

## SECTION 11 - ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR ROTHERHAM AUTHORITY FOUNDATION STAGE ONE OR NURSERY UNIT

An application for a place \* (see below) in an Early Years Centre, Nursery Unit/Foundation Stage One Unit should be made to the Head Teacher.

Parents should be aware that gaining a place in the nursery class/foundation stage 1 at a school or children's centre does not guarantee that a place will be available in that school in the reception class or foundation stage 2.

A complete list of all the Local Authority nurseries and primary schools which have nursery/foundation units is given in Section 4. Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan must be allocated a place at the school named in the Statement/Plan.

Children will be allocated a place in a nursery/foundation stage one unit according to the following criteria which are ranked in priority order:

- 1) Relevant Looked After Children or previously looked after children (see definition below).
- 2) Children who have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Head Teacher is satisfied makes attendance at that particular school essential.
- 3) Children with a compelling social reason which the Head Teacher is satisfied makes attendance at that particular school essential. The kinds of overriding social reasons which could be accepted are where there is evidence that the child's education would be seriously impaired if he or she did not attend the preferred school.
- 4) Children who live in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority and who will also have an older brother or sister on the roll of the preferred school or its associated junior school at the time of their admission.
- 5) Children who live in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- 6) Children who live outside the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority whose older brother or sister will be on the roll of the preferred school or its associated junior school at the time of their admission.
- 7) Children who attend integrated early education at the children's centre attached to the school.
- 8) Children who live in the catchment area of a school without nursery/foundation stage 1 provision.
- 9) Children who have access to nursery/foundation stage 1 provision in their own catchment area school.

If demand for places within any category is greater than the available spaces, places will be allocated to children who live nearest to the school measured by a straight line on a horizontal plain (commonly known as measurement "as the crow flies"). See page 35 for full definition.

### Please Note

\* Children are entitled to an early education place from the term following their 3rd birthday. The majority of schools offer three terms of early education, commencing in the Autumn Term one year before entry to reception / foundation stage 2. Children who are eligible for a place from the Spring (January) or Summer (April) term usually take up a place at a pre-school or day nursery initially, however some schools can offer an intake each term.

Children are entitled to 15 hours of free early education and schools can deliver this flexibly over fewer than 5 days. A number of different delivery models are in place - details are available from the Families Information Service or directly from the school.

\*\* A 'relevant looked after child' is a child that is looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application for admission to nursery/foundation stage 1 is made, and who the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time when he/she is admitted to the nursery/foundation stage 1.

Previously Looked After Children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). For further information please refer to the Admissions Code of Practice which can be downloaded from [www.dfe.gov.uk](http://www.dfe.gov.uk)