



## Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School Admissions information

Whitley Park is a three form entry Primary School with Nursery classes. The standard admission number is 90. All admissions to the school after Nursery are managed centrally by Reading Borough Council. Please ask at the school office for advice on how to obtain a place or see below.

### **Children joining the Nursery School**

The maximum number of children in the Nursery is 120. There are 20 two and a half day places and 50 morning and 50 afternoon places. Every child is entitled to 15 hours a week and this is offered as five days of three hours (morning 8:45-11:45am or afternoon 12:15-3:15pm) **OR** two and a half days at the beginning or end of the week being (Monday all day, Tuesday all day and Wednesday morning **OR** (Wednesday afternoon, Thursday all day and Friday all day).

The Nursery staff team includes a qualified Early Years teacher and Early Years Practitioners.

Children may join the Nursery during the term in which they are three, subject to the number of places available. The child's date of birth determines their position on the waiting list and priority for places. Priority is given to four year old children to ensure that children receive Nursery education before entering the Reception class; occasionally social priority places are requested and met.

A place in the Nursery does not automatically give right to a place in the Primary School.

### **Waiting lists**

You are welcome to register your child on our waiting list after his/her 2nd birthday. Please ask at the school office.

### **Home visits**

Home visits are arranged by the Nursery team who will offer to visit you and your child in your home before your child starts Nursery. This is highly recommended but optional. Parents/carers find this very supportive as it really helps children settle well into school making new attachments to familiar people. Home visits are offered to children starting in Reception from other settings.

At the beginning of the term when the children start Nursery, parents are invited to make short visits with their child to become familiar with the Nursery class. The start day of children new to Nursery and Reception is staggered during the first week to ensure that the children settle quickly and happily.

### **Moving from the Nursery to Reception**

We ensure that children from the Nursery visit the Reception classes regularly. We endeavour to make the transfer to the Reception classes successful and smooth. There is continuity in the Early Years curriculum for the Nursery and the Reception classes.

Children from other settings are invited to make visits with their parents and a representative from their setting.

### **How parents can apply for their child to be admitted to our school**

The LA publishes an admissions prospectus each year, which gives information about how parents can apply for a place in the school of their choice. Parents have a right to express a preference for the school of their choice and they should do so on the application form.

Expressing a preference does not, in itself, guarantee a place at this school. Application forms can be obtained from the Education Department of the LA and should be completed by the date stated on the forms. The LA notifies parents about the school place as soon as all the applications have been considered.

Admissions can be contacted by telephoning 0118 937 3777 or visiting

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/residents/EducationandLearning/Schools/Admissions/>

### **Admission appeals**

If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the LA. An independent appeals panel then meets to consider all appeals by parents who have been refused a place at our school and who wish to appeal against this decision. An appeals panel's decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to our school, then we will accept this and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our school.

Following an application to Reading Borough Council children will be offered a place in the Reception class at the beginning of September in the academic year in which they are five (1<sup>st</sup> September - 31<sup>st</sup> August).

Parents have the option to defer entry to the school for their children in any term until the term after the child's fifth birthday, when they become statutory school age. This is, however, not recommended, as we find that children have too many changes in their first year of school and too little time to settle. We prefer not to defer beyond the start of the term in January.

### **In school the children are taught in year groups.**

In year R, Reception, the children are 4 or 5 years old and follow Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum provision.

In year 1 and 2 the children are 5-7 years old and follow the National Curriculum at Key Stage 1.

In year 3,4,5 and 6 the children are 7-11 years old and follow the National Curriculum at Key Stage 2.

On admission to the school parents are asked to provide information which is protected under the Data Protection Act. It is necessary for the school to hold this information to provide data required by the Local Authority. It is important that we are kept up to date with changes to telephone numbers and addresses. We like to keep our records up to date to ensure we can contact parents if we need to. We have a text messaging arrangement which enables us to keep in close contact with you if you provide a mobile phone number.

### **School visits for parents**

Parents are welcome to make an appointment to visit the school and have a learning walk with a member of staff. Please contact the school office on **0118 937 5566**.

In Reception children come to school for a morning or afternoon session during the first week and start a whole day including school lunchtime during the second week of term. This provides a very successful start for the children.