

# Forest Academy



## *Nursery Admissions Policy 2021/22*

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Sources; DfE guidance and Suffolk LA guidance.

# Forest Academy Nursery Admission Policy Arrangements

All 3 and 4 years olds become eligible for Early Education Funding from the start of the term following their third birthday.

Birthday	Free early education from beginning of
1 <sup>st</sup> September to 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Spring Term (after Christmas holiday)
1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Summer Term (after Easter holiday)
1 <sup>st</sup> April to 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Autumn Term (after Summer holiday)

**Attendance in our nursery class does not guarantee a place in the reception class of our school.**

Wherever possible, we will try to give your child a place at our nursery. Sometimes we may be able to offer you a place but the exact sessions you have requested may not be available. If this is the case, we will let you know and we can have a discussion about what we can offer.

If there are no places available we will add your child's name to our waiting list. We would also advise you to contact the Family Information Service on 0345 60 800 33 who will be able to support you to find a place for your child.

Sometimes there are fewer places than the number of children wanting them. If this happens, we use the oversubscription criteria (see below) to help us decide who will be offered places.

1. Our nursery is able to offer 52 places for 15 hours per week, term time only. Sessions are each morning from 8.40am – 11.40 or afternoon from 12.20 – 15.20 in a Nursery class which is part of our Early Years unit. We are only able to offer a maximum of 15 hours per week which can be as part of universal funding or as part of extended provision in conjunction with another provider.
2. The deadline for applications will coincide with the deadlines for Reception intake applications and late applications will be considered together on 1<sup>st</sup> June.
3. The offer of places for September will coincide with the Local Authority offer of Reception class places; normally end of spring or early summer term.
4. We will not permit pupils to continue with any allocated nursery place at Forest Academy beyond the end of the current school year (July), in which they turn four years old. At this age, although not necessarily of statutory school age, they must apply and be allocated a school place in order to remain in the early years classes.
5. If applications for nursery places exceed the number of available places, Forest Academy will apply the following criteria in making allocations in the following order:

(Over subscription criteria) Priority will be given to:

- Children aged three or four years old who have an Education, Health and Care plan which names this school nursery will be offered a place.
- Looked after Children (Children in Care) and previously Looked after Children (children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became a subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order, immediately following having been looked after).
- Children who are the subject of a recognised child protection plan (under current legislation and drawn up by social care services) where a specific school nursery placement is identified
- Siblings
- Children who are **ordinarily resident** in the catchment area by **date of birth** order.

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- Children of UK service personnel
- Children of Gypsies, Roma, Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers
- Children who are ordinarily resident outside the catchment area by **date of birth** order.

## **Previously looked after children:**

Previously looked after children includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2001 (section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

## **Siblings:**

Children who are brothers and sisters of, or who live as a family at the same address as pupils who are already at the school or who have already been offered a place, and who will still be there at the time of admission. Priority will be given, where necessary, to applications where there is the smallest age gap. If you have more than one child at the school, please name the youngest one.

## **Twins, triplets and other multiple births:**

Where applications are received from families with multiple birth siblings (twins, triplets, etc.), places will be allocated together at the nursery wherever possible. This recognises the exceptional nature of the emotional bonds between multiple birth siblings. Where that is not possible, parents will be invited to decide which of the children should be allocated the available place(s) or seek places at an alternative setting with sufficient vacancies to accommodate both or all of the multiple birth siblings.

## **Ordinarily resident:**

By 'ordinarily resident' we mean the place where your child usually lives. We may need proof of this address. We will not treat your child as ordinarily resident if you rent or own a second home in the catchment area or if you use another address to give the impression that your child lives in the catchment area so that you have a higher priority for a place at that school. Where a child lives with separated parents who have shared responsibility, each for part of the week, the address at which the child is ordinarily resident will be considered to be the address that the child lives at for most of the week (excluding weekends and school holidays). Both parents must provide evidence in writing to confirm the child's living arrangements at the time of application.

## **Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces):**

The school nursery supports the Government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children. For children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces) and returning Crown Servant families the school will consider a family posted to the area as meeting residence criteria for the designated area even if a residential address has not been identified. This would require confirmation in the form of a letter from the relevant government department (for example, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or Government Communications Headquarters.) The school may allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or Quartering area address.

## **Children of Gypsies, Roma, Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers:**

We recognise that these children may have difficulty securing an early education place. We therefore work closely with Suffolk Family Information Service and may prioritise these children

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for a place at our nursery if that is deemed to be the best way to meet the needs of the child and family.

## **Tie Break:**

If it is necessary to use a tie-breaker to distinguish between two or more applications, a distance criterion will be used. We will give priority to the applicants who live nearest to the school. All straight distances are calculated electronically by Suffolk County Council using data provided jointly by the Post Office and Ordnance Survey. The data plots the co-ordinates of each property and provides the address-point between which straight line distance is measured and reported to three decimal places. Where there is more than one home within a single building (for example apartments) they will measure to a single point within that building irrespective of where the homes are located. Where two or more children reside within a block of flats, they will be deemed to live at an equal distance from the School. In the event that two applicants competing for a single place at a school live the same distance from the school, the place will be offered to one applicant on the basis of lots drawn.

## **Waiting lists:**

7. Any appeals or queries regarding this process should be put in writing to the Chair of Governors at Forest Academy, Bury Road, Brandon, Suffolk IP27 0FP.

8. Applications can be made at any time from 2 Years. 'A consideration list' will be kept by the school of names, addresses, D.O.B., telephone number and date registered of children who are interested.

9. The consideration list will not operate places on a "first come, first served" basis. The length of time children are on the consideration list in no way influences the decisions about places.

10. Parents will be asked for the child's birth certificate and proof of address.

**11. It should be noted that a place in the nursery does not automatically guarantee a place at Forest Academy and parents must still go through Suffolk County Council's admissions process for admission into the school.**

12. Parents who accept a place will be expected to commit to taking up the place for the rest of the academic year and are encouraged to use every session Forest Academy offers.

13. If attendance and punctuality is poor or erratic, the nursery teacher will talk to parents and remind them that for the child to benefit fully from nursery education, attendance needs to be regular and punctual. This conversation should be recorded and dated in the child's folder. If after a period of two weeks attendance and punctuality remain poor, a letter will be sent to the parents inviting them to meet with the Headteacher. If, following the meeting, there is no sustained improvement in attendance within an agreed period, then the child may lose their place. Parents will be notified of the loss of place in writing.

14. If a child is absent for a period of three weeks and no mitigating circumstances, such as illness certified by a doctor, have been offered, the child may lose their place and it may be offered to someone else. This will be decided by the Headteacher, and a letter explaining the situation will be sent to the parents.