

Admissions criteria for entry September 2025

Tyrella Cross-Community Playgroup
24 Tyrella Road
Downpatrick
BT30 8DF

Voluntary Playgroup
No of Funded Places (Part-time): To be determined
Session Times: Monday to Friday: 9:00am – 12noon

Person in Charge / Leader: To be appointed
Chair of Management Committee: Mr J McVeigh

Telephone Number: 028 44851600
Email: Jmcveigh446@c2kni.net

Respective Functions of the Management Committee in relation to admissions.

The Management Committee have determined that, in the event of there being more applicants than places available the following admissions criteria will be applied, to select children for the available places.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Management Committee will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. Parents/guardians should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the playgroup's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it.

Children who are not normally resident in Northern Ireland will not be considered for places until all children who live in Northern Ireland have been considered.

Admissions Criteria

A timetable of pre-school admissions procedures setting out the dates by which an application is to be submitted is available at www.eani.org.uk/admissions under 'Pre-School Admissions'. During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered.

The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 will be treated as a late application.

As the pre-school admissions procedure is in two stages the timetable also specifies the relevant dates at Stage 2 which will determine if an application is to be considered as punctual or late.

Statutory Criteria

- 1 Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:
 - on or between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
 - on or between 1 April 2021 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
 - have not attended or are not currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged child; and,
 - that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2026.

Note: Children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' means a child whose parent has an entitlement to (i) Income Support, or (ii) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or (iii) Income related Employment and Support Allowance, or (iv) Universal Credit. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must provide Benefit Verification to confirm that they have an entitlement. The application procedure for Pre-School will outline how Benefit Verification can be submitted.

- 2 Children not from socially disadvantaged circumstances (as defined above) who are in their final pre-school year (as defined by Criterion 1).

Sub-Criteria

If there are more children satisfying the last criterion above, which can be applied, then selection for the remaining places will be on the application of the following sub-criteria in the order set down below:

- a. Children who live within a 5 mile radius of Tyrella Cross-Community Playgroup (please provide proof of address when making application). Distance will be verified using Google Maps Driving App.
- b. Children who are attending Tyrella Cross-Community Playgroup in a fee paying capacity in 2023-2024
- c. Other children.

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In the event of over-subscription in the last criterion which can be applied, then selection for all places remaining in this category will be on the basis of the initial letter of surname as per the birth certificate in the order set out below: -

V U M O A M c S D C N O' I Y T R M a c W Q P F J L Z B K X E H G

The order was determined by random selection.

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forename will be used. The above arrangements do not apply to fee-paying places. Parents interested in obtaining a fee-paying place should contact the playgroup directly.

It is important that parent(s)/guardian(s), when submitting the application form, provide all relevant supporting information and written evidence that may be needed as per the published admissions criteria including the child's birth certificate.

Non-Statutory Criteria

Note: Applications falling under Criterion 3 are processed only during Stage 2 of the admissions process, after final pre-school year (Statutory Criteria 1 and 2) applications.

3. Children who were born:

- on or between 1 April 2021 - 1 July 2021 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
 - and have attended or are currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged (not penultimate aged) child; and,
 - that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1.

Tie Breaker – Non-Statutory Criterion 3

In the event of oversubscription in Criterion 3 – the following tiebreaker will be used.

Children within Criterion 3 will be selected in Chronological Order of Age – eldest child first. In the event of two or more children having the same DOB the above random selection of letters will be used.

Duty to Verify

The Management Committee reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Management Committee by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

Waiting List Policy

Should a vacancy arise after 10 June 2025, all applications for admission to the playgroup that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. The waiting list will be in place until the end of the academic year.

The playgroup will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the playgroup by this method. Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the playgroup if you wish for your child's name to be removed from the list.