

Admission to Bright Stars Preschool

The current School Admission code relates only to statutory education ie children of Reception age who will be 5 during the academic year; it does not apply to children under this age. Places offered under this policy will be available to the child from the date the place is offered until 31st August following their fourth birthday. The maximum capacity in a single session in Long Mead Foundation Unit is 30 spaces. This is approximately 15 preschool children and 15 reception children. The sessions are offered morning and/or afternoon Monday to Thursday and Friday morning.

From the term after a child's third birthday they are entitled to up to 15 hours of free entitlement per week, at Bright Stars Preschool we offer this as a morning place (8.30 to 11.30am) 5 days a week or an afternoon space (12.20-3.20pm) Monday to Thursday. There is the option of staying for an additional lunch session (11.30-12.20pm), but this is not part of the free entitlement and is charged at £5 per lunch session. The free entitlement can be taken at more than one setting within the guidelines set out by DfE. Parents must complete the funding declaration form each term to enable the school to claim the funding.

Entitlement to a Free Early Education place does not offer a guarantee of a place at any one provider or a particular pattern of delivery.

A child is eligible for the free entitlement in the term after their third birthday ie:

- 1 January to 31 March - Start of term beginning in April
- 1 April to 31 August - Start of term beginning in September
- 1 September to 31 December - Start of term beginning in January

Where more applications are received than places are available, places will be prioritised in order of:

- Children Looked After (CLA) or were previously in care and are now adopted
- Children referred by outside agencies with Special Needs
- Date of Birth – older children having priority
- Siblings currently attending Bright Stars Preschool
- Siblings of children currently attending Long Mead CP School
- Distance measured in a straight line (as Primary admissions)

However there is no statutory right of appeal for a Preschool place.

If the preschool is full, except in cases of need, children should have had their names on the waiting list for at least one term before entry can be considered. Entry will be as close as possible to the term following the third birthday and will be in order of age – within the criteria listed above.

Children will usually be admitted the term after their third birthday but if parents would prefer and space allows they may be admitted ON their third birthday, even though they will not be funded.

Admission of 2 year olds to Bright Stars Preschool.

Bright Stars Preschool is able to offer a limited number of places for 2 year olds who meet the following criteria:

- The parents of the child with whom the child lives come within the earnings and benefits criteria used to determine eligibility for Free for 2.

The child will be admitted in the term that they turn three.

An eligible child whose 3 rd birthday is between:	Will be able to start at Bright Stars Preschool subject to space being available
1 Jan to 31 st March	Start of term 3
1 st April to 31 Aug	Start of term 5
1 Sept to 31 Dec	Start of term 1

To be able to take up a place for a two year old an Eligibility Check must be carried out, by completing the FF2 application form. Once the school has received confirmation of eligibility from the KCC EY team the school will then be able to offer the place.

Free Entitlement to an early education place does not offer a guarantee of a place at any one provider or a particular pattern of provision, ie parents cannot insist on a space if the preschool or a particular session is full.

Two-year-olds who have met the eligibility criteria can continue to receive a place once they have taken it up even if there is change in the child's circumstances, until the child reaches the term after their third birthday when they would then be able to take up a normal funded 3 year old place.

It should be noted that admission to the preschool does not in any way guarantee admission to the Long Mead Primary school. Parents will need to apply for a primary school place via the KCC admissions process.

