



Wandsworth Federation *of Maintained Nursery Schools*

WANDSWORTH FEDERATION OF MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS POLICY

At Somerset, Balham and Eastwood Nursery Schools we have adopted the Wandsworth Borough Council's admissions criteria.

Early Education in a maintained nursery school

In the maintained sector, priority for places is given to older children who will be turning 4 during the school year, the school year starts in September and ends in the following July.

If there are places remaining after children have started, places will then be offered to younger children. These children will start nursery the school term after their third birthday. For example, if a child is three in October they can start in January of the following year.

The basis on which applications are offered also takes into consideration the following prioritising factors:

1. Children looked after, or who have an allocated social worker who has provided written support of the application, residence order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order who were previously looked after by the Local Authority;
2. Children who are recommended for a place following an action plan by a multi-disciplinary group e.g. Team Around the Child (TAC). In some cases where there is a particular need, places can be given to children from the age of two and a half years old. These children will be eligible for two-year-old funding. An application form with a two-year-old eligibility code would need to be completed and places are offered by the Head at her discretion, based on the individual child's needs and circumstances.
3. Children with professionally supported educational, medical or social needs. Where these children may have specific special needs these places may be offered in-conjunction with a Local Authority Panel.
4. Children who live nearest to the school by a straight line between a home and the centre of the school site calculated by Wandsworth's Council Geographical Information System.

An application form must be completed in all cases which can be obtained from the schools offices or downloaded from each school's individual websites.

www.somerset.wandsworth.sch.uk

www.balham-nursery.wandsworth.sch.uk

www.eastwood.wandsworth.sch.uk

In all of the Federation settings, the focus for our youngest children is to establish a safe and secure environment. We have a 'key person approach' which enables the child, the family and the key person to establish a close relationship, and helps the child to create strong attachments at Nursery.

Practitioners follow the Early Years Foundation Stage framework which emphasises the importance of play for all children. We believe that through the provision of quality play opportunities young children can develop a broad range of skills, knowledge, and concepts. For more information on the Early Years Foundation Stage go to:

www.ncb.org.uk/ey/peertopeersupport

Early Education Places

All children in England are entitled to receive a good quality, part time Early Education place from 1 September, 1 January or 1 April following their third birthday. (At Somerset, Balham and Eastwood Nursery School, the Head may use her discretion to allocate places where appropriate. There is no right to appeal as the children are not of statutory age). This is known as the 'Universal' entitlement, (a part-time place).

Part-time places for three- and four-year-olds are offered by the Head on an application basis.

Part Time places for 2-Year-Olds

Places for 2-year-olds are offered at the Heads discretion and priority for places is given to the eldest children. If there are places remaining after the older children have started, then places will be considered and offered to the younger children. Two-year-olds are entitled only to a part time morning or afternoon place, where 2 year old funding is available. Alternatively, parents are able to pay. (Please see the section on paid places.)

Full time 30 hours Early Education

Some working parents may be able to claim an additional 15 hours education per week for their child on top of the 15 universal hours, the term after their child turns three.

Parents must complete an application (as above) but also must be eligible for the 'additional' 15 hours of early education. For more information on the additional 15 hours, the 30 hour code and parental eligibility, please refer to the Government website 'Childcare Choices'.

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Paid Places

Where a parent is not eligible for Government funding, or a child isn't yet old enough to qualify, there is an option for them to become an 'early entrant' and pay for a place. A parent can do this by paying a fee to the Nursery School. This payment is by way of a separate agreement between the School and the parent and a separate agreement is signed. There is also an option to 'top up' and pay for an additional 15 hours on top of the universal 15 hours, therefore making the child 'full time' this option is available for children in their 3-4 year old nursery year only.

Eastwood Nursery ASD Resource Base

Eastwood Nursery School houses a specialist resource Base for children with social communication difficulties including Autistic Spectrum Disorder/Condition. In order to be considered for a place in the Resource Base children must have either:

- An Education, Health and Care plan naming the provision, or
- A medical formal diagnosis of ASD or social communication difficulties identified by an appropriate professional, or
- A need for a placement to further assess a suspected social communication difficulty

A child would have significant needs that required more support than would be found in general Early Years settings.

Parents/Carers who want their child to be considered for a place in the provision should contact their health professional. Placements at Eastwood ASD Resource Base are made by the Local Authority's Early Years Multi Specialist Placement Panel and can be referred by a professional within the Team Around the Child.

SEND specialist places

Somerset, Balham and Eastwood Maintained Nursery School provide 4 FTE (8 part time) specialist placements for children with identified special needs. Placements are made by the Local Authority's Early Years Specialist Placement Panel and can be referred by a professional within the Team Around the Child.

Eastwood Day Nursery

As a private provider Eastwood Day Nursery provides places in the 'non-maintained' sector.

Childcare is offered for children between 8 weeks and 5 years of age. We are open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 6.00pm. The setting is operational all year round and closed for Inset, Bank Holidays, the four days following the August bank holiday and the 3 days following the Christmas bank holidays. Invoices are issued on or around the 16th of the month for the following month and payment is required in full by the 1st of each month.

Free 15 Hour Nursery Places for Eligible 2 year olds – Eastwood Day Nursery

A child's entitlement to attend Eastwood Day Nursery for the free 15 hours commences from the term after their 2nd birthday. All place offers are subject to eligibility. Proof of eligibility will be in the form of a 2 year old code which you will be required to provide.

The entitlement to a free place does not automatically guarantee a place or any particular pattern of attendance at Eastwood Day Nursery. We have a number of packages on offer and we will do our best to find you a place that suits you and your child. You may be able to increase your child's nursery sessions by buying additional mornings, afternoons or full days (conditions apply and we are happy to discuss with you) if you opt for additional session, you will receive a stretched all year round offer

Once granted, two year old funding will continue until the beginning of the term following your child's third birthday. There is no term time only provision available at the Day Nursery. Your child's registration will be automatically withdrawn when funding ceases unless parents/carers agreed to move to the all year round – stretched offer for universal hours for 3 and 4 year olds.

Further details about the School can be found on each school's website (see above).

Further information (about applying for places and admission arrangements for Wandsworth Borough Schools) can be found in 'Choosing Early Education in Wandsworth' available on the Wandsworth Borough website admissions page.

For further information about Early Years Education in Wandsworth, contact the: Early Education and Childcare Places Team or Family Information Service (FIS)
www.thrive.wandsworth.gov.uk
Email: eecp@wandsworth.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8871 7899

Equal Opportunities

The council's policy is that every child should receive the best possible education. It is committed to providing equal opportunities for all children in its schools and seeks to eliminate discrimination.

Agreed by Governors: Spring 2024

To be reviewed: Spring 2025

