

Hitchin Partnership Over Subscription Criteria for Maintained Nursery Schools and Classes for the School Year 2025/2026

Should there be more applications than places, an agreed over subscription criteria will be followed. If an application is unsuccessful, you may request to go onto the nursery's continuing interest list and as a space arises, the criteria will be applied again.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school will be allocated a place in accordance with section 324 of the Education Act 1996. Schools will also admit children with an EHC (Education, Health and Care) Plan that names the school.

Parents may state their preference as to which nursery class, school or centre they would like their child to attend in the years leading up to the child's fourth birthday. However, if there are not enough places available, places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

a) Children looked after and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order).

b) A child 'at risk' (or the sibling of a child 'at risk') who is the subject of an inter-agency child protection plan.

c) Other applicants where the following criteria are considered to determine priorities:

1) Children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a particular medical or social need to go to the school.

2) Children who have a sibling at the school at the time of application, unless the sibling is in the last year of the normal age range of the school. Note: the 'normal age range' is the designated range for which the school provides.

3) Any other children.

Proof of documentation to support any of the criteria above will be required.

If more children qualify under a particular rule than there are places available, a tiebreak will be used by applying the next rule to those children. If more children qualify under criterion 2 than there are places available, priority will be given to those who live nearest to the nursery as measured using Google maps straight line distance. Where there is a need for a tie-breaker where two different addresses measure the same distance from a school, in the case of a block of flats for example, the lower door number will be deemed nearest as logically this will be on the ground floor and therefore closer. If there are two identical addresses of separate applicants, the tie break will be random.