

St Mary's Primary School Nursery Unit
Reilly Street
Banbridge
BT32 3DJ

Maintained Nursery Unit
Admissions No: 26 (Full-time)
Session Times: 8:45am – 1:15pm
A mid-day meal is available

Principal: Mr D O'Hagan
Chair of Board of Governors: Mr Damian Scullion

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

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to the Principal the responsibility for applying these criteria.

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 9 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 26 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 26 January 2024 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.

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:
 - on or between 2 July 2020 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
 - on or between 1 April 2020 and 1 July 2020 (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 2025.

Within Criterion 1 preference will be given firstly to children for whom St Mary's Nursery is the nearest Maintained Nursery School to the child's home and then to children for whom St Mary's Nursery is not the nearest Maintained Nursery School to the child's home. (Distance will be measured on Google Maps Distance Calculator using the walking modes or if the address is not registered on Google Maps then distance will be measured as driving from the school gates to the applicant's address).

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).

Admissions Sub-Criteria

If there are more children satisfying the last criterion above, which can be applied, then selection for the remaining places will be on the application of the following sub-criteria in the order set down below:

1. Children who have listed St Mary's Nursery as their first preference;
2. Children whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is/are currently a permanent employee in the school;
3. Children with brother(s)/sister(s)/half-brother(s)/half-sister(s) presently enrolled in St Mary's Primary School (Primary 1 to Primary 7);
4. Children with brother(s)/sister(s)/half-brother(s)/half-sister(s) who were previously enrolled in St Mary's Primary School (Primary 1 to Primary 7);
5. Chronological order of age, oldest first. In the case of two or more children with the same date of birth, final selection will be on the basis of alphabetical order of surname. In the event of 2 identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames as per the birth certificate will be used.

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 2020 - 1 July 2020 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
 - 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 2021 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive); or,
on or between 1 April 2021 and 1 July 2021 (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 2026.

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 DOB final selection will be on the basis of alphabetical order of surname. In the event of 2 identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames as per the birth certificate will be used.

It is important that parent(s)/guardian(s), when submitting the application form, provide all relevant supporting information and written evidence that may be needed as per the published admissions criteria including the child's birth certificate.

Child's home refers to parents' or legal guardians' address only. Guardian is defined as having legal parental custody. A child-minder's address or a relative's address is not applicable and will be discounted.

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 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 the issue of placement letters, all applications for admission to the nursery 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 remain in place until the end of the academic year.

The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method. Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish for your child's name to be removed from the list.