

Nursery education in Sunderland

All about the free entitlement to
nursery education in Sunderland

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The free entitlement - what you need to know:

- Nursery education is available to all 3 and 4 year olds in the City.
- Nursery education is free.
- Children become eligible the term after their third birthday
- Children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework
- It is available in different types of nurseries.
- Children are currently entitled to 15 hours a week free nursery education for 38 weeks of the year, usually to fit in with school terms.
- The 15 hours a week can be taken flexibly over a minimum of 3 days.
- Full time places are available in reception classes in Sunderland for all children in the September after their fourth birthday.
- Some nurseries provide childcare to 'wrap around' the nursery education.

When is a child entitled to nursery education?

A child is entitled to free nursery education the school term after their third birthday, for example, if their third birthday is 1st November, they can have a free nursery place in the school term after the Christmas holidays.

Sometimes nurseries are full, and so it is not always possible to get into the first nursery chosen. This booklet will explain what happens if this is the case. In Sunderland all children should have access to nursery education for at least three terms before they start school.

What is on offer?

From April 2007 to April 2008, Sunderland is taking part in a Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Pathfinder. This is to test the introduction of changes to nursery education, including the increase to 15 hours per week and flexible delivery by nurseries.

Different nurseries will be offering different patterns of attendance. Nursery education could be taken anytime between 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, depending on the provider. The 15 hours could also be delivered between more than one childcare/nursery education provider.

Please speak to the nursery of your choice to find out more.

Who provides Nursery Education?

Nursery education providers include Local Authority (LA) nursery schools and nursery classes, private nurseries, playgroups and nursery classes of independent schools. All providers must be registered with the LA. A list of nurseries that provide nursery education is at the back of this booklet.

How do I find a nursery education place for my child?

Contact the nursery of your choice and add your child's name to the waiting list. What happens next depends on what type of nursery it is. There is more information about this later in the booklet.



What will my child be doing at nursery?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) covers children's development from birth to the end of their first (Reception) year in school. It describes how staff should work with children and their families to support their learning and development. This includes how your child should be kept safe and cared for and how everyone involved can make sure that your child achieves the most that they can in their earliest years of life.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is based on four important principles:

- A unique child
- Positive relationships
- Enabling environments
- Learning and development

If you would like more information about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) please call 520 5505.

How do I decide which nursery is best for my child?

You can arrange to visit the nursery to look around and talk to staff. You can also ask to see their prospectus or latest Ofsted inspection report. Some questions you may want to ask are:

- How will staff help to settle my child into the nursery?
- Is there a waiting list for places?
- How will I be told about my child's progress?
- Does the nursery encourage parents or carers to be involved?
- If I pay fees for 'wrapped around' childcare, what are the payment arrangements?
- Can I see a copy of the nursery's inspection reports?
- What patterns of attendance are available?

Getting a place in a Local Authority maintained nursery school or class

There are nine maintained nursery schools and sixty nursery classes in Sunderland covering every neighbourhood.

Nursery schools

Nursery schools are separate schools for nursery age children only. Most provide extended hours, offering childcare 'wrapped around' nursery education for an additional cost, as well as childcare for younger children.

Nursery classes

Nursery classes are attached to infant or primary schools. Sometimes they are part of a Foundation Stage Unit, which includes nursery and reception age children. Some offer childcare wrapped around nursery education, as well as before and after school care for older children. Three special schools, for children with Special Educational Needs, also have provision for 3 and 4 year olds.

How do I register my child for a nursery place?

You should go along to see the Headteacher of the nursery after your child's second birthday, taking with you your child's birth certificate. You will be asked to complete a registration form and you will be given a copy. Please keep this copy safe as proof of registration.

Children usually start at the beginning of a school term i.e. September, January or after Easter. As children become eligible for a nursery education place the term after their third birthday, you may want to discuss when a place may be available for your child.

How are nursery places allocated?

If there are enough places, every child will get a place at their chosen nursery. If there are more names registered than there are places at the nursery, the following criteria will be followed to give out places, in order of importance:

1. Children in need (see definitions below).
2. A brother or sister attending the primary or infant school to which the nursery class is attached or nursery school is closest to.
3. Proximity of the school to the child's home address or any registered childcare arrangements.

Children in Need:

1. Children where there are recognised child protection concerns i.e. the child is abused or is likely to be abused or where there are poor levels of adult supervision of the child.
2. Children whose parents ability to care for them is limited e.g. the parent/carer is seriously ill; in hospital for long periods of time; has a significant learning difficulty or significant disability; or the family's wider circumstances are such that the child's development is restricted e.g. homeless.
3. Children where there are three or more children aged 3 or under in the immediate family.
4. Children who have a disability, which significantly affects development
5. Children at risk of being prevented from achieving or maintaining a reasonable standard of health or development.

There are additional criteria for flexible places. Please speak to the nursery of your choice to get more information.

Please note: Roman Catholic and Church of England schools have their own admissions criteria. Please contact individual schools for more information.

What happens if my chosen nursery is full?

If the nursery you have registered has more names than places, you will be contacted by the Local Authority and asked to complete a 'preference' form. This form asks you to list one, two or more other nurseries you might want to send your child to.

The Local Authority will follow the criteria mentioned above and allocate places to the children on the list. If you cannot get a place in your chosen nursery the Local Authority will offer an alternative place based on your preference form.

Places in Roman Catholic and Church of England nursery classes will be allocated by the school, in consultation with the Local Authority.

You could also contact other types of nurseries listed in this booklet

(see section on private and voluntary nurseries and nursery units of independent schools).

For more guidance on this, you can contact the Children's Information Service on 0191 520 5505.



What if I am not happy with this?

Unlike admission to Local Authority primary and secondary schools, there is no statutory right of appeal over admission to nursery schools and classes. Any disputes will be dealt with by the Complaints Manager, Children's Services, Cassaton House 43-49 Fawcett Street, Sunderland, SR1 1RF.

Disputes over admissions to a Roman Catholic or Church of England School should be addressed to the Chair of Governors of the respective school.

Can my child transfer to another nursery?

Should your circumstances change, for example, if the family moves house, then a transfer may be arranged if vacancies are available.

How do I accept a nursery place?

An offer will be made in writing and must be accepted within seven days or the place will be offered to the next child. You may only accept one place for your child at a Local Authority nursery school or class.

Please note that a place at a nursery class does not guarantee a place in the school's reception class.

There are statutory procedures which must be followed in connection with admission to reception classes.

Please contact the Local Authority's admissions team for more information on 0191 553 1399 or 0191 553 1427.

Getting a place in the private voluntary and independent sector

There are 3 types of nurseries in the private and voluntary sector. They are private nurseries, playgroups and nursery classes of independent schools.

Private nurseries

Private nurseries usually offer places to children aged from birth to five years old. They are open all year round. Private nurseries charge a fee for the childcare offered, but many also provide free nursery education places.

Playgroups

Playgroups usually offer places to children from around two years old, up to five years old. They usually have sessions in the morning and/or in the afternoon and usually close during the school holidays. They charge fees for childcare, but most also offer free nursery education places.

Nursery classes of independent schools

Independent schools are schools for which you must pay a fee for your child to attend.

All 3 independent schools in Sunderland have a nursery class, which provide free nursery education places for 3 and 4 year-olds.

How do I register a place at the nursery or playgroup?

You should contact the manager or headteacher and arrange a visit. If your child is already in a private nursery or playgroup, check to see if it is registered to provide nursery education.

The nursery or playgroup will usually give you a prospectus or information about the nursery, and a registration form, which you will need to fill in. If there is a waiting list, your child's name will be added and you will be contacted when a place becomes free.

Private nurseries, playgroups and independent schools can provide childcare 'wrapped around' the nursery education. This will be subject to a fee. However, if your child is only receiving the 15 hours nursery education a week, no fees can be charged.

How is the nursery education place paid for?

Private, voluntary and independent nurseries that are registered to provide nursery education fill in a census form at the beginning of each term with details of all children aged three or four in the nursery. The form is sent to the LA, who send the nursery a set amount of money per child for that term.

No further funding can be accessed after the census date, until the following term. Therefore, if you put your child into a private nursery, playgroup or independent nursery mid-term, you may not be able to get a free place until the next term.

If your child is already attending the nursery for childcare, the nursery should arrange for the nursery education funding to be deducted from your fees.

What happens if the nursery is full?

Your child's name will be put on a waiting list. You could consider other nurseries in your area.

What if I am not happy with this?

Any disputes over admissions needs to be discussed with the nursery manager or headteacher of the school.

Table of nursery education providers

Name	Area	Tel	●	■	▲	★
Local Authority Nursery Schools & Classes						
Albany Village Primary Sch.	Washington	219 3650				★
Barmston Village Primary Sch.	Washington	219 3700		■	▲	★
Barnes Infant Sch.	Sunderland	553 5962				★
Barnwell Primary Sch.	Houghton	553 6578	●	■	▲	★
Benedict Biscop CE (Aided) Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5974			▲	★
Bexhill Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 6916				★
Biddick Primary Sch.	Washington	219 3675			▲	★
Bishop Harland CE (Aided) Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5520			▲	★
Blackfell Primary Sch.	Washington	219 3670				★
Burnside Primary Sch.	Houghton	553 6510			▲	★
Castletown Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5210			▲	★
Dame Dorothy Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 7610				★
Diamond Hall Infant Sch.	Sunderland	553 7620			▲	★
Dubmire Primary Sch.	Houghton	382 3071	●	■	▲	★
Easington Lane Primary Sch.	Houghton	553 6730				
East Herrington Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5986			▲	★
East Rainton Primary Sch.	Houghton	553 6505			▲	★

Key to Services: ● Childcare for under 5's. ■ Childcare wrapped around nursery education. ▲ Out of school childcare for over 5's. ★ 15 hours nursery education. †after only. ††before only. †††holiday only.

Name	Area	Tel	●	■	▲	★
English Martyrs RC (Aided) Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5540			▲	★
Farringdon Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5994			▲	★
Fatfield Primary Sch.	Washington	219 3710			▲	★
Fulwell Infant Sch.	Sunderland	553 5548				★
Gillas Lane Primary Sch.	Houghton	553 6517				★
Grange Park Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5570	●	■	▲	★
Grangetown Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 7647	●	■		★
Grindon Infant Sch.	Sunderland	553 6865				★
Hasting Hill Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 6023				★
Hetton le Hole Nursery Sch.	Hetton	553 6700	●	■		★
Hetton Lyons Nursery Sch.	Hetton	553 6698	●	■	▲	★
Highfield Community Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 7655	●	■		★
Hill View Infant Sch.	Sunderland	553 7665		■	▲	★
Houghton-le-Spring Community Nursery	Houghton	553 6557		■	▲	★
Hudson Road Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 7675	●	■		★
Hylton Castle Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5574			▲ [†]	★
Hylton Red House Nursery Sch.	Sunderland	553 5405		■	▲ ^{††}	★
John F Kennedy Primary Sch.	Washington	219 3745			▲ ^{††}	★

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Name	Area	Tel	●	■	▲	★
Lambton Primary Sch.	Washington	219 3750			▲	★
Millfield Community Nursery	Sunderland	553 2775	●	■		★
Mill Hill Nursery Sch.	Sunderland	553 5930	●	■	▲	★
New Peshaw Primary Sch.	Houghton	382 3076	●	■	▲	★
New Silksworth Infant Sch.	Sunderland	553 6190	●	■	▲	★
Newbottle Primary Sch.	Houghton	553 6566			▲	★
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Houghton	382 3081				★
Oxclose Community Nursery Sch.	Washington	219 3618	●	■	▲	★
Pennywell Early Years Centre	Sunderland	553 6820	●	■		★
Plains Farm Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 6041	●	■	▲	★
Redby Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5475				★
Richard Avenue Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 6053				★
Rickleton Primary Sch.	Washington	219 3785			▲	★
Ryhope Infant Sch.	Sunderland	553 6238	●	■	▲	★
Seaburn Dene Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5590				★
Shiney Row Primary Sch.	Houghton	382 3088				★
South Hylton Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 6853			▲	★
Southwick Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 5500			▲	★
Springwell Village Primary Sch.	Gateshead	219 3790				★

Name	Area	Tel	●	■	▲	★
St. Bede's RC (Aided) Pr. Sch.	Washington	219 3795				★
St. Benet's RC (Aided) Pr. Sch.	Sunderland	553 5370				★
St. Cuthbert's RC (Aided) Pr. Sch.	Sunderland	553 6080				★
St. John Bosco RC (Aided) Pr. Sch.	Sunderland	553 6921				★
St. Joseph's RC (Aided) Pr. Sch.	Washington	219 3805				★
St. Joseph's RC (Aided) Pr. Sch.	Sunderland	553 7725				★
St. Mary's RC (Aided) Primary Sch	Sunderland	553 6087				
St. Paul's CE Controlled Pr. Sch.	Sunderland	553 6281				★
Thorney Close Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 6093				★
Town End Primary Sch.	Sunderland	553 6996			▲ [†]	★
Usworth Colliery Nursery Sch.	Washington	219 3820	●	■	▲	★
Usworth Grange Primary Sch.	Washington	219 3825				★
Valley Road Community Primary School	Sunderland	553 7750	●	■	▲	★
Wessington Primary School	Washington	219 3715	●	■	▲	★
Witherwack Primary School	Sunderland	553 5365			▲ ^{††}	★

Schools for children with Special Educational Needs

Barbara Priestman	Sunderland	553 6000				★
Columbia Grange	Washington	219 3860				★
Sunningdale School	Sunderland	553 5880			▲ ^{†††}	★

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Name	Area	Tel	●	■	▲	★
Private Nurseries						
Blue Square Childcare	Sunderland	549 7350	●	■		★
Briery Kindergarten	Sunderland	511 0607	●	■		★
Buttercups Day Nursery	Sunderland	520 8288	●	■		★
Buttons Nursery	Washington	419 2442	●	■		★
The Cedars Nursery	Sunderland	565 2549	●	■		★
Chilton Meadows Nursery	Houghton	358 4333	●	■		★
Fingerpaint Kindergarten	Sunderland	523 9919	●	■	▲	★
First Steps Kindergarten	Sunderland	548 9000	●	■	▲ ^{†††}	★
Fulwell Grange Kindergarten	Sunderland	548 5888	●	■		★
High View Nursery	Sunderland	549 9075	●	■		★
Horizons Kindergarten	Sunderland	528 8333	●	■		★
Just Learning Nursery	Sunderland	520 0600	●	■		★
Little Acorns Nursery	Washington	501 8133	●	■		★
Little Angels Nursery	Sunderland	553 8880	●	■		
Little Learners Day Nursery	Sunderland	528 5951	●	■	▲	★
Little Treasures Nursery	Washington	415 1849	●	■	▲ ^{†††}	★
Nesham Private Nursery	Houghton	584 8004	●	■		★
New World Nursery	Washington	416 2550	●	■		★

Name	Area	Tel	●	■	▲	★
Playdays Playgroup	Sunderland	528 4092	●	■	▲	★
Siblings Day Nursery	Sunderland	516 6455	●	■	▲	★
Springboard Nursery	Sunderland	515 5334	●	■		★
St Mary's Childcare Centre	Sunderland	515 2286	●	■	▲ ^{†††}	★
Sunflowers Day Nursery	Sunderland	537 3231	●	■		★
Tavistock House Day Nursery	Sunderland	514 0411	●	■	▲ ^{†††}	★
Thorney Close Childcare Centre	Sunderland	553 4164	●	■		★
Tyneside Early Education Nursery	Washington	417 1113	●	■		★
Waterview Park Nursery	Washington	225 1498	●	■		★

Playgroups and Sessional Nurseries

Gorse Nursery	Sunderland	528 0327	●			★
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Nursery classes of independent Schools

Argyle House School	Sunderland	510 0726				★
Grindon Hall Christian School	Sunderland	534 4444				★
Sunderland High School	Sunderland	514 3278	●	■	▲	★

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