

# Strong Close Nursery School

Reviewed January 2024

Approved by governors January 2024

## Admissions Policy

### Rationale

Strong Close Nursery School is committed to the integration of Early Years Education and Care.

The structure of family life has changed with more parents working or undertaking training outside the home thereby creating a need for more flexible nursery provision. Strong Close Nursery School wishes to maximise its resources in offering affordable, accessible and high-quality provision in order to support families in our community. Our aims will apply to all provision, with specific objectives for each aspect of our services.

### Aims

- To provide, where possible, inclusive integrated care and education for children from 2 years to 5 years.
- To offer flexible admission arrangements which balance the needs of parents and children but do not compromise quality.
- To work with other agencies to ensure continuity of provision on entry and transfer.
- To ensure that administrative systems are in place to facilitate high quality admission and transfer procedures.

### Admission arrangements

- Children from any area within Bradford Metropolitan District may be placed on our waiting lists for Core or Extended Provision by contacting the school directly.

### Admissions criteria

#### ***Government funded places – 15 hours entitlement for 3 – 4 years olds***

- Children will be admitted to funded places subject to availability. Priority will be given to children the term after they are 3 years old. A part-time place is normally for 5 mornings or 5 afternoons or 2 and half days per week either at the beginning or end of the week,
- Priority will be given to children with special educational, medical or social needs including looked after children, wherever possible. (Applications on these grounds will have to be supported in writing by the relevant professional involved, such as a Social Worker or GP etc.)
- Priority will also be given to children who have been attending our school from a younger age (from 2 years) in order to support continuity
- These places can be used in conjunction with fee paying places.

#### ***Government funded places – 30 hours entitlement for 3 – 4 years olds***

- These places are open to all eligible families i.e. those who meet the Government criteria and can be used in conjunction with fee paying places
- At Strong Close Nursery School, we offer places from 8.45am-3.30pm Monday to Friday, with a charge for lunch and Friday afternoon. Alternatively, parents can have 8.45am-3.30pm Monday to Thursday paying only for meals and then Friday 9-12, or an alternative half day session where available.

#### ***Government funded places – 15 hours entitlement for 2-year olds including for working families from April 2024 (and 30 hours for working parents from September 2025)***

- Children may be awarded a place if they fulfil the LA criteria, which assesses family income and working status of parents.
- The free entitlement (15 hrs) is taken either over five days, as morning sessions, or afternoon sessions, or over 2.5 days.
- If children meet the criteria then a sessional place will be offered, term time only.
- Priority will be given to children with special educational, medical or social needs including looked after children wherever possible. (Applications on these grounds will have to be supported in writing by the relevant professional involved, such as a Social Worker or GP etc.)

### **Early Years Resourced SEND Provision**

- Strong Close Nursery School is a Local Authority Early Years Resourced SEND provision. These places are allocated by SEN Services at Education Bradford
- We have a maximum of 30 part-time equivalent places for children age 2-5 years. Children are grouped into classes which support their individual needs. These needs are identified through close partnership working with parents and professionals; Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Physio Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Support from the Visual and Hearing-Impaired Teams.

### ***Fee Paying - Extended Provision Admissions (and Wrap Around)***

- Strong Close Nursery School promotes and provides extended integrated care and education, including before and after school provision. Extended places are for children from 2 to 5 years of age and are fee paying places. These places cater for very young children, before funded entitlement would start and also children whose parents/carers require nursery time over and above the funded entitlement.
- Parents requesting a place will be put in contact with the Parental Involvement Co-ordinator who will allocate places as available by waiting list order.
- Children will be allocated an extended provision place as soon as one is available in a room appropriate for their age, and according to their place on the waiting list.
- Consideration will be given to the needs of children in each group when allocating a place.
- Parents/Carers will sign a contract explaining our pricing policy for extended places.
- Admission can be at any time during the term in order to support family needs.

### **Transitions**

- Strong Close Nursery School will liaise carefully with agencies where appropriate in order to gain a full profile of children on entry and thereafter.
- Strong Close Nursery School will liaise carefully with parents to ensure the transfer from home to school, and from part-time to full-time is smooth and in the best interest of the child.
- Where children have an additional need or disability extra support may be offered to meet the needs of the child linked to the stage of assessment according to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.
- Strong Close Nursery School will liaise carefully with local schools to maximise opportunities for continuity and progression on children's transfer
- Allocation of places and transfers between units will be the responsibility of the Headteacher in consultation with the Parental Involvement Officer, Assistant Headteacher and room leaders.
- Strong Close Nursery School will liaise with local schools whenever possible to ensure that there is no overlap in the allocation of nursery places.