



EASTBURY FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL

NURSERY ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

For pupils joining in the academic year 2025-2026

The Governors of Eastbury Farm Primary School have determined what criteria will be used for determining the nursery admissions.

Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 requires the governing boards of all maintained schools to admit a child with a statement of special educational needs that names their school. Eastbury Farm Primary School will therefore admit children with an EHC (Education, Health and Care) Plan that names the school, if we are able to cater for their specific needs.

Parents should apply directly to the nursery school they wish their child to attend. If there are fewer applications than places available at a school, all applicants will be admitted. However, if there are not enough places available, places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

- 1) Children looked after and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).
- 2) Children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a particular medical or social need to go to the school.
- 4) Children of serving staff members
- 3) Children eligible for 30 hours free child care
- 4) Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application, unless the sibling is in the last year of the normal age-range of the school (Year 6). If you have accepted an offer of a reception place for **September 2024** for another child in your family, this will also be considered a sibling application.
- 5) Children who live closest to the nursery.
- 6) Children who turn four between September 1st 2025 and 31st August 2026 will always have priority over children who three but will not turn four in the academic year 2025 – 2026.
- 7) In January of the academic year, if there are available spaces and no other child who meets criteria 6 is on our waiting list, a place may be offered.

If more children qualify under a particular rule than there are places available, a tiebreak will be used by applying the next rule to those children.

Tie-break

If more children qualify under criterion 4 than there are places available, priority will be given to those who live nearest to the nursery as measured in a straight line. Where there is a need for a tie-breaker where two different addresses measure the same distance from a nursery, in the case of a block of flats for example, the lower door number will be deemed nearest as logically this will be on the ground floor and therefore closer. If there are two identical addresses of separate applicants, the tie break will be random.

The nursery allocation process will be co-ordinated and administered by the school. Distances will be calculated using the 'Find my nearest school' website.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/research-a-school/measuring-home-to-school-distance.aspx>

Timeline for Admissions for September 2025

1. Parents are advised to contact the school office to attend a Nursery Tour in January 2025
2. Applications open Monday 3rd February 2025

3. Applications close Friday 14th March 2025
4. Offers made to parents via email Friday 21st March 2025
5. Deadline for parents to accept offers Thursday 27th March 2025

Notes

- a) "**Parents**" shall mean and include any person or persons *in loco parentis* to the applicant.
- b) "**Sibling**" means a sister, brother, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer or partner, and in every case living in the same house Monday to Friday.
- c) "**Applicant**" is a child on whose behalf an application for admission is being made.
- d) "**Permanent home address**" shall mean such address as at the closing date of application to Eastbury Farm Primary School. If a child regularly lives at more than one address Monday to Friday, the address provided should be the address where the child spends the majority of his/her time. Both parents/carers must declare this individually with the application.
- e) The term "**Children in Care (Looked after Children)**" is as defined in The Education (Admission of Looked after Children) (England) Regulations 2005
- f) If a vacancy arises and there are more applications than places after the start of the school year, the admissions criteria will be applied at the date the vacancy arises.
- g) In the case of children with special educational needs or a disability, but no statement, the oversubscription criteria will be applied as fairly to them as to other applicants.
- h) At Eastbury Farm Primary School, the governors, as the admitting authority, cannot exceed the class size of 30. Therefore if there is only a place for one of twins (or multiple births), it will be allocated to the oldest child.
- i) Applications to the Nursery and the Reception class are two separate procedures and attendance at Nursery does not guarantee admission to Reception class.

j) **Medical or Social need**

Rule 2 applications will only be considered at the time of the initial application. All applications will be considered individually but a successful application **must** include the following:

- a. Specific, recent professional evidence that justifies why **only** Eastbury Farm Primary School can meet a child's individual needs, and/or
- b. Professional evidence that outlines exceptional family circumstances making clear why **only** Eastbury Farm Primary School can meet the child's needs
- c. For medical cases – a clear explanation of why the child's severity of illness or disability makes attendance at Eastbury Farm Primary School essential. Evidence **must** show why **only** Eastbury Farm Primary School can meet the child's needs.

Applications under Rule 2 can only be considered when supported by a recent letter from a professional involved with the child or family. For example, a doctor, psychologist or police officer. The supporting evidence needs to be at the school as soon as possible, but no later than the closing date for applications on **Friday 14th March 2025**.

Additional Information

- a) Parents will need to ensure that they complete the Eastbury Farm Primary School application form by the published deadline.
- b) Parents should ensure that any supporting documentation has been sent to the Headteacher. The application list is closed on the published date. Should any information that is submitted be found to be incorrect, the governors will be entitled to remove the offer of a place at Eastbury Farm Primary School, even if the child has already started.
- c) If fewer than 30 places are accepted the governors will offer the remaining place(s) to the next applicant(s) on the original list.
- d) When all places have been accepted from this original list, a waiting list will be established to include all remaining, confirmed applicants and any late applicants (received after the closing date).
- e) It is the responsibility of all parents on the continuing interest list to keep the School advised of any change in circumstances.

f) A child's name will remain on the continuing interest list for one year. In July, the child's name will be automatically removed.

g) As there is no statutory requirement that your child attends a Nursery place, there will be no right of appeal.

h) Should an offer be made to you, it will be necessary for you to reply by **Thursday 27th March 2025**. We will endeavour to make contact with you before this date to remind you that a response is required using the contact details you supply within your application. However, should we not receive your notification of acceptance by this date, the offer will be withdrawn.

i) If you are not offered a place at the Nursery it means that other applicants have achieved a higher placing than you when the rules were applied.

j) Children are offered a place in the nursery starting in the September of the academic year in which the child becomes 4.

k) If we have any available spaces in the nursery, we will also take pupils the term after they turn 3 from January 2026. These children will complete the rest of the academic year in the nursery and then one more year, as they are unable to start Reception until the academic year in which they become 5.

Agreed by Governors at Eastbury Farm Primary School: September 2024

To be reviewed: September 2025