

Admissions Policy

At **HARPERS NURSERY AND FOREST SCHOOL**, we care for **UP TO 98** children between the ages of **6 WEEKS** and **FOUR 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 uses the following admission criteria, which is applied in the following order of priority:

1. Looked after children
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 this nursery
3. A vulnerable child with either a Child Protection or a Child in Need Plan, or in receipt of other local authority support
4. Children who have siblings who are already with us or who have had siblings attending in the past.
5. Children who live within Central Bedfordshire.

A child requiring a full-time fully inclusive place may have preference over one requiring a part-time fully funded place. This is dependent upon work commitments, occupancy and room availability. Places are offered on an availability basis.

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 must offer the funded places for eligible children for 'childcare' sessions specified by the local authority. At **HARPERS NURSERY AND FOREST SCHOOL**, we currently provide some fully funded places for children; this is subject to availability. These places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and are not secured as they are allocated termly and are subject to change. Please note for the admissions of the government funded nursery education places we have a termly intake, beginning the term following your child reaching the age of eligibility.

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. We reserve the right to limit and/or have specific funded sessions, according to our business requirements.