

Admissions Policy

At Smithfield House Children's Nursery, we can care for up to 100 children between the ages of 8 weeks and 5 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 use 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 the preferred 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
5. Children whose parents live within the area.

A child requiring a full-time place may have preference over one requiring a part-time place. This is dependent upon work commitments, occupancy, and room availability. We operate a waiting list and 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 Payment contract, Terms and Conditions 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 (detailed in the Nursery Operational Plan) must offer free places for children from **9 months to five-year olds for early learning sessions specified by the Local authority. At Smithfield House Children's Nursery, we currently provide free funded places available for children subject to availability. These places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, and can be booked a term in advance. Please note for admissions for the free nursery education we have a termly intake, beginning the term following your child becoming 9months, 2, 3or 4 years old.

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.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
1 st July 2026		Annually - unless changes to legislation

** from September 2024 ages for the Government funding expansion is scheduled to start from 9 months through to school age. It remains the term following 9months, 2-, 3- and 4-year-old birthdays,