


| | |
|--|---|
| <h1 style="text-align: center;">Nursery Admissions Policy</h1> |  |
| <p>DATE OF ADOPTION: March 2023</p> | |
| <p>DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: March 2024</p> | |
| <p>TO BE REVIEWED BY: Full Governing Board</p> | |

1. The Ethos of Decoy Community Primary School and First Steps Nursery

Ethos - Inspiring Positive Futures

Decoy Community Primary School actively encourages its children to become caring, hardworking, creative and interesting citizens of the future. Pupils are supported to develop respect for each other and positive relationships.

Aims

At Decoy Community Primary School, we aim to:

- Provide a happy and stimulating learning environment which promotes curiosity, creativity, enjoyment and interest in all aspects of learning.
- Provide high quality education suitable for the needs of each child using a wide range of teaching methods and experiences.
- Ensure all members of the school staff are confident in their respective roles, working together as a team, co-ordinated by effective leadership.
- Provide a personal and social education which will encourage children to become independent, confident, self-disciplined and courteous.
- Create a school environment which is welcoming, visually inviting, and which is safe and secure for all members of the school community.

2. Early Years Funding for three- and four-year-olds

2.1. All three- and four-year-olds are entitled to a funded early years place for 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year. Some children, whose parents are working, will be entitled to 1140 hours a year.

2.2. We expect to admit children that will be using their Early Years Funding as well as children whose parents are buying additional hours and those that are both funded and buying hours. There may be some children who are only attending for bought hours and some that only attend for funded hours. The maximum amount of funded time that can be taken in a day is 10 hours; parents cannot use more than two sites for funded early years places in one day.

3. Admissions to the nursery

3.1. Decoy Community Primary School and First Steps Nursery admits:

- Early Years funded three- and four-year-olds from the start of the funding period following their third birthday.
- Non-funded three- and four-year-olds from the start of term following their third birthday.

4. Points of Admission to nursery

4.1. Generally, children will start at nursery at the beginning of a term. Eligibility for all three-years-olds to receive the Early Years Funding is at the start of the funding period 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.

4.2. 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.

5. Patterns of attendance available

5.1. We are required to offer the Early Years Funding in a flexible way. Our school makes a core offer for the universal 570-hour entitlement of:

- Morning sessions of 9.00am to 12.00pm and
- Morning and lunch sessions of 9.00am to 1.00pm and
- Afternoon and lunch sessions of 12.00pm to 3.30pm and
- Afternoon sessions of 1.00pm to 3.30pm and
- All day sessions of 9.00am to 3.30pm during term time only.

5.2. If you choose a morning, afternoon or an all-day session that includes the lunchtime period that is 12.00 – 1.00pm. This time is part of the day when children continue their learning and will be funded as part of the Early Years Funding if that is what parents/carers choose. We are not permitted to charge separately for this time.

6. Extended Hours

- 6.1.** Families that have an 11-digit code because they are working and eligible for the **extended entitlement** can have up to 1140 hours stretched across a year. This equates to 30 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year. NB: some families may attend more than one provider and want to stretch the entitlement across the year in one and take some during term time in another.
- 6.2.** Families that need a longer day can apply to take funded nursery places in our governor-run before and after school provision. These sessions are:
- 7:55am – 9:00am before school
- 3:30pm – 5:00pm/6:00pm after school.
- 6.3.** The provision before and after school will differ from the core early years provision between 9.00am and 3.30pm, as there will be older children attending and the adults will be different. We are not required to have a teacher during these times, this helps to make the sessions more affordable for families. They will be staffed by a level 3 practitioner.
- 6.4.** Before and after school childcare provision is available for all children (aged 3-11) places permitting. The governing body manages this service, and this means that the Early Years Funding for three- and four-year-olds can be offered between 7.55am and 5:00pm/6.00pm making our nursery provision extremely flexible. **Please be aware that we have a limited amount of nursery spaces and these are provided on a first come basis.**
- 6.5.** When allocating places, the governing body take these extended services for three- and four-year-olds to be an integral part of the nursery provision.
- 6.6.** If parents want to buy additional hours on top of the 15 funded hours or the extended entitlement, they can do this during any of our opening times. All of our sessions are available to buy and the hourly charge is £4.56.
- A morning without lunch would be £13.68 and with the lunch hour £18.24.
- An afternoon without lunch would be £11.40 and with the lunch hour £15.96.
- A day would be £29.64.
- 6.7.** Families that require a longer day than we can offer should contact the providers that we partner with; these can be found at <https://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk>

6.8. The table below sets out our session times. When applying for a place please use the Nursery Application Form DCAF-2023 available on our website www.decoyschool.co.uk/first-steps-nursery and tell us what sessions you need on the Parent Declaration Form. This can be found in the Nursery section on our school website.

We only consider requests for sessions AFTER the oversubscription criteria have been applied.

| Session choices | Hours |
|------------------|-------|
| 9.00am – 12pm | 3 |
| 9.00am – 1.00pm | 4 |
| 12.00pm – 3.30pm | 3.5 |
| 1.00pm – 3.30pm | 2.5 |
| 9.00am – 3.30pm | 6.5 |

Please contact our BASC Administrator Mrs Jess Edwards via the school office on 01626 353282 or basc@decoyschool.co.uk to discuss the availability of nursery BASC places and how to book. We strongly encourage families to contact Mrs Edwards at the earliest opportunity as nursery BASC places are limited.

6.9. Parents wishing to use their 15 funded hours during term times only with us need to choose sessions carefully so that they can access the full 15 hours e.g., sessions of 6.5 + 3.5 + 2.5 hours = 15 OR 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 hours = 15 OR 6.5 + 3 + 3 + 2.5 = 15

7. Charging

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

7.2. The school must comply with Devon County Council's Provider Agreement.

7.3. Details about buying additional sessions/hours in the nursery/preschool are set out in the schools Charging and Remissions Policy available on our school website www.decoyschool.co.uk/policies/

8. Childcare Vouchers and Tax-Free Childcare

8.1. Our school accepts the following childcare vouchers

Edenred
Fideliti
Kiddi vouchers
Computer share
Sodexo

8.2. Our school is registered for tax free childcare parents can apply through Childcare Choices this helps make childcare more affordable.

9. School Lunches

9.1. Free school meals (FSM) must be provided for children (whose parents meet the eligibility criteria) and if their child attends **both** before and after the lunch time period. This generally means an all-day session. A free school meal will be provided whether the child is attending for funded or bought time and regardless of their age. Parents must check eligibility through the Citizens Portal.

9.2. Children who do not meet the criteria are asked to bring in a packed lunch.

10. Visiting

10.1. 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 Decoy Community Primary School and First Steps Nursery, you should contact the school to make an appointment. Please call 01626 353282 or email admin@decoyschool.co.uk.

10.2. Once the offer of a place has been made, to support your child's transition to our nursery, we offer a Stay and Play session prior to their start as well as a home visit.

10.3. Most children will start at the nursery at the start of the term. Other children join us at other times. This may be because they are new to the area or would like to transfer from another early year's provider.

10.4. To apply for a place here you must use the Nursery Application Form and Parent Declaration Form. These can be found on our Nursery Page on our school website www.decoyschool.co.uk

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

- there is an older sibling attending here;
- a child attends a particular Toddler Group or Children's Centre
- a parent has expressed an interest at any time in the school; or the child has always lived close to the school.

10.6. No places will be held in reserve for a child who applies late; the school cannot hold places empty if another child applies for admission. We will publicise the need to apply on our website but the responsibility for making an application will be with you as the parent.

11. How to apply for a nursery place

11.1. Parents must complete both the Nursery Application Form DCAF-0 2023 and Declaration form and return it to the school.

11.2. The closing dates for applications for the nursery intake are 1st April for a September start, 1st September for a January start and 1st January for an April start. You can apply after these dates, but your application may not be considered until after all the applications that were on time. If you could not 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 everyone who did apply on time if this is still possible.

12. Information provided in an application

12.1. 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.

12.2. 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.

12.3. You will be asked to provide date of birth evidence so we can check your child's age.

13. What happens next

13.1. 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.

13.2. We will endeavour to give the hours requested on the Parent Declaration Form this can be found on our Nursery Page on our website www.decoyschool.co.uk. It is

inevitable, however, that some parents who have been prioritised will not be able to access the hours they have requested. In these instances, we will offer times (days/hours/weeks) that fall closest to the hours requested.

13.3. By May half term, October half term and February half term we will contact parents to confirm the offer of places and to welcome them to the nursery 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 provider.

14. Overview of the Admissions Process

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1) Visit the nursery in: | Spring term | Summer term | Autumn term |
| 2) Apply by: | 1 st April | 1 st September | 1 st January |
| 3) Admissions panel meet in: | May | September | January |
| 4) Receive a letter about your application before: | May half term | October half term | February half term |
| 5) Reply to the letter | 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 | 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 | 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 |
| 6) Start at Nursery (or at the start of term closest to that month) | Autumn Term September | Spring term January | Summer term April |

15. Published Nursery Admissions Number (PNAN)

15.1. This is the number of places we intend to make available for our normal nursery 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 County Council's 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 and whether additional staff will be required.

15.2. The governing body also factor in the local demand for places. If there is a change to the PNAN part way through the year this will be published on our website.

15.3. If there is an increase in the demand for places the governors may decide to increase the PNAN in order to accommodate children on the waiting list and conversely reduce the PNAN if there is a very low demand.

15.4. The table below sets out our Published Nursery Admissions Number (PNAN) for 2022.

| | |
|---|----|
| The maximum number of 3 and 4-year-old children that will be admitted at any one time: | 39 |
|---|----|

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the governing body will use the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the (Published Nursery Admissions Number) in the nursery the governing body will use the following **oversubscription criteria** to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

- A child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school will be admitted.
1. Looked after Children or those who were Looked After but ceased to be because they were adopted, made the subject of a child arrangements order or made the subject of a special guardianship order.
 2. Children with an exceptional medical or social need to attend this nursery.
 3. Children who live in the designated area and are eligible for two-year-old funding. **(NB: First Steps Nursery only offers places for 3-4 year olds)**
 4. Children who live in the school's designated area who have a sibling at the school.
 5. All other children who live in the designated area.
 6. Children who live outside of the designated area with a sibling at the school.
 7. Children who live outside the designated area who are eligible for the early years funding for two-year-olds. **(NB: First Steps Nursery only offers places for 3-4 year olds)**
 8. Other children.

16. Waiting lists

- 16.1.** Following the 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 or by whether the sessions are funded or bought. It is possible that a child's name could go down on a list as well as up.
- 16.2.** 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 for such a short period of time before having to find a place at another provider. Continuity and consistency of care is most important in the early years and having lots of transitions can be disruptive for a child.
- 16.3.** Parents with children that are not due to start within the next two terms, will be asked to complete a Note of Interest for a Nursery place 2022 this can be found on our Nursery Page on our website, and told when they should apply.

17. Increasing the hours attended

- 17.1.** If a session becomes available part way through a term and there is a waiting list, priority for the session will be given to the children on the waiting list. If the parents on the waiting list do not want the sessions as the times that are available, then they 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.

18. Admissions appeals

- 18.1.** If a nursery place is refused, parents can go through the school's complaints process to express their concerns. The Complaints Policy can be found on our school website. 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.

19. Transport

- 19.1.** No transport is available for nursery children.

20. Uniform

20.1. Children attending First Steps Nursery are not expected to wear a uniform. We do ask for children to have a pair of slippers, a puddle suit and wellies that can be kept in Nursery we can assist families in need of support with this.

21. Claiming the Early Years Funding

21.1. The Early Years Funding can be taken at more than one provider; parents cannot use providers on more than two sites in one day. The provider claims the funding on your behalf.

21.2. It is important that both the school and parent can see what time is funded and what time is being bought.

21.3. Parents must not claim more than the 570 or 1140-hour entitlement, checks are carried out to ensure that over claims are not made.

22. Changes to attendance

22.1. Changes to the times when a child is attending will generally only be agreed to take effect from the start of a term. The oversubscription criteria will be applied to both a) and b) below to determine within each group which children should be given priority. Order of priority for the consideration of unfilled places.

- a) New applications from parents whose children do not yet attend the nursery.
- b) Requests by parents whose children attend the nursery, and they want to increase OR change the times their child attends

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

23. Induction and transition arrangements for starting nursery.

24. Contacts and further information

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Headteacher | Mrs S Herbert |
| E-mail: | admin@decoyschool.co.uk |
| Telephone: | 01626 353282 |
| Website: | https://www.decoyschool.co.uk |