

## **Islington Children's Services**

# **Early Years Admissions Policy - September 2010**

### **Introduction**

The Council has a wide range of early years provision available for young children before they have to go to school.

But, the way that the early years services are funded means that it is important to clearly explain the council's policy for making provision for children of different ages and how it decides which children are offered places.

Whilst all three and four year olds are entitled to receive 15 hours free early education for 38 weeks per year, this can be taken in schools, children's centres or other early years settings.

This following policy applies when parents express a preference to receive provision in Islington Community Primary Schools and Islington Children's Centres

The policy applies to Islington residents only unless otherwise stated.

### **Four Year Olds**

The Council aims to provide all four year olds with a full-time (30 hours) early education place from the term following their fourth birthday.

Any hours provided above 30 hours per week for four year olds is subject to the council's charging scheme

### **Three Year Olds**

The Council aims to provide at least a part-time (15 hours) early education place for all three year olds from the term following their third birthday

The Council provides additional hours up to 30 hours per week for some three year olds in schools and school-based children's centres.

Any hours provided above 30 hours per week for three year olds in primary schools and primary school-based children's centres are subject to the council's charging scheme.

Any hours provided above 15 hours per week in non- primary school -based children's centres are subject to the council's charging scheme.

### **Under Threes**

The Council provides part-time and full-time early education places for children under three in children's centres, early years centres and nursery schools. These are subject to the council's charging scheme.

## **How does the council decide who should be offered places in its children's centres, early years centres, nursery schools and nursery classes?**

### **Admissions Criteria**

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 fifth birthday. However, if there are not enough places available, the Council will allocate places to Islington residents as follows:

- 1 to children 'looked after';
- 2 to children 'at risk' (or the sibling of a child 'at risk') who are the subject of a child protection plan;
- 3 to children deemed by the Council to be 'in need';
- 4 to other children in the following order:
  - a) to three and four year olds, a part-time (15 hours) early education place;
  - b) to four year olds, a full time (30 hours) early education places;
  - c) to three year olds, a full time (30 hours) early education place where parents are working or studying full-time and earning less than £31,000 gross family income;
  - d) to other three year olds, a full time (30 hours) early education place

If there are more applications than places available, places will be allocated in the following order:

- i) to children already on the roll of the school or centre;
- ii) for school nursery classes, to children with a sibling registered in the primary school;
- iii) for children's centres, to children living in the designated reach area;  
for nursery classes to children living nearest the school\*
- iv) to non-Islington residents living nearest the school or centre decided by a straight line measurement

### **Places for Children Under Three**

Places are allocated first to children in Categories 1, 2 and 3 above and then:

- a) to children under three of parents working or studying full-time;
- b) to children with a sibling registered in the nursery class;

- c) to children resident in the designated reach area;
- d) to children of an appropriate age to fill the vacancy to ensure a balance of places across the age range
- e) to children living nearest the children's centre decided by a straight line measurement

## **Non-Islington Residents**

Non-Islington residents can only be considered for places in children's centres, early years centres, nursery schools and nursery classes:

- if children are 3 or 4 years old receiving the entitlement of 15 hours per week early education;
- through the marketed places scheme\*; or
- if they are key workers\*\* in Islington

### **\* Marketed Places Scheme**

Up to 132 places (approximately 12% of total) in children's centres, nursery schools and early years centres, may be allocated outside the above criteria, through a *Marketed Places Scheme*. The scheme enables parents who are able to pay the full market charges to apply for a place. Places within this scheme are allocated first to those who live in Islington, second to those who work in Islington, and third to other applicants.

### **\*\* Key Workers Scheme**

Key workers who are not resident in Islington but are employed in Islington, may be considered for community places in children's centres and early years centres which no Islington resident wishes to take up. For this purpose, key workers are defined as teachers, NHS clinical staff, police and community support officers, staff employed in schools and children's centres, and social care workers. Key workers must have a permanent contract of employment for at least 17.5 hours per week and a family income of less than £55,000 p.a

## **Special Educational Needs**

All schools and centres will be expected to provide for children with additional educational needs. However, for those with more severe and complex special educational needs, some centres are additionally funded for a specific number of additionally resourced places. These 36 places are allocated by the central, multi-agency Under Fives Advisory Group.

## Admission Dates - Illustration

### Nursery Class

Children are admitted three times per year – *the earliest* is from the beginning of the term following their third birthday

### Illustration

<b>Birthdates - Examples</b>	<b>'Earliest' Nursery Class admission</b>	<b>Reception Class admission</b>
8 October 2006	January 10	September 11
10 January 2007	April 10	September 11
5 April 2007	September 10	September 11
8 October 2007	January 11	September 12
10 January 2008	April 11	September 12
5 April 2008	September 11	September 12
8 October 2008	January 12	September 13
10 January 2009	April 12	September 13
5 April 2009	September 12	September 13