform the Head teacher that admission is to be deferred and does not admit the child in September, the place will be withdrawn and may be offered to another child.

Children born between 1 April and 31 August cannot automatically defer admission to Reception into the following September but can apply for a place in Year 1. This would be an in-year application, no earlier than the half term in June 2019.

Delayed Admission

This is where a child starts an academic year later than normal but still enters at the Reception stage. Such an arrangement must be supported with any combination of medical, social and educational evidence from independent professionals. A place cannot be guaranteed a year in advance. For discussion and advice, a parent should contact the School Admissions Team. It is advisable to submit an application on time in any event whilst a request for delayed admission is considered by all parties including the School.

The Admissions Process

Children become eligible for a place when they were born:	On or after 1st April & on or before 31st August	On or after 1st September & on or before 31st December	On or after 1st January & on or before 31st March
Visit the nursery in:	Spring term	Summer term	Autumn term
Apply by:	1 April	1 July	1 January
Admissions panel meet :	Mid-April	Mid-September	Mid-January
Receive a letter about your application before:	May half term	October half term	February half term

Reply to the letter **within 2 weeks** to accept a place (or ask why you did not get a place). You can telephone, email or write to the school.

Start at Nursery (or at the start of term closest to that month)	September Autumn term	January Spring term	April Summer term
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Published Nursery Admission Number (PNAN)

This is the number of places we intend to make available for our normal intake. Once we set this number, we will not refuse admission for applications below the PNAN. If there is unexpectedly high demand and we believe we could admit more children, we inform Devon LA Early Years and Childcare Team and either some children will be admitted above the PNAN or we will increase the PNAN. The number of children that can be admitted will depend on their age, the amount of floor space we have, the number of toilets and hand basins we have and what additional staff may be required.

The Governing Body also factor in the local demand for places and the age ranges of the children wanting a place. If there is a change to the PNAN part way through the year, this must be published.

If there is an increase in the demand for places, the Governors may decide to increase the PNAN at the start of the following term in order to accommodate children on the waiting list and, conversely, to reduce the PNAN if there is a very low demand.

EXWICK HEIGHTS NURSERY

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

If there are more applications than places for any admission

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available in the nursery, the Governing Body will use the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

Any child whose Statement of Special Educational Needs names Exwick Heights Primary School will be admitted.

1. Children in Care or who ceased to be in Care because they were adopted, made the subject of a child arrangements order or made the subject of a special guardianship order.
2. Children for whom an exceptional medical or social need is demonstrated.
3. Children who live in the designated area and are eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium
4. Children who live in the school's designated area with a sibling on roll at the time of application.
5. Other children living inside the school's designated area.
6. Children who live outside of the school's designated area with a sibling on roll at application.
7. Children of members of staff employed for more than two years up to the point of application or recruited within the past two years to fill a vacancy for which there was a skills shortage
8. Children who live outside the designated area who are eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium.
9. Other children.

Notes to Oversubscription Criteria

- i. If it is necessary to distinguish between children in a particular category, priority will be determined on the basis of distance between home and the School measured as a direct line from the entrance of the residential dwelling, to the School as plotted on Geographical Information System (GIS) [i.e. the shorter the distance, the higher the priority].
- ii. If the tie-breaker at (i) is not sufficient to distinguish between applicants in a particular category, there will be a random ballot.
- iii. Where applications are received from families with multiple birth siblings (twins, triplets, etc.) places will be allocated together at the nursery/FSU wherever possible, including offering place(s) above the PNAN.
- iv. Where applications are received from families with multiple birth siblings (twins, triplets, etc.) resident in our designated area, every effort will be made to allocate places here, including offering place(s) above the Published Nursery Admission Number wherever possible. This recognises the exceptional nature of the emotional bonds between multiple birth siblings. Where that is not possible, parents will be invited to decide which of the

children should be allocated the available place(s) or seek places at an alternative setting with sufficient vacancies to accommodate both or all of the multiple birth siblings.

- v. Waiting lists are kept where there are more applications than places available. Waiting lists will be kept so long as there is at least one name on it.
 - vi. Where two or more children reside within a block of flats, they will be deemed to live at an equal distance from the School.
 - vii. For children of UK service personnel and other Crown Servants the School will consider a family posted to the area as meeting residence criteria for the designated area even if a residential address has not been identified. This would require confirmation in the form of a letter from the relevant government department (for example, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or Government Communications Headquarters.)
- i) Evidence of exceptional medical or social need will be demonstrated according to the protocol below:

Protocol for Admission of Need

Background

1. Parents are invited to express preference for the school they would like their child to attend, together with reasons for preference, on the Application Form.
2. In a small number of cases, a preference for this nursery provision will be because a parent feels there is 'exceptional medical or social need' for their child to attend here.
3. The 'exceptional' nature of these cases denotes that they will be individual in circumstance; however, exceptional need could include:
 - A serious medical condition, which can be supported by medical evidence;
 - The death of a parent associated with another school or early years provision;
 - Significant caring responsibilities which can be supported by Social Services;
 - Where one or both parents or the child has a disability that may make travel to a school further away more difficult.²
4. It is intended that this protocol may pre-empt some admission appeals where it is considered that exceptional justification to attend this school can be demonstrated before applications are prioritised and processed.
5. It is expected that professional evidence from a social care, medical or education expert, independent of the family would be provided which sets out a reasoned and unequivocal opinion that the child would suffer a significant detriment by not being admitted here.

Practice

6. Where a parent cites exceptional need, or where the Governing Body feel the reasons given by a parent for preferring this school on their application form could be considered as such, the protocol will apply.

² These examples are not meant to be exhaustive or exclusive. Neither should it be assumed that similar circumstances would impact on different children and families in the same way.

Admissions in the Normal Round

7. School Nursery application forms that indicate exceptional need will be discussed by the Governing Body. Further information may be sought from the applicant if necessary.

8. If the Governing Body accepts that exceptional need has been demonstrated, the parent will be advised that the application is considered to meet criterion 2. This is not a guarantee of a place although we would not expect to be in a position where criterion 2 applicants would be refused admission.

9. Where the Governing Body does not agree that the need is exceptional, the application will be prioritised according to the school's over-subscription criteria and a place will be offered or refused accordingly.

10. Where the Governing Body does not agree that the need is exceptional and a place is refused, the parent¹ will have the right of appeal through the school's complaint process.

11. Where the Governing Body does not agree that need is exceptional, the parent will be able to provide further information for consideration.

In Year Admissions - 'Out of Normal Round'

12. If the nursery has vacancies, the application should not be refused. If the provision has reached or exceeded the Published Nursery Admission Number or other agreed admission limit, the Governing Body will consider whether exceptional need is demonstrated.

13. If the Governing Body feels that exceptional need has been demonstrated, the parent will be advised that a place can be offered to the child here or, alternatively, the school will signpost the parent to a setting where there are places available.

14. Where the Governing Body does not agree that the need is exceptional, the application will be prioritised according to the school over-subscription criteria and a place will be offered or refused accordingly.

15. Where the Governing Body does not agree that the need is exceptional and a place is refused, the parent will have the right of appeal through the school's complaints process.

16. Where the Governing Body do not agree that need is exceptional, the parent will be able to provide further information for consideration.

Waiting Lists

Following allocation of nursery places the school will retain a waiting list. Waiting lists will be kept in order of the oversubscription criteria above. Places on lists will not be prioritised according to how long a child's name has been on that list or by the age of the child. It is possible that a child's name could go down on a list as well as up.

If a place is only available for a short period of time, i.e. half a term or less, then the school will discuss with the parent whether it would be in the child's best interest to attend the nursery/FSU for such a short period of time before having to find a place at another setting. Continuity and consistency of care is most important in the early years and having lots of transitions can be disruptive for a child.

Parents with very young children, i.e. those who are not due to start within the next two terms, will be asked to complete a **Note of Interest** form which can be collected from the school office.

Parent/carer making a Note of Interest will also be informed about when they should submit the School Nursery Application form.

Admissions at Other Times

You can make a request for admission after the normal rounds of admissions –using the School Nursery Application Form. This allows for your child to start at Exwick Heights Primary School as soon as possible. A formal offer letter will then follow from the school.

If you are seeking an in-year nursery place because your child has just moved to the area and doesn't already have a nursery place, admission would be as soon as possible.

If the parent has been buying hours at the first setting it is likely that they will be required to give a period of notice before they leave. If this notice period is not given the setting may levy a charge on the family.

Increasing the Hours Attended

If a place becomes available part way through a term and there is a waiting list, priority for the place will be given to the child/children on the waiting list. If the parents on the waiting list do not want the places at the times that are available then the places can be offered to parents of children who are already attending the nursery. Similarly, if there is not a waiting list and there are parents of children that already attend the nursery who want to either take up additional funded hours and/or buy extra hours then a list of those parents will be made and the oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine who should be given priority for that place.

Admission Appeals

If a nursery/ FSU place is refused, parents can go through the schools complaints process to express their concerns. The Governing Body will review the decision and decide whether the refusal was justified on the grounds that the nursery is full. Even if it is agreed that the nursery was full, it will also consider the impact on the child and family and may still award a place at the nursery if there is both the physical space and sufficient staff available.

Staffing

The staffing requirements for nursery children are for a 1:13 ratio. At least one member of staff must be a school teacher (as defined by section 122 of the Education Act 2022) and at least one other member of staff must hold a full and relevant level 3 qualification.

The Head teacher has some discretion over arrangements when staffing Foundation Stage Units (where reception children and nursery children are integrated) as the way in which children are grouped and staff are deployed will mean that staff levels may vary depending on the activities being undertaken. However, this discretion must be exercised bearing in mind the infant class size legislation and the ratio and qualification requirements for the nursery children.

Transport

No transport is available for preschool children.

Uniform Policy

Children attending Exwick Heights nursery can wear a red sweatshirt with the school logo, which can be purchased from Thomas Moore. Parents unable to purchase items of uniform or equipment will not be penalised. Wearing uniform in the nursery is optional.

Parent/ Provider Contract

The EYE (Early Years Entitlement) can be taken at more than one setting. Although there is no upper limit on the number of settings a child can attend, careful consideration must be given to ensuring that the child feels settled, safe and can form relationships with significant adults.

Once a place has been allocated, parents are asked to complete a registration form; this helps the school and parent to see what time is funded and what time is being bought.

Parents must not claim more than their entitlement (15 or 30 hours); checks are carried out to ensure that over claims are not made.

Changes to Attendance

Changes to the times when a child is attending will only be agreed to take effect from the start of each half term. The oversubscription criteria will be applied to both 1. and 2. below to determine within each group which children should be given priority.

Order of priority for the consideration of unfilled places:

1. Requests by parents whose children already attend the nursery and they want to increase or change the times their child attends.
2. New applications from parents whose children do not yet attend the nursery.

It is expected that parents will ensure that their child will attend at the times agreed on the Parent Provider Contract so that children can establish a routine and be ready to start school.

If a child is sick the parent must inform the school. If a child does not attend the nursery for a period of more than two weeks without informing the school that child's place may be offered to another child.

Induction and Transition Arrangements for Starting Nursery

You and your child will be invited to a taster session the term before your child is due to start. Your child can start for the full amount of agreed time at the start of term if you so wish.

Contacts and Further Information

Caroline Neal (Mrs)

Headteacher

Exwick Heights Primary School

Exwick Lane

Exeter EX4 2FB

Telephone: **01392 209030**

admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk

www.exwickheights.devon.sch.uk

Policy version

This policy was determined by the Local Governing Body on: 6th May 2021. It will be reviewed annually.