



Wheatcroft Primary School Nursery Admissions Policy

*All applications for Nursery places are handled directly by the school
Please contact Mrs Coates on
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admin@wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk*

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Introduction

Wheatcroft opened fully as a County Primary School in September 1974. The building then contained space for seven classes and admitted approximately thirty children each year. A private nursery was opened on an adjacent part of the school site, and this eventually became a fully funded County nursery class.

Due to the school's popularity, and to answer the demand for more primary places in the area, the school underwent a major expansion project. Work began in 1996 to convert Wheatcroft to a one and a half-form entry school, allowing it to take forty five children each year. We also have capacity for up to 50 children in our Nursery.

Section 1: Ethos and Values

- To create an environment for learning, both inside and outside the classroom, which will encourage all children to achieve the highest standards through the provision of a broad, balanced and imaginative curriculum, high expectations, praise for a task well done and through committed, enthusiastic and effective teaching.
- To help children to develop into confident, responsible and caring adults in an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect.
- To encourage children to become self-motivated learners who will take risks, rise to a challenge and manage the outcome in an atmosphere that is challenging yet supportive.
- To enable children to develop into independent learners by creating an environment where contributions, efforts and achievement are valued and where all give their best because they value themselves.
- To communicate the Wheatcroft vision statement effectively to all members of the community in order to inspire excellence throughout the school.

Section 2: How and When to Apply

Parents will normally be sent information on how to apply for the nursery towards the end of January for admission the following September from Herts County Council. Information is sent to those who are eligible to apply from lists provided by the local health authority. There can occasionally be errors or omissions, often due to people moving house. If you do not receive information please let us know.

Attending our nursery does not guarantee a place in the main school and parents will need to apply separately for a school place. An application form for a school place will usually be sent to you in the autumn preceding your child's admission.

All applications for Nursery places are processed at the same time for the whole academic year. Wheatcroft operate a single intake with all children commencing September.

Section 3: Admissions Criteria

As a Community Maintained School, places at Wheatcroft are offered in accordance with Hertfordshire's Primary Admissions Policy who have adopted the Department of Education's School Admissions Code. In the event of the school being oversubscribed, places will be offered in the following priority order:

- 1. Children in public care or previously looked after by an English or Welsh local authority and now adopted.*
- 2. Children for whom there is a compelling medical or social reason why they should attend this school.*
- 3. Children who have an older brother or sister at the school at the time of application.*
- 4. Children for whom the school is the nearest in relation to alternative schools.*
- 5. Children who live nearest to the school. Full details of the County Admissions Policy and how it is applied is explained on the Hertfordshire website which can be found at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/edlearn/admissions*
You can also use this link to find out the measurement of your home to the nearest schools.

Distance Measurement - will be by a 'straight-line' measurement from the postal address point of each individual house to the address point of the school (address point data taken from Herts County Council Admissions Database).

Continuing Interest List - If there are more than 50 applicants, Wheatcroft will hold a Continuing Interest List for any places which may become available. If there is more than one applicant on this list, the above criteria will be used before any such place is offered.

Late Applications – applications received after the closing date will not be dealt with until all on time applications have been processed and considered.

Note: As Nursery provision is not classed as Statutory Education there is no right of appeal for such places.

Section 4: Sessions

We normally offer 15 hours per week which will consist of a mix of morning and afternoon sessions. This gives some flexibility to join two three hour sessions with an additional optional lunch club. Session allocations are made following acceptance of all places offered.

There maybe the opportunity to apply for 30 hours Nursery provision. However, to enable consideration to such a request be given, parents would need to meet the funding criteria. Details of how you can check whether you qualify can be found at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>. We can not guarantee at this stage that we can offer everyone that applies either the 15 hours or 30 childcare if eligible but we will endeavour to meet your needs.

Our morning session runs from 8:45-11:45 and our afternoon sessions 12:30-3:30. We also offer an optional lunch which runs from 11:45-12:30 where you are able to provide your own packed lunch or purchase a school meal of which there are four choices.

Section 5: Timeline for Applications

Details of when the Online application process opens and closes together with the dates on which offers will be made and are required to be accepted by will be published when the information of how to apply is issued.

We ask that parents who are interested in applying for our Nursery complete the on line application, details of which can be found on our website. If you would prefer a paper copy of the form please contact the school office. Once definite dates for the application process are available, we will then communicate with you to give you the opportunity to make a formal on line application.

Section 6: Post Acceptance

Following formal acceptance of the offer of a place at Wheatcroft Nursery, we will send you details of the sessions choices available to you for completion and return. Although we are unable to guarantee you will be allocated your specific choices, we will do our best to accommodate your needs. You will be invited to a welcome meeting for the new intake. At this meeting we will explain in detail the Nursery routines and induction process. The sessions allocated will be advised prior to the welcome meeting.

Parents who are considering sending their child to Wheatcroft are warmly invited to visit us by appointment. We look forward to welcoming you to Wheatcroft.