Slaley First School

Admissions Policy

Main School

The complete County Council Admission arrangements are available to view at **http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Admissions.aspx#admissionpolicies**

Please note applications to the main school, after first contacting the school, are made to Northumberland County Council.

Our current admission limit is 10 pupils per year group.

When the number of applications for Slaley First School exceed the number of places available in the year group in question, the County Council Admission arrangements will be followed where priority will be given to the following categories of pupils in descending order of merit.

1. Pupils residing within the catchment area of the school and those on whose behalf firm evidence is presented that they will be resident in the catchment area by the appropriate admission date.
2. Pupils on whose behalf exceptional medical or social need is presented. This will normally have to be supported by a professionally involved third party.
3. Pupils who have an older brother or sister who already attends the school and who is expected to be on roll at the time of admission.
4. Pupils living within the greater catchment area of the school partnership.
6. Pupils on whose behalf preferences are expressed on grounds other than those outlined above.

Should it prove necessary because places are limited, to distinguish between pupils in any given category, priority will be given to those who live nearest to the school. This is measured in a direct line 'as the crow flies' from the front door of the home to the main gate of the school checked using County Council software.

Applications on behalf of children who are resident in other LA areas will be considered in the same way as Northumberland residents.

Nursery Admissions

Slaley Governing Body sets the admission policy for nursery and applications for a nursery place are made directly to the school. Attendance at the nursery does not necessarily guarantee admission to the school and parents of children will still need to apply to the County Council for a place if they want their child to transfer into the Reception class.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to make nursery education available to all three and four year olds whose parents wish them to have a place.

Children are entitled to access up to 30 hours of early education each week for thirty eight weeks of the year. Parents may choose to take up fewer hours or decline to take any up at all.

Children may access up to 15 hour (five funded mornings) per week at Slaley First School in the term following their third birthday. Funded means provision through the school, registered with the Local Authority.

Local Authorities use prescribed dates for determining eligibility for the free place entitlement.
Applications for a nursery place will need to be made by the end of January prior to the academic year in which the child starts nursery.

The school allocates Nursery places in the Easter term prior to the year of admission and parents are notified accordingly.

We admit children to our 23 place Foundation Unit, which comprises of Reception, Nursery 1 and Nursery 2.

- If their third birthday is between 1 September and 31 December, they may start at the beginning of the following January term;
- If their third birthday is between 1 January and 31 March, they may start at the beginning of the term after Easter;
- If their third birthday is between 1 April and 31 August, they may start at the beginning of the September term.

Priority for admissions is in line with the 'Whole School Policy' on school admissions including nursery as follows:

1. Children within the school catchment area whose third birthday falls within the school's academic year.
2. Older children, who intend to continue at the school, enter first. Younger children enter after their third birthday.
3. In cases where the number of children from within catchment exceeds the number of places, priority will be given to the older children.
4. Brothers/sisters of existing pupils who live outside the catchment area.
5. Children who live outside the school catchment area but intend to continue through the school.
6. Children who live outside the school catchment area but do not intend to continue through the school.

If applications are made after the January deadline then applicamts will be treated on a 'first come first serve basis'. When multiple applicants are received after the deadline then the above criteria on nursery admission will be followed.

Attendance at the nursery does not necessarily guarantee admission to the school and parents of children will still need to apply for a place if they want their child to transfer into the Reception class.