



St Michael's Catholic Primary School



Nursery Admission Policy 2026-2027

We will have 26 full-time Nursery places available for 3 and 4 year olds at St. Michael's Catholic Primary School for the academic year 2025-26. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

15 or 30 hours provision:

We offer 15 or 30 hours nursery provision according to eligibility. You can check which hours you are entitled to here: [Get childcare: step by step - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-childcare-step-by-step)

We expect children to attend for their full allocation. For example, a child receiving 15 hours of funding will attend each morning or each afternoon. A child receiving 30 hours of funding would typically be expected to attend Monday- Friday, 8.45-2.45pm. (Additional sessions are available either side of these times in the form of wrap around care.)

If you would like to apply for a place for your child in our nursery class, please complete and return the 2025-26 application form which can be found at [Admissions – St Michaels Catholic Primary School, Esh \(bwccet.com\)](https://www.bwccet.com/admissions-st-michaels-catholic-primary-school-esh)

If there are more applications received at the same time than places available, Nursery places will be allocated using the oversubscription criteria set out below, in order:

First priority in each category will be given to children who will have an older sibling attending the school in during the academic year 2026-27.

1. Children in Need

The Children Act 1989 defines a 'child in need' as:

- a) He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by the Local Authority under Part 3 of the Act.
- b) His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services.
- c) He/she is disabled. In addition, Durham County Council has determined that children of families where English is not the main language of the family will be considered under this criterion.

2. Age

The offer of a place will be prioritised according to date of birth. The earliest date your child can be accepted for Early Years is at the age of 3 -the term after their third birthday. Where applicants have the same date of birth, priority will be given to the earliest date of application.

3. Children Living in Other Authorities

Although there are no catchment areas for places, preference will be given to children whose parents live within County Durham's or parish boundaries administrative area.

When to apply:

As a school, we operate an application process for Nursery admissions and parents can apply for his or her child's name to be placed on our Nursery list **at any time** by completing our Nursery Application form. Children are normally admitted to Nursery in the term after their third birthday however the new eligibility criteria may mean your child is able to start on the day of their 3rd birthday. You can check your eligibility here: [Eligibility for 30 hours childcare - Best Start in Life](#)

We advise that parents apply for a place once your child turns two.

The process of allocating places begins once an application is received. We will send out offer emails within 4 term-time weeks of receiving an application. If there are fewer applications than the number of places, we will continue to offer nursery places until full.

Appeals

Parents do not have a statutory right to appeal against the admission authority's refusal to award a place to their child. However, if you feel that the admissions criteria stated above has not been fairly applied to your child, then you may register a complaint using the normal complaints procedure. People who wish to submit a complaint against an admissions decision should refer to the Complaints Policy, which is available from the School's website

Admission to the Nursery does not guarantee admission to Reception- you will still need to apply for a primary school place following the guidance from the local authority.

Parents who wish their child to attend St. Michael's Catholic Primary School are welcome to visit the school for a tour and an initial discussion with the Head Teacher.

Phone: 0191 3731205

Email: info@stme.bwcet.com

