



Diptford C of E Primary School



Preschool Admissions Policy

January 2024 – August 2025

As an academy, the Trust is the admission authority and has responsibility for setting these admission arrangements and for making decisions regarding admissions applications. These schools set their own oversubscription criteria.

1. The Ethos of Diptford C of E School

Our Ethos - we ask parents to respect our ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the rights of all parents to apply and be considered for a place here.

As a Multi Academy Trust we want to be nationally recognised for putting our pupils first by:

- Delivering educational excellence, underpinned by strong, moral values
- Each learner exceeding their aspirations in a quality learning environment
- Highly motivated, research-led, passionate teaching
- Schools being at the heart of and an integral part of their community
- Being a partner of choice

Our mission is to deliver the best for our children, families and communities through:

- Innovative approaches to learning
- The development of partnership and collaborative working to create a cutting-edge approach
- An uncompromising approach to health, safety, nurturing, and inclusion

We will achieve this by investment in:

- High quality provision for staff and their pathways to success
- School environments that provide stimulating learning spaces
- Strong business planning to maximise the Trust's geographical range and collective expertise

Every Academy within our Trust has considered exactly what they offer their pupils, and this has been summarised as:

Small Schools, Big Opportunities

- Unforgettable experiences - setting the foundations for life
 - No ceiling, the highest possible achievement for all
 - Individuality valued, collaboration not competition
 - People matter, every interaction, every moment

The Church Schools within the Link Academy Trust aim to provide an education with four key elements which are at the heart of all that we are, enriched by our Christian traditions: Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity.

Our learners will be given opportunities to become independent, collaborative, creative learners who have the confidence to seek wisdom and nurture a love of learning. Our small schools provide big opportunities to broaden learners' horizons and prepare them for the fullness of life, through hope, aspiration, and our core Christian values.

We focus on relationships and learning to live well in a wider community that can flourish together. Central to children's learning is respecting the worth, dignity, and preciousness of each person in a safe and inclusive environment within the sight and love of God.

2. Early Years Funding

- 2.1. Parents can check to find out what funding they are entitled to receive through the governments [Childcare Choices website](#).
- 2.2. We expect to admit children that will be using their Early Years Funding as well as children whose parents are buying additional hours and those that are both funded and buying hours.
- 2.3. There may be some children who are only attending for bought hours and some that only attend for funded hours.

- 2.4. The maximum amount of funded time that can be taken in a day is 10 hours; parents cannot use more than two sites for funded early years places in one day. Funding could be used for wrap-around care outside of Preschool hours, providing previous agreement has been reached and correct level trained staff are available in the school's After School Club to allow for Preschool aged children.

3. Admissions to the Preschool

Diptford C of E school admits:

- Early Years funded three and four year olds from the start of the funding period following their third birthday.
- Non-funded three and four year olds following their third birthday.

4. Points of Admission to Preschool

- 4.1. Generally, children will start Preschool at the beginning of a term. Eligibility for all three-years-olds to receive the Early Years Funding is at the start of the funding period following their third birthday.
- 4.2. This funding will be paid up until the time when the child reaches compulsory school age if the parent chooses to defer or delay entry into school.

If a child is born between:	Funding can be claimed from:
1 January and 31 March	1 April following the child's birthday
1 April and 31 August	1 September following the child's birthday
1 September and 31 December	1 January following the child's birthday

- 4.3. There is a legal requirement that all children begin **full time education** by the beginning of the term following their **fifth** birthday. All places offered in reception are for **full-time admission** in the September following the **fourth** birthday. This is a legal requirement on schools but not on parents who retain a right to defer admission or send their child part time.

5. Patterns of attendance available

- 5.1. Our school makes an **offer** for the **universal** 570-hour (15 hours) funding entitlement and the 1140 hour extended entitlement (30 hours) funding of:
- Morning sessions of 9am to 12pm and
 - Afternoon sessions of 12pm to 3pm and
 - All day sessions of 9am to 3pm during term time only.
- 5.2. Lunchtimes will be between 12pm-1pm and this time is part of the day when children will continue their learning, and therefore will be funded as part of the Early Years Funding, if that is what parents/carers choose. If you choose a morning session for your child, this can include the lunch period 12pm-1pm. We are not permitted to charge separately for this time if it is being taken as part of a funded session.

5.3. The school has signed the Provider Agreement and is compliant with the requirements for funded hours.

6. Extended Hours

6.1. Families with three- and four-year-olds that have an 11-digit code because they are working and eligible for the 30-hour **extended entitlement** can have up to 1140 hours **stretched across a year** or 30 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year. NB: some families may choose to attend more than one provider and want to stretch the entitlement across the year in one provision and take some funded sessions during term time in another.

6.2. Families that need longer, wraparound care can use funded Preschool places for before and before and after school provision. These sessions are:

- 8am – 9am before school and
- 3.00pm – 5.30pm after school

This must be on prior arrangement with the school, dependant on the availability of adequately trained staff

6.3. The provision before and after school will differ from the core early years provision between 9.00am and 3.00pm, as there will be older children attending and the adults will be different.

6.4. Before and after school childcare is available for all children (aged 3-11). This means that the Early Years Funding for three- and four-year-olds can be offered between 8:00am and 4.30pm making our Preschool provision extremely flexible.

6.5. When allocating places, these extended services for three- and four-year-olds are an integral part of the Preschool provision.

6.6. If parents want to buy additional hours on top of the 15 funded hours or the 30-hour extended entitlement, they can do this during most of our opening times. We sell **3-hour/6-hour long sessions** and will consider selling single hours at £4.40. A 3 and/or 6-hour long session is charged at £13.20 and/or £26.40.

6.7. The table below sets out the session times that you can choose. When applying for a place please use the Registration form at appendix one and tell us what sessions you need.

We only consider requests for sessions AFTER the oversubscription criteria have been applied.

Session choices	Hours	Funded/bought hours
9am – 12pm	3	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.
12pm – 3pm	3	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.
9am – 3pm	6	As part of the Early Years Education Funding or bought.

6.8. These are the sessions that you can choose. We claim funding on this basis. If you decide to collect your child early or drop them off later, you must tell us. By doing this you will either lose out on some of your funded entitlement hours or be paying for time that you have chosen not to take.

7. Charging

7.1. There is no charge for applying for a place, for admission or for the provision of the funded entitlements. We will not request donations before or during the admissions process and any donations made to the school following admission are entirely voluntary. No bought activities are compulsory.

7.2. The school must comply with Devon County Councils [Provider Agreement](#).

7.3. Details about buying additional sessions/hours in the Preschool are set out in the Trust's [Charging and Remissions Policy](#) which is available on the school website.

7.4. We are unable to refund fees for sessions not taken due to illness, absence, holidays or where the Preschool is forced to close due to circumstances beyond our control.

7.5. If a child's place is no longer required at the Preschool, (apart from at normal expected entry into primary/secondary school) then we ask that a minimum of four weeks' notice is given otherwise regular booked sessions will need to be paid for. This includes funded sessions. If you move to another provider without giving 4 weeks' notice, you will forfeit 4 weeks of entitlement funding and you will need to pay for your child to attend another provider as Diptford Preschool will claim the 4 weeks funding in lieu of 4 weeks' notice.

8. Help with the cost of childcare

8.1. Our school accepts childcare vouchers.

8.2. Our school is [registered](#) for [tax free childcare](#).

8.3. Find the right offer for you on [Childcare Choices](#).

9. School Lunches

9.1. [Free school meals](#) (FSM) must be provided for children (whose parents meet the [eligibility criteria](#)) **and** if their child attends **both** before and after the lunch time period. This generally means an all-day session. A free school meal will be provided whether the child is attending for funded or bought time and regardless of their age. Parents must check eligibility through the [Citizens Portal](#).

9.2. Children who do not meet the eligibility criteria for free school meals in our Preschool are offered the opportunity to either buy a school lunch or bring a packed lunch.

10. Visiting

10.1. We welcome visits from parents and children who are considering applying for a place here. This is an opportunity for you to see what we have to offer. Visits are not a compulsory part of the admissions process and will not affect decisions on whether a place can be offered at our Preschool. If you would like to visit Diptford Preschool, you are very welcome to contact the school and make an appointment. Our Administrator is contactable on 01548 821352.

- 10.2.** Stay and play settling sessions are offered and tailored to suit the child & family needs as much as possible. Relevant information is shared between parent and staff to ensure smooth transition into Preschool.
- 10.3.** Most children will start at the Preschool at the start of the term. Other children join us at other times. This may be because they are new to the area or would like to transfer from another early year's provider. However, if we have places available and an application is submitted, we will offer a place.
- 10.4.** To apply for a place here you must use the registration form at Appendix one.
- 10.5.** Places are not allocated to a child automatically, even where:
- there is an older sibling attending the school.
 - a child attends a particular toddler group or Children's Centre attached to the school.
 - a parent has expressed an interest at any time in the school; or
 - the child has always lived close to the school.
- 10.6.** No places will be held in reserve for a child who applies late; the school cannot hold places empty if another child applies for admission. We will publicise the need to apply on our website but the responsibility for making an application will be with you as the parent.

11. How to apply for a Preschool place

- 11.1. Parents must complete the Registration form at Appendix one and return it to the school.**
- 11.2.** The Preschool welcomes applications at any time throughout the academic year. Closing dates will apply where the Preschool becomes full or there are only a small number of limited spaces available. These are 1 January, 1 April and 1 July. You can apply after these dates, but applications received on time may be given priority. If you couldn't apply on time because, for example, you have only just moved to this area, you should make sure that you inform the school of this. If the reason for applying after the closing date is accepted, your application will be considered at the same time as everyone who did apply on time, if this is still possible.

12. Information provided in an application

- 12.1.** When making an application, please ensure it is fully and honestly completed. It is important that where we offer places to some and refuse others we do so fairly and consistently. Where we have reason to believe that information is false and has been provided knowingly, we may withdraw the offer of a place. This is particularly relevant where an address is given which is not the one from which a child will attend Preschool, as this may disadvantage another child.
- 12.2. Before making an application** parents need to have checked their eligibility for extended entitlement funding (15 and 30 hours) [here](#); evidence of eligibility will be checked before an offer of a place is made.
- 12.3.** Parents with three- and four-year-olds should check to see if they are eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium funding before making an application by completing this form [Early Years Pupil Premium Application Form](#).

12.4. If you know or believe that your child's address will change before admission, you must inform the school as this may affect your application.

12.5. You will be asked to provide **date of birth evidence** so we can check your child's age.

13. What happens next

13.1. If there are fewer applications than places, then no application will be refused. Only if there are more applications than there are places available will the Admissions Committee prioritise applications according to the oversubscription criteria.

13.2. The applications will be listed in order of priority. We do not consider the sessions requested when prioritising the applications.

13.3. We will endeavour to give the hours requested on the Parent Registration Form, however some parents may not get what they have requested. In these instances, we will offer times (days/hours/weeks) that fall closest to the hours requested.

13.4. After Applications are received, we will contact successful parents to welcome them to the Preschool and make arrangements for admission itself. You will also be contacted if we do not have a place available so that you can apply to another provider.

14. Overview of the Admissions Process

Visit the Preschool in:	Spring term	Summer term	Autumn term
Apply by:	1 May	1 September	1 January
Applications reviewed by Admissions Panel	May	September	January
Receive a letter about your application before:	May half term	October half term	February half term
Reply to the letter	Reply to the letter within 2 weeks to accept a place (or ask why you did not get a place). You can telephone, email or write to the school	Reply to the letter within 2 weeks to accept a place (or ask why you did not get a place). You can telephone, email or write to the school	Reply to the letter within 2 weeks to accept a place (or ask why you did not get a place). You can telephone, email or write to the school
Start at Preschool (or at the start of term closest to that month)	September Autumn Term	January Spring term	April Summer term

15. Published Preschool Admissions Number (PNAN)

15.1. This is the number of places we intend to make available for our normal Preschool intake. Once we set this number, we will not refuse admission for applications below the PNAN. If there is unexpectedly high demand and we believe we could admit more children, we will inform Devon County Council's Early Years and Childcare Team and either some children will be admitted above the PNAN or we will increase the PNAN.

The number of children that can be admitted will depend on their age, the amount of floor space we have and whether additional staff will be required.

- 15.2. The Admissions Committee also factors in the local demand for places. If there is a change to the PNAN part way through the year this will be published.
- 15.3. If there is an increase in the demand for places the Admissions Committee may decide to increase the PNAN to accommodate children on the waiting list and conversely reduce the PNAN if there is a very low demand.
- 15.4. The table below sets out our Published Preschool Admissions Number (PNAN)

The maximum number of 3 and 4-year-old children that will be admitted at any one time is:	24
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- 15.5. Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the Admissions Committee will use the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

PRESCHOOL ADMISSIONS OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

January 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025

To be used only when the number of applications exceeds the number of sessions available in the Preschool.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR OLDS

A child with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school or Preschool will be admitted^[12].

1. Looked after Children^[13] and children who were previously Looked After but immediately after being Looked After became subject to an adoption order, a child arrangements order (CAO), or a special guardianship order (SGO)^[14] including those who were in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care because they were adopted.
2. Priority will next be given to children or parents with an exceptional medical or social need^[15] to attend this Preschool.
3. Priority will next be given to other children who live in the school's **designated area** who are eligible for **Early Years Pupil Premium and/or Disability Access Funding**.
4. Priority will next be given to children who live within the school's **designated area** and whose parents are working and **eligible for the extended entitlement** of 15 hours from April 2024 or 30 hours from September 2025.
5. Priority will next be given to children who live in the school's **designated area** who have a **sibling** at the school or Preschool.
6. Priority will next be given to all other children who live in the school's **designated area**.
7. Priority will next be given to children who live **outside** of the school's designated area with a **sibling** at the school.
8. Priority will next be given to children who live **outside** the school's designated area who are three years old and **eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium and/or Disability Access Funding** (from April 2024).
9. Priority will next be given to the children of **members of staff** who have been employed at this school for at least two years or who were recruited within the last two years to fill a vacancy for which there is a skills shortage.
10. **Other children.**

^[13] These children are Looked After by or provided with accommodation in the exercise of its functions (see the Children act 1989 section 22 (1)) by a Local Authority.

^[14] These children meet the eligibility criteria for two-year-old funding and for Early Years Pupil Premium

^[15] Evidence from a medical specialist or social worker must be provided.

^[16] Parents must be encouraged to check their eligibility through the [Citizens Portal](#) before making an application.

16. **Waiting lists**

16.1. Following the allocation of Preschool places, the school will retain a waiting list. Waiting lists will be kept in order of the oversubscription criteria. Places on lists will not be prioritised according to how long a child's name has been on that list or by the age of the child or by whether the sessions are funded or bought. It is possible that a child's name could go down on a list as well as up.

16.2. If a place is only available for a short period of time, i.e., half a term or less, then the school will discuss with the parent whether it would be in the child's best interest to attend the Preschool for such a short period of time before having to find a place at another provider. Continuity and consistency of care is most important in the early years and having lots of transitions can be disruptive for a child.

16.3. Parents with children that are not due to start within the next two terms, will be asked to complete a **Note of Interest for a Preschool Place** at Appendix two and told when they should apply.

17. **Increasing the hours attended**

17.1. If there are parents of children that already attend the Preschool who want to either take up additional funded hours and/or buy extra hours, a list of those parents will be made, and the oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine who should be given priority for the available session/s.

17.2. The Admissions Committee should work their way down this prioritised list until everyone has been offered the sessions available.

17.3. If there are unfilled sessions remaining after those in attendance have been given the sessions, **unfilled** sessions will be offered to children on the prioritised waiting list.

18. **Admissions appeals**

If a Preschool place is refused, parents can go through the Trust's complaints process which is available via the Complaints policy on our website to express their concerns. The Admissions Committee will review the decision and decide whether the refusal was justified on the grounds that the Preschool is full. Even if it is agreed that the Preschool was full, it will also consider the impact on the child and family and may still award a place at the Preschool if there is both the physical space and sufficient staff available.

19. **Transport**

No transport is available for Preschool children.

20. **Uniform**

Children attending Diptford C of E Primary School Preschool are not expected to wear a uniform.

21. Claiming the Early Years Funding

- 21.1. The Early Years Funding can be taken at more than one provider; parents cannot use providers on more than two sites in one day. The provider claims the funding on your behalf based on the sessions that have been booked.
- 21.2. It is important that both the school and parent can see what time is funded and what time is being bought.
- 21.3. Parents must not claim more than the 570 or 1140-hour entitlement, checks are carried out to ensure that over claims are not made.

22. Changes to attendance

- 22.1. Changes to the times when a child is attending will generally only be agreed to take effect from the start of a term. The oversubscription criteria will be applied to both a) and b) below to determine within each group which children should be given priority for the unfilled places.
- a) Parents whose children already attend the Preschool to **increase or change the times their child attends**.
- b) **New applications** from parents whose children do not yet attend the Preschool and are on the prioritised waiting List.
- 22.2. It is expected that parents will ensure that their child attends at the times agreed so that children can establish a good routine and be ready to start school.

23. Induction and transition arrangements

Before a child is due to join our Preschool, they (along with their parents) are invited to come to meet the staff and to be given some initial information including a 'Preschool Welcome Pack' (containing important information about the Preschool routines and the Early Years Foundation Stage) and the dates their children are due to start. At this meeting, dates will be arranged for additional drop-in sessions which will support the transition process and familiarise the children with the Preschool environment. The Preschool staff will also consult with parents about children whether or not a 'staggered' start would be preferable. A decision will be made to meet the needs of individual children and families. Experience has shown us that children's transition into Preschool has been most successful when we are able to work together in this way.

24. Contacts and further information

Academy Head	Holly Edgington
E-mail:	amindiptford@thelink.academy
Telephone:	01548 821352
Website:	http://www.diptford.thelink.academy/website
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/diptfordcofeprimaryschool

Appendix One



Diptford Preschool Application Form

Diptford C of E Primary School

Personal details

First name(s) of child:

Surname of child:

Date of birth:

Full address:

Postcode:

Parent/carer name (1):

Relationship to child:

Full address (if different):

Postcode:

Daytime/work tel:

Home:

Mobile:

Email Contact:

Parent/carer name (2):

Relationship to child:

Full address (if different):

Postcode:

Daytime/work tel:

Home:

Mobile:

Session request

Preferred start date:

Please tick the sessions you would like your child to attend:

Morning (9am -12pm) Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Afternoon (12pm -3pm) Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

All Day Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

This application places your child on our waiting list. We will contact you as soon as a suitable place becomes available. **Please note that completion of this form does not guarantee a place for your child,**

Once your child is offered a place and you accept it, on admission further personal information and family details are required for our records. Your child's birth certificate is required at this point with a copy made for our file. If you find that you no longer need the place, please inform us as soon as possible.

Signed parent/carer (1):

Date:

Signed parent/carer (2):

Date:

Please be advised that this application form and offer of a place is subject to [our/my] terms and conditions provided to you. By signing this document, you acknowledge that you have read, understood and agree to these terms and conditions.

For office use only:

A place will be available for _____ (child's name)

* on _____ (date) * or; we will notify you when a place becomes free.

Signed on behalf of the provider:

Name:

Job title:

*Please delete whichever is not applicable.

Note of Interest for a Preschool Place

You can complete this form if your child is not yet old enough for you to make a Preschool application.

We will send the Registration Form via email when you need to apply.

Please check on the [Citizens Portal](#) to see if you are eligible for a **Preschool free school meal**.¹ Also, [check your eligibility](#) for funding if you are working as this will be needed when completing the application form.

Childs Details
First name:
Last name:
Date of birth:

Siblings Name/s (brothers and sisters who come to this school)
First name:
Last name:
Date of birth:

First name:
Last name:
Date of birth:

First name:
Last name:
Date of birth:

¹ If your circumstances change you must recheck your eligibility.

Parent/Guardians Details	
First name:	
Last name:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
Relationship to the child:	

Privacy and Data Protection

Your personal data is being used by us because you have showed an interest in applying for a place in our school Preschool when your child is old enough. We undertake to ensure your personal data will only be used in accordance with our privacy notice which can be accessed via the school website. Please confirm that you give your consent to the School using your personal data as outlined in our privacy notice, by signing below.

Applicant's signature:	
Date:	

You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time. Should you wish to withdraw consent, please contact the school administrator on 01548 821352 or admin@thelink.academy
 If you wish to exercise any of your rights under the General Data Protection Regulation, please contact the schools Data Protection Officer, Susan Stansfield, at DPO@thelink.academy