

Admissions criteria for entry September 2024

Phoenix Integrated Primary School Nursery Unit
80 Fountain Road
Cookstown
BT80 8QF

Grant Maintained Integrated Nursery Unit
Admissions No: 26 (Part-time)
Session Times: 9:00am – 12:30pm

Principal: Mrs Heather Watson BA (Hons) PQH (NI)
Chair of Board of Governors: Mrs Elizabeth Simpson

Telephone: 028 8675 7096

Respective Functions of the Board of Governors and the Principal in relation to admissions.

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates responsibility for applying the admissions criteria to an Admission Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal. Any reference herein to the term The Board of Governors includes any Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purpose of applying the admissions criteria.

Integrated Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

The Board of Governors of Phoenix Integrated note the definition of an Integrated School as outlined in the Integrated Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and believe our criteria will allow us to successfully meet this definition.

Declaration of Ethos

Phoenix IPS is a grant maintained integrated school intentionally supports, protects, and advances an ethos of diversity, respect and understanding between those of different cultures and religious beliefs and of none, between those of different socio-economic backgrounds and between those of different abilities.

Rationale (Nursery)

Our Admission Criteria reflect the integrated nature of the Nursery and its links to the Integrated Primary School. It is committed to educating Protestant and Catholic children together and strives to maintain a balanced enrolment, with a minimum of 40% from the Roman Catholic tradition, and 40% from the Protestant tradition and 20% from those who identify as OTHER in accordance with the Statement of Principles of the Council for Integrated Education (NI).

Children who are not normally resident in Northern Ireland will not be considered for places until all children who live in Northern Ireland have been considered.

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.

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).

If there are more applicants who meet a particular criterion than there are places remaining to be filled the Board of Governors will determine, after consideration of the balance of representation within the nursery class of the 2 main communities within Northern Ireland, how many children of each main denomination should be admitted from those who meet that criterion. The balance between Roman Catholic and Protestant children is at least 40% from each of these denominations and the remaining 20% OTHER. If you fail to identify your child's perceived religion, we will identify that child in the OTHER CATEGORY.

In any category which is under-subscribed all those applicants who fit into this category will be admitted. Should there be any surplus of places which arises from any under-subscribed category that surplus will be distributed beginning with the category which is most oversubscribed alternating with the other category until the final place is allocated.

The Board of Governors will then apply in the order indicated the sub-criteria listed below to those who meet the oversubscribed criterion. The sub-criteria will be applied separately to Roman Catholic, Protestant children and children from other religions as appropriate.

Admissions Sub-Criteria

In the event of over-subscription in any of set criteria 1-2 above, the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order listed:

- (i) Children who have listed Phoenix Integrated Nursery Unit as their 1st Preference.
- (ii) Children with brothers/sisters/half-brothers/half-sisters, including those fostered or adopted or children living under a residency order in a family where other child/children of the family are presently enrolled in Phoenix Integrated Primary School (Please state name and class clearly) ;
- (iii) Children whose siblings have previously attended Phoenix Integrated Primary (Please state name and dates clearly)
- (iv) Children who, at the date of their application, are the eldest child of the family to be eligible to apply for admission to the school (i.e. second child will not be disadvantaged if the eldest child attends a special school or specialist unit). The Board of Governors will also consider cases where the applicant is more than 8 years younger than the next eldest sibling as being an equivalent to an eldest child. Twins will both be treated as the eldest child.
- (v) Remaining places will be allocated for admission based on initial letter of surname in the order set out below which was determined by a randomised selection of letters.

Mc L Y M Z F H C E Mac G O' K D J I B X N V R O U A P W S T Q

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter then subsequent letters of the surnames 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. The surname selected will be "as per birth certificate". In the event of a double-barrelled surname the first surname will be used for purposes of selection.

Non-statutory criteria

Note: Applications falling under Criterion 3 are processed only during Stage 2 of the admissions process, after final pre-school year (Statutory 1 and 2) applications.

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 within Criterion 3 will be selected in Chronological Order of Age – eldest child first. In the event of two or more children having the same DOB the above random selection of letters will be used.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only consider information which is detailed on the ONLINE application or verifying information which should be submitted to the school in line with the guidance. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the ONLINE application. Examples of such information include; whether the child is the eldest child; your child's perceived religion. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU READ THE CRITERIA.**

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The application form from the Education Authority will ask for you to state the perceived religious tradition of the child, it is vital that you record this as this will enable the committee to ensure that the religious balance of the school is maintained.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors **reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence** as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's application form.

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.

Supporting Documentation

Evidence required at time of application:

- Date of Birth – as prompted by online portal.
- Benefit verification – as prompted by online portal.

To enable the Board of Governors to verify addresses and eldest child, applicants may be requested to provide verification documents (a list of accepted documents will be provided to the applicant, should this be necessary).

Waiting List Policy

Should a vacancy arise after 11th June 2024, all applications for admission to nursery 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. The waiting list will be in place until 30 June 2025.