

Admissions policy

EYFS: 3.28, 3.57

At **Stepping Stones Day Nursery** we care for **up to 133** children per day between the ages of **0** and **5 years**.

The numbers and ages of children admitted to the nursery comply with the legal space requirements set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). When considering admissions we are mindful of staff: child ratios and the facilities available at the nursery.

The nursery will offer places on a first come first serve basis however if spaces required are limited we will use the following admission criteria which will be applied in the following order of priority:

1. Children looked after
2. A child known by the local authority to have special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND) and whose needs can be best met at the preferred nursery
3. A vulnerable child with either a Child Protection or a Child in Need Plan or Local Authority/Common Assessment Framework
4. Children who have siblings who are already with us
5. Children whose parents live within the area.

We operate an inclusion and equality policy and ensure that all children have access to nursery places and services irrespective of their gender, race, disability, religion or belief or sexual orientation of parents.

Prior to a child attending nursery, parents must complete and sign a contract and registration form. These forms provide the nursery with personal details relating to the child. For example, name, date of birth, address, emergency contact details, parental responsibilities, dietary requirements, collection arrangements, fees and sessions, contact details for parents, doctor's contact details, health visitor contact details, allergies, parental consent and vaccinations etc.

Providers eligible to provide government funded places for early education

All settings registered to accept government funding (detailed in the nursery operational plan) must offer free places for two/three to five year olds for early learning sessions specified by the local authority. At Stepping Stones day nursery we currently provide free funded places available for children subject to availability. These places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and can be booked a term in advance. Please note for admissions for the free nursery education we have a termly intake, beginning the term following your child's second/third birthday.

All funded sessions are now in line with the flexible arrangement as specified by the Government. When you register your child for their funded place we will discuss your needs and, as far as possible with availability and staffing arrangements, we will accommodate your wishes.

This policy was adopted in	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>December 2022</i>	<i>M Warner/ E Keller</i>	<i>December 2023</i>