



Sunnylands Nursery

At St Peter's School

Admissions Policy & Procedures

May 2021

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Nursery Admissions Policy

Sunnylands Nursery is situated in the grounds of St Peter's School. The Nursery is committed to providing a fair and open admission system that supports our offering of a high quality and good value nursery provision. Sunnylands Nursery received an excellent rating at its most recent Independent School Inspectorate inspection (on behalf of Ofsted).

Admissions Procedure and Waiting List

The minimum number of sessions per week that a child may attend is three (either mornings or afternoons). We believe that this allows them to fully access the range of activities provided and enables young children to have continuity of attendance.

When a parent or carer contacts the Nursery enquiring about a place for their child, they will be invited to make an appointment to visit and meet with the Nursery Manager, bringing along their child. At the visit, they will be provided with all of the relevant information that they require, including a Schedule of Fees and session booking form together with a registration form if they wish to proceed with the place.

If after the visit the parent/carer indicates they wish to apply for a nursery place, they will be asked to complete a form detailing which sessions they would like – this must be done in writing or on email. The Bursar will review availability and contact the parent/carer in writing (usually by email). If the parent/carer wishes to proceed, they will be required to register, pay a non-refundable registration fee, and a deposit to secure the place. They will be advised of the amounts payable in accordance with the latest Schedule of Fees and any funding available. Upon payment of the deposit, the place will be confirmed in writing by the Bursar and secured for the child. The deposit is deducted from the first termly invoice and subsequent invoices as appropriate.

Once the admission is secure we will contact the parent/carer concerned to offer a date for a short settling-in session (non-chargeable) to take place normally in the term before entry. If this is not required, the start date will be confirmed to them and the optional uniform explained.

Waiting List

To ensure that admissions to the Nursery are offered on a fair and transparent basis, the following procedure will apply to the management of all admissions including waiting lists:

If, on making an enquiry about a place for their child, a parent/carer is informed that there is not currently a suitable place available, the Nursery's waiting list procedure will be explained and then activated on the parent's/carer's behalf if they wish to be added to it.

The waiting list will be managed by the Bursar. In accordance with all admissions, priority will be given to:

- Children whose siblings are already attending the School.
- Children whose families require full time places.
- Children whose parents have registered them for entry to the School beyond Early Years and have paid a non-returnable deposit.
- Children of employees of St Peter's School, Kettering

The Bursar will provide an estimate to the parent/carer of how long they are likely to have to wait before a suitable place becomes available. This information will be an estimate and will not constitute a binding agreement.

When a place at the Nursery becomes available for the sessions requested, the School will contact the parent/carer whose child is suitable for the place and is highest up on the waiting list. They will be asked to confirm whether they require a place within five working days. If the place is not required or confirmed within this time, the place will be offered to the next child on the waiting list.

If that parent/carer wishes to take up the place for their child, they will be asked to complete and return the Registration Form and pay the deposit to secure the place under the normal admissions procedure above.

Payment of Fees and Notice Period

The level of fees is set by the Governing Body and reviewed annually. Fee increases are normally notified to parents/carers at least one term in advance of any increase being applied.

We normally expect that the first term's fees are paid in full prior to the start day. A monthly payment option may be available, payable by Direct Debit in advance. Parents/carers wishing to pay monthly will be required to sign an agreement form which should be requested from the Bursar. All fees remain due in advance until such agreement is signed and registered by the Bursar.

Payment of invoices is normally made by direct debit, but termly invoices may also be paid by bank transfer, debit or credit card, or cheque. Cash payments are not accepted for fees in accordance with money laundering legislation.

The Nursery also accepts all of the major childcare vouchers and is registered for the tax-free childcare scheme for nursery fees and early/late club only, excluding dinner costs.

Unpaid direct debits or cheques will attract an additional charge of £30 for direct debits, and £10 for cheques to cover our banking and administration costs. Full payment information will be provided with a monthly payment scheme agreement.

If parents/carers anticipate any difficulty in settling invoiced charges in accordance with due dates, contact must be made with the Bursar immediately otherwise the place at nursery may be withdrawn. The Bursar's contact information is shown on each invoice. Sunnylands Nursery will take positive action to recover unpaid amounts for fees and/or fees in lieu of notice.

The Nursery requires one half term (six calendar weeks) notice in writing to the Bursar should a Nursery place no longer be required. All fees are payable during this. The Bursar will confirm acceptance of notice in writing within 5 days of receipt. If funding has been applied for during this six week notice period, this will be claimed, however if this is not received, full fees will be payable by the parent.

If the nursery is prevented from opening by a force majeure event beyond our control, or legal dictation, full fees may be chargeable.

Arrival & Departure Procedures

Sunnylands Nursery will give a warm and friendly welcome to each child on arrival and ensure that they depart safely with the nominated adult at the end of each session.

The Nursery Manager and the School Office keep an accurate record of all children in the Nursery, and any arrival or departure to and from the premises is recorded. This process is supplemented by regular head counts during the day.

The arrivals process is as follows:

- When parents/carers arrive at Nursery with their child/children, they are registered by the member of staff greeting them at the main Nursery entrance.
- A daily register is maintained and updated twice a day.

If the parent/carer wishes their child to be given medicine during the day, they must complete and sign a Medication Form, kept in the School Office. All medicines must be given to the School Office and are not allowed on the Nursery premises.

The departure process is as follows:

- If the child is to be collected by someone other than the parent/carer, this must be written, signed and dated in the Home School book that is given upon a child's admission to the Nursery. A password system

is operational for parents who prefer this extra security method. This system will be explained by the Nursery Manager upon request.

- Only adults aged 18 years and over and holding suitable identification, will be authorised or allowed to collect children. We reserve the right not to release the child if we are not comfortable that suitable authorisation has been provided/received.
- If collection arrangements change during the course of the day, a telephone call to the School Office is required. A detailed description of the person collecting the child will be required and a form of identification and/or code word to be used upon collecting the child.
- In the event that someone else should arrive to collect a child without prior knowledge, the Nursery will telephone the parent/carer immediately.
- If the parent/carer or alternative nominated adult is going to be late to collect their child, the School Office must be informed of this as soon as possible. If the designated adult is late in picking up their child the child will be taken to Late Club. The Late Club can be contacted via the main School telephone number after school hours. This is a chargeable additional service which will be invoiced termly in arrears.

Absences

If a child is going to be absent from a session, parents must indicate this to the Nursery in advance whenever possible. In the case of illness parents are asked to notify this as soon as possible via the ParentMail app, or telephone the School Office to explain absence. If a child is absent without explanation for more than three days concurrently, staff will contact the parents/carers to try to ascertain the reasons behind this. This is required by our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Regular absences from the Nursery could be an early sign and/or symptom that a child or family may be encountering some difficulties and might need support from the relevant statutory agencies. The Nursery and its staff will always try to discover the causes of prolonged and unexplained absences in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy. This is available on our website <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=39>

Early Drop-off or Late Collections

An Early Club operates from 8am daily. Children may be taken to Early Club without prior booking and this is a chargeable facility. Nursery staff will collect children from Early Club at 8.25am and walk with them to the Nursery. Late Club operates from 3.30pm. Children who are not collected from Nursery at 3.30pm will be taken to Late Club. The last pick-up from Late Club is at 5.45pm. This is a chargeable service. Details of charges can be obtained from the Bursar or the Late Club manager upon request

Government Funding of Childcare Places

From September 2017 there are three main streams of funding by Government in the Early Years paid via the Local Education Authority. For the purposes of this funding, funding blocks (terms) have the following cut off dates:

- 31st December,
- 31st March
- 31st August.

The funding ceases in the term following the child's fifth birthday. Six terms are funded in total.

In order to receive the funding, parents will be required to sign an agreement form and provide the child's birth certificate (a copy will be held on file) and the parents National Insurance Number.

1. 2 Year Old Funding - The Nursery does not participate in the funding scheme for 2 year olds.

2. **Universal Funding** – Funded entitlement to childcare for 3 & 4 year olds (also known as The Early Years Grant (EYG))

This scheme funds up to 15 hours childcare per week per child. Children become eligible for Universal funding from the term following their third birthday. In order to qualify, an eligible child must be registered and attending on the headcount date, which is early in each term. Children who are not registered and attending on this date may not be able to claim funding until the following term and in this case full nursery fees will be payable.

Sunnylands Nursery offers a maximum of 15 Universal funded nursery childcare hours per week for an average of 37 term time weeks per academic year. The actual number of hours available each term will differ according to the length of the Nursery term, but will not exceed 570 hours per academic year.

Each nursery setting may determine the way that the funding is offered. At Sunnylands Nursery, Universal Funding may be claimed for three hours per day Monday to Friday in the afternoon session, which runs from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. There are a minimum of 5 funded places available each day. The actual number of spaces will be determined by the age and staff ratios required in the nursery at any one time, and the demand for non-funded places. You will be advised of the availability of the funding when you request or reserve the sessions you require. For childcare funded only places, a booking of five afternoons per week will be required. As a fully inclusive Nursery to enable all children to access an early education second to none, fully funded places will incur a nominal consumables charge per day to cover the items used in the nursery. This is not funded under the scheme and is payable by the parents. Further details may be found on our fees schedule or from the School Office.

Parents/carers must enter into a termly Parental Contract for the funding which is required by the LEA to enable Sunnylands Nursery to claim the hours on the parent/carer's behalf. The contract must be signed termly and the funding cannot be claimed unless the contract is signed. Failure to sign the contract or non-payment of the funding by the LEA for whatever reason will result in the parent/carer being liable for full fees for the attendance pattern booked. Parents/carers may use a maximum of two different childcare providers in which to claim funded hours. If a child is claiming funding at two settings, this must be declared on the Parental Contract. Failure to do so may result in the LEA withholding funding. Any funding withdrawn by the LEA is payable by the parent at the rate detailed in the current Fees Schedule.

The funded childcare hours are claimed termly in advance, and therefore cannot be changed part way through a term. No refunds are available for funded places. If for any reason the funding is refused by the LEA, nursery fees are payable by the parent/carer and the contract you sign will state this.

Parents/carers may request extra sessions at the Nursery at any time. Extra sessions will be subject to availability at the time of request, and will be charged at the current fees level plus 5% administration fee. All requests for extra sessions should be made via the School Office and will be confirmed in writing by the Bursar or office staff when availability has been confirmed. Charges will be added to the next termly invoice.

3. **30 Hours Funding**

The purpose of the extended 30 hour funding scheme is to support working parents with childcare costs and provides up to 30 funded childcare hours per week per eligible child. This funding may be available from the term following the child's third birthday.

The eligibility criteria is different for this funding, and is shown in brief below – full eligibility criteria may be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/30-hours-free-childcare-eligibility>

The additional hours will be available to families where:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family);
- Each parent has a weekly minimum income equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage
- Neither parent has an income of more than £100,000 per year.
- Parents must live in England

- If unemployed, both parents must become employed within 14 days of applying unless one of the above applies

Once your child attains statutory school age, they are no longer eligible for funded childcare including this offer

If you are a sole parent then all conditions above apply just to you.

Eligibility Checking and Reconfirmation of Eligibility

In order to receive the funding, eligible parents will be required to register with Gov.uk and set up a Childcare Service Account. You can do this here:

<https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow>

Upon registering, if you are eligible you will receive a 30 hours eligibility code which is your unique 11-digit reference number. Parents must provide the Bursar with their eligibility code and National Insurance number to allow the code to be verified prior to the funding being confirmed. Codes must be obtained before the last day of the term preceding the term that the funding applies to in order to be valid. On enquiry, the Bursar will provide more detailed information to parents who are seeking a place funded in this way.

Parents must also provide the Bursar with written consent from or on behalf of the parent to be able to receive confirmation and future notifications from the local authority of the validity of the parent's 30 hours eligibility code. The code will then be verified with the LEA. Any non-payment of funding will result in standard nursery fees being applied subject to eligibility under Universal Funding above.

Parents will have to reconfirm their eligibility on a three-monthly basis, and they will be reminded of this via email by the eligibility checking authority. If re-confirmation is not performed, or circumstances alter and parents are no longer eligible then there will be a short grace period before the child's funding ends. This grace period will be dependent on the date that eligibility ceases. You should inform the Bursar immediately if eligibility ceases. Should funding be withdrawn or cease, full nursery fees will be payable.

The 30 Hours Funding Offer at Sunnylands Nursery

Each nursery setting may determine the way that the funding is offered. At Sunnylands Nursery, the extended 30 Hour funding will be available to parents of children who attend full time nursery being a place of 30 hours per week or more. Places are subject to availability.

There are a limited number of 30 hour funded places available. The actual number of spaces will be determined by the age and staff ratios required in the nursery at any one time, and the demand for non-funded paid places. You will be advised of the availability of the funding upon request when you reserve the sessions you require. The actual number of hours available each term will differ according to the length of the Nursery term, but will not exceed 1140 hours per academic year.

The 30 hour funded session times will be as follows:

8.30am – 11.30am

12.10pm – 3.10pm

An optional chargeable wrap around nursery full day option will be available from 8.00am to 5.45 pm in conjunction with our Early/Late Club which is usually staffed by at least one member of nursery staff. Further details will be provided upon enquiry.

Childcare Vouchers and the tax free childcare scheme are eligible for the cost of the above wrap around options.

In order to qualify for funding, an eligible child must be registered and attending on the headcount date, which is early in each term. Children who are not registered and attending on this date may not be able to claim funding until the following term and full nursery fees will be payable.

Any enquiry about this policy should be made via the School Office or by email to the Bursar