

Leader: Mrs M McCarthy

Groups involved in discussion: Head teacher, SLT, all staff

Beech Hill nursery class is managed by the governing body and is on the site of Beech Hill Primary School.

Places at Beech Hill Nursery are available for three and four year-olds the year before they start school, but they may be able to go sooner if there are enough places. Your child can get 15 hours of free nursery care each week for 38 weeks each year, but in some nurseries you can buy more hours. There are also a limited number of 30 hours free childcare for eligible parents (see Appendix 1). Some places may be available for 2 year olds at Beech Hill Nursery.

Wigan Council is the admission authority for community nurseries and determines the admission arrangements for 2 year old and 3/4 year old places:

Oversubscription criteria for Beech Hill Nursery

Where we receive more applications than places available the following oversubscription criteria will be applied:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). Applications for previously looked after children must be supported with appropriate evidence i.e. a copy of the adoption order, residence order or special guardianship order.
2. Children with particular social, medical or language needs. NB Appropriate objective evidence will need to be supplied in support of the above and referral would normally be via professional agencies. It is also envisaged that the total number of places allocated according to these criteria would form only a relatively small proportion of the total number of children attending the nursery.
3. Children who are in the rising 4 cohort who live nearest to the nursery school.

Tie-breaker

Distance will be measured in a straight line distance between the child's permanent residence and a central point in the nursery.

Notes

Priority is given to the Rising 4 cohort in order to maximise the opportunities for children to receive at least one year of nursery education before starting school. The majority of places will be allocated to this cohort of children.

If places remain after the main intake for the Rising 4 cohort, further places will be allocated at two points in the academic year according to the children's birth dates as follows;

Dates of birth eligible for admission:

- 1st September - 31st December (1st January)
- 1st January - 31st March (Start of the Summer term)

Oversubscription criteria for eligible 30 hour free childcare

Up to a maximum of ten 30 hour free childcare places - this number will be determined at the discretion of the school.

Where we receive more applications than places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied once places have first been allocated to pupils who have a statement of special educational need or education health care plan which names the school:

1. Eligible children who were accessing 30 hours free childcare at Beech Hill nursery during the previous term and who continue to provide proof of eligibility.
2. Children whose older brothers or sisters attend the school and will still be there at the time of admission.
3. Children who live closest to the school.

Appendix 1

Am I eligible for 30 hours free childcare?

The additional 15 hours are available from September 2016 to parents* of 3 and 4 year olds where:

- Both parents are working** (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns on average a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW) and less than £100,000 a year. At present, the living wage is £7.20 an hour. Therefore, the minimum income requirement for a parent (over the age of 25) is £115.20 a week. The minimum wage for 21 to 24 year olds is £6.70 an hour - therefore, the minimum income requirement for this group is £107.20 a week***.
- A parent expects (on average) to earn this amount over the coming three months. The eligibility criteria has been designed to accommodate parents with fluctuating incomes and those who are about to start earning or increase their hours.
- For example, a parent who is on a zero-hours contract will get work some weeks, but not others, and may not know in advance if they will have work in any given week. If, on average they work two weeks out of every three, and when they are working they get 25 hours of work at the minimum wage, their child will qualify for 30 hours of free childcare.
- Families where one parent does not work (or neither parents work) will not usually be eligible for the extended entitlement EXCEPT where:
 - Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity or paternity, adoption leave, or on statutory sick pay.
 - One parent is employed and one parent either has substantial caring responsibilities based on receipt of specific benefits received for caring, or is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.
 - A child and parent must be resident (living) in the Local Authority, as evidenced by the parent's proof of residency.
 - The person applying for the childcare (usually the parent but could be their partner) is 'resident in the UK'.

Notes

- A 'parent' means a person who has parental responsibility for the child of care of the child. In cases where a parent has remained or is living with a partner, the step-parent or partner must also meet the earnings threshold. Foster carers are eligible for the extended entitlement if they meet the criteria set out above for their own children.

Foster carers are not eligible for the extended entitlement for the children that they foster.

- **Working includes employed persons, self-employed persons and parents on zero hours contracts who meet the criteria.
- ***Note that these rates are £5.30 for 18-21 year olds, £3.87 for under 18s and £3.30 for apprentices.