

St Patrick's Primary School Nursery Unit
73 Castlefin Road
Castledearg
BT81 7EE

Voluntary Maintained Nursery Unit
Admissions No: 52 (Part-time)
Nursery Opening Times – Morning Session: 9:00am – 11:30am
Afternoon Session: 12:30pm – 3:00pm

Principal: Mr B McGurk
Chair of Board of Governors: Dr O Ramsey

Telephone: 028 8167 1458
Fax: 028 8167 9821
E-mail: info@stpatricks.castledearg.ni.sch.uk

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

The Board of Governors has delegated to an admissions Sub-Committee the task of selecting pupils for admission to the Nursery Unit. The selection so made will have no effect until approved by the Board of Governors. The Sub-Committee will consist of three voting members of the Board of Governors and the Principal.

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. The Board of Governors have determined that, in the event of there being more applicants than places available the following criteria will be applied, in the order set down, to select children for the available places:

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 07 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 21 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 21 January 2026 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 2022 and 1 July 2023 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
 - on or between 1 April 2022 and 1 July 2022 (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 2027.

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).

Sub Criteria.

In the event of oversubscription on the application of the above criteria the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down:

- a) Children currently on the "at risk" register maintained by the Western Health and Social Care Trust.
- b) Children who in the opinion of the Board of Governors have special home circumstances, considered in the following order:
 - a child who has one or both parents deceased;
 - a child whose parent has a serious long-term illness – medical evidence required;
 - children who are twins (or other multiple birth);
 - a child from a family of three or more pre-school age children.
- c) Children who have a child of the family currently enrolled in St Patrick's Primary School/ St Patrick's Nursery Unit Castledearg.

- d) Children who are first members of a family.
- e) Other children.

Tie-Breaker

In the event of more applicants for places available, the final selection will be taken on the basis of the closest distance from their own home address to the entrance gates of the school, by recognised public routeway.

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 2022 - 1 July 2022 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; 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 2023 and 1 July 2024 (inclusive); or,
 - on or between 1 April 2023 and 1 July 2023 (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 2028.

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 date of birth the final selection will be taken on the basis of the closest distance from their own home address to the entrance gates of the school, by recognised public routeway.

It is important that parent(s)/guardian(s) when submitting the application form give all the relevant supporting information and written evidence that may be needed.

Documentation Required

- 1 Child's Birth Certificate.
- 2 Benefit Verification if Applicable.

All criteria will apply as at the closing date on the application form. If parents have any difficulty in completing the form then they should consult the Principal.

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.

Waiting List Policy

Should a vacancy arise after Tuesday 19 May 2026 all applications for admission 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. This waiting list will be in place until the end of the academic year.

Late Applications

All applications received after the closing date will be processed using the same criteria as above.

Admission after 1 September 2026

The same criteria will be used for applications after 1 September 2026.

Parents/Guardians should also note that if their child is seeking nursery provision for the 2nd year they MUST reapply.

Applications and Admissions to Pre-School

Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2025/2026*	31	32

***The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 includes all pre-school children admitted to the pre-school including those who have a statement of special educational needs and/or may be attending SPiMS.**

(SPiMS = Specialist Provision in Mainstream School)