



**Parkhead
Community
Primary School**

Nursery Admission Policy 2026/27

Review of Policy:

Reviewed: March 2026

Next Review: March 2027

All children (from the aged of 3) are entitled to 15 hours of free Nursery provision provided over 39 weeks (universal entitlement). Some children will be entitled to an additional 15 hours (extended entitlement) if their parent/s are in employment and meet the criteria as per the details outlined in the following link <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>.

At Parkhead, we pride ourselves on offering a flexible provision to meet the needs of our parents. Depending on availability, we may offer the following patterns of provision:

Universal entitlement – 15 hours

- 5 mornings a week
- 5 afternoons per week
- 2.5 days per week
- Parents can pay to add additional lunch, breakfast, afterschool club or nursery sessions

Extended entitlement – 30 hours

- 8:45am until 3:30 pm 5 days per week which includes a lunch period.

Admission criteria

All children, subject to the availability of places, will normally be admitted to the nursery class at the start of term after their third birthday i.e. at the start of term in September 2026, January 2027 or after the Easter break 2028 of the 2026/27 academic year.

Parkhead Primary school does offer parents the option of starting their child on their 3rd birthday if it is appropriate and this will be discussed on an individual basis.

Please note that we may need to delay your child's start beyond the relevant term in circumstances where the school has induction procedures to follow to enable your child to be successfully integrated with others and get used to school life. This is decided in consultation with the Head Teacher and will only be actioned with the best interests of the child at heart. Your child may not receive their full free entitlement in these circumstances.

Oversubscription Criteria

If there are not enough places available for all applicants, we will apply the criteria which are ranked in priority order below.

- The children who will become four years of age during the 2026/27 academic year and would only have the opportunity to benefit from three terms of nursery education.

The allocation of places within this group of children will then be based on priorities 1 to 7 listed below.

If there are not enough applicants within this older group of children above to fill all available places, then we will next consider those younger children who will reach the age of three during the academic year 2026/27.

Priority will then be given to these children who will become three during the Autumn term, then the Spring term and then the Summer term.

Within each term the allocation of places is based on priorities 1 to 7 listed below.

Places can only be offered to these younger children if we can confirm that a place is not needed for a child who will become four years of age during the 2026/27 academic year.

We will give priority in the following order:

1. Looked After Children (children in public care and as deemed under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989).
2. Children who will access either their full universal entitlement or full extended entitlement within this nursery.
3. Children who live in Gateshead and who will have a brother or sister at the school during the coming academic year.
4. Children who live in the school's catchment area.
5. Children who have exceptional medical or social grounds. (See point a below).
6. Other children who live in Gateshead.
7. Children who live outside Gateshead, but only if places are otherwise likely to remain available during the academic year.

Point A

We can consider exceptional individual applications, particularly in cases involving medical or social needs. If you wish to apply on medical or social grounds you must provide written evidence from relevant registered health professionals i.e. a doctor or social worker. The evidence must demonstrate why the chosen school is more appropriate and what difficulties would be caused if your child were to travel to and attend alternative schools. We will not consider such applications if the relevant professional evidence is not provided. This evidence will be assessed by a panel of Governors and the Head Teacher. No assumption should be made that submission of the relevant evidence will, in itself, be sufficient to allocate a place.

Tie Breaker

If within any of the above priorities, there are more applicants than places available then priority will be given to those children based on the distance they live from the school measured as the crow flies i.e. in a straight line from the centre of the home residence to the main entrance of the school. Children living nearest the school will have priority.

Allocation of places

Parents/ carers are asked to indicate the pattern of attendance they would prefer. In the event of any pattern of attendance being oversubscribed, places will be allocated in order of distance they live from the school measured as the crow flies i.e. in a straight line from the centre of the home residence to the main entrance of the school, starting from the nearest.

Address

For the purposes of deciding whether a child lives in the catchment area of a school we will use the parent or legal guardian's address or the address of a relevant adult who has parental responsibility (as defined under the 1989 Children Act) for the child.

Change in circumstances

If a child becomes eligible for the extended entitlement at any point after the closing date for applications, subject to availability, a place will be available, from the start of the week following their confirmation of eligibility. If no place is available, the child will be placed on the waiting list. If a child loses their eligibility at any point after the allocation of places, parents/carers and the Head Teacher will agree the pattern of attendance for the universal entitlement.

Waiting list

If places, then become available we will consider all the applications on a waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained by the Head Teacher from the start of the academic year and be kept for the rest of the academic year. All applicants on the waiting list will be placed according to the admission criteria and priorities set out above. The length of time a child has been on the waiting list cannot be considered if places become available. If you apply late, your child's name may be added to the list by using the priority order described above.

Closing Date

To apply for a place in our nursery class for September 2026 or other terms in the 2026/27 academic year, please complete the admissions form on our school website [School Admissions | Parkhead Community Primary School](#) or contact the school by emailing enquiries@parkheadprimary.org or by telephone on 0191 4335618 where an application form will be issued to you.

Complaints

If you feel that the admissions criteria stated above have not been fairly applied to your child, then you may register a complaint with the Governing Body using their normal complaints procedure.

Admission into Reception Obtaining a place in our school Nursery class does not guarantee your child a place in our school for entry to Reception class. There are different admission criteria that applies for admission to infant and primary school entry. You must apply again in the September before your child's 4th birthday for admission to an infant or primary school through the Gateshead Council website