



## South Tawton Primary School Nursery Admissions Policy

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As an academy the Trust is the admission authority and has responsibility for setting these admission arrangements and for making decisions regarding admissions applications. Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust schools set their own oversubscription criteria.

### 1. The Ethos of Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust- South Tawton Primary School

South Tawton Primary is a fully inclusive school which provides children with the skills, knowledge and understanding to flourish in the 21st Century. Our aims are to do the following:

- a. Provide an environment where each child will be and feel safe and secure, emotionally and physically.
- b. Promote and encourage all children to make healthy choices.
- c. Encourage children to consider thoughtfully their own attitudes, values and beliefs, whilst respecting the feelings of others.
- d. Deliver a creative and motivating curriculum where each child is supported in developing lively and enquiry minds.
- e. Give children the confidence to ask questions, broaden their thinking and be receptive to the possibilities of new ideas and challenges.
- f. Personalise learning by building upon the interests of children, thus enabling them to experience both challenge and success.
- g. Develop each child's understanding and appreciation of community, making positive contributions to the communities to which they belong, through learning the key skills of collaboration and cooperation.
- h. Work in true partnership with parents, pupils, governors, staff and other colleagues/agencies who work to support children and young people.



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- I. Stimulate an interest in a wide range of activities by offering exciting and diverse experiences thereby fostering a love for life-long learning which builds upon the additional opportunities that we provide outside of the classroom and beyond the school day.
  - 1.1.
  2. **Early Years Funding for two-, three- and four-year-olds**
    - 2.1. All three- and four-year-olds are entitled to a funded early years place for 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year. Some children, whose parents are working, will be entitled to 1140 hours a year.
    - 2.2. Some two-year-olds are eligible for a funded place in provision that Devon County Council has approved as being good or better quality. Our preschool is an approved provider and can admit two-year-olds the term after their second birthday.
    - 2.3. **If you are not sure whether you can get a funded place for your two-year-old, you should [check here](#) .**



Would you like:

- to give your child a head start?
- to be able to go back to work?
- to give your child high quality learning and care?
- to have some time for yourself?

Check out if your 2-year-old can get 15 hours of childcare per week at a preschool, childminder or nursery - **and at no cost to you!**

Visit: [devon.cc/tyf](https://devon.cc/tyf)  
Call: **0345 155 1013**



You can also check if your child can have a free meal if they go to a nursery in a school!

For further information and terms and conditions visit:

[devon.cc/childcaretyf](https://devon.cc/childcaretyf)

From the Early Years and Childcare team

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**2.4.** We expect to admit children who will be using their Early Years Funding as well as children whose parents are buying additional hours and those that are both funded and buying hours. There may be some children who are only attending for bought hours and some that only attend for funded hours. The maximum amount of funded time that can be taken in a day is 6 hours; parents cannot use more than two sites for funded early years places in one day.

### **3. Admissions to the nursery/preschools within Dartmoor Multi Academy trust**

**3.1.** At our primary school, we admit the following:

- Eligible two-year-olds funded from the start of the funding period following their second birthday.
- Non-funded two-year-olds from the start of the term following their second birthday.
- Early Years funded three- and four-year-olds from the start of the funding period following their third birthday.
- Non-funded three- and four-year-olds from the start of term following their third birthday.

### **4. Points of Admission to nursery/preschool**

**4.1.** Generally, children will start at nursery/preschool at the beginning of a term. Eligibility for the Early Years Funding for two-year-olds is from the start of the funding period following a child's second birthday and eligibility for all three-years-olds to receive the Early Years Funding is at the start of the funding period following their third birthday. This funding will be paid up until the time when the child reaches statutory school age if the parent chooses to defer or delay entry into school.

**4.2.** There is a legal requirement that all children begin full time education by the beginning of the term following their **fifth** birthday. All places offered in reception at the normal round are for **full-time admission** in the September following the **fourth** birthday. This is a legal requirement on schools but not on parents who retain a right to defer admission or send their child part time.

### **5. Patterns of attendance available**

**5.1.** We are required to offer the Early Years Funding in a flexible way. Our Trust schools makes a core offer for the **universal** 570-hour entitlement of:

- Morning sessions of 9.00am to 12.00pm and
- Afternoon sessions of 12.00pm to 3.00pm and
- All day sessions of 9.00am to 3.00pm during term time only.

**5.2.** Our all year-round offer is term time 38 weeks of the year.

**5.3.** If you choose an afternoon or an all-day session this includes the lunchtime period that is 12.00 – 1.00pm. This time is part of the day when children continue their learning and will be funded as part of the Early Years Funding if that is what parents/carers choose. We are not permitted to charge for this time.

### **6. Extended Hours**

**6.1.** Families that have an 11-digit code because they are working and eligible for the **extended entitlement** can have up to 1140 hours stretched across a year. This equates to 30 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year.



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- 6.2. If parents want to buy additional hours on top of the 15 funded hours or the extended entitlement, they can do this during any of our opening times. We sell 3-hour long sessions and will consider selling single hours at £4.30 for three and four- year-olds and £5.24 for two-year-olds. A 3 hour long session is charged at £12.90/£15.72.
- 6.3. Families that require a longer day than we can offer should contact the providers that we partner with; these are searchable on [Pinpoint](#)
- 6.4. The table below sets out our session times. When applying for a place please use the [application form](#). **We only consider requests for sessions AFTER the oversubscription criteria have been applied.**

Session choices	Hours
9.00am – 12.00pm	3
12.00pm – 3.00pm	3
9.00am – 3.00pm	6

- 6.5. Parents wishing to use their 15 funded hours during term times only with us need to choose sessions carefully so that they can access the full 15 hours e.g., sessions of 6 + 3 + 3 + 3 hours = 15 OR 9 + 6 hours = 15 OR 5 + 5 + 5 = 15

### 7. Charging

- 7.1. There is no charge for applying for a place, for admission or for the provision of the funded entitlements. We will not request donations before or during the admissions process and any donations made to the school following admission are entirely voluntary. No bought activities, such as visits, are compulsory.
- 7.2. The school must comply with Devon County Councils [Provider Agreement](#).
- 7.3. Details about buying additional sessions in the preschool are set out in the schools [Charging and Remissions Policy](#).

### 8. Childcare Vouchers and Tax-Free Childcare

- 8.1. Our Trust accepts childcare vouchers. Please contact our administrator for further details.
- 8.2. Our schools are [registered](#) for [tax free childcare](#). Parents can apply through [Childcare Choices](#). This helps to make childcare more affordable.

### 9. School Lunches

- 9.1. [Free school meals](#) (FSM) must be provided for children (whose parents meet the [eligibility criteria](#)) and if their child attends **both** before and after the lunch time period. This generally means an all-day session. A free school meal will be provided whether the child is attending for funded or bought time and regardless of their age. Parents must check eligibility through the [Citizens Portal](#).



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### 10. Visiting

- 10.1.** We welcome visits from parents and children who are considering applying for a place here. This is an opportunity for you to see what we have to offer. Visits are not a compulsory part of the admissions process and will not affect decisions on whether a place can be offered at our preschool. If you would like to visit our preschool, you should contact the school to make an appointment. 01837 840242. We also offer stay and play taster sessions.
- 10.2.** Most children will start at the preschool at the start of the term. Other children join us at other times. This may be because they are new to the area or would like to transfer from another early year's provider.
- 10.3.** Places are not allocated to a child automatically, even where:
- there is an older sibling attending here;
  - a child attends a particular toddler group or Children's Centre attached to the school.
  - a parent has expressed an interest at any time in the school; or
  - the child has always lived close to the school.
- 10.4.** No places will be held in reserve for a child who applies late; the school cannot hold places empty if another child applies for admission.

### 11. How to apply for a nursery place

- 11.1.** Parents must complete the [application form](#) and return it to the school.
- 11.2.** The closing dates for applications for the preschool intake are in the half term before admission. You can apply after these dates, but your application may not be considered until after all the applications that were on time. If you couldn't apply before because, for instance, you moved to this area, you should make sure that you inform the school. If the reason for applying after the closing date is accepted, your application will be considered at the same time as everyone who did apply on time if this is still possible.

### 12. Information provided in an application

- 12.1.** We would like all applications to be fully and honestly completed. It is important that where we offer places to some and refuse others we do so fairly and consistently. Where we have reason to believe that information is false and has been provided knowingly, we may withdraw the offer of a place. This is particularly relevant where an address is given which is not the one from which a child will actually attend preschool, and this disadvantages another child.
- 12.2.** If you know or believe that your child's address will change before admission, you must inform the school as this may affect your application.
- 12.3.** You will be asked to provide a birth certificate so we can check your child's age.

### 13. What happens next

- 13.1.** If there are fewer applications than places, then no application will be refused. Only if there are more applications than there are places available the Admissions Committee will prioritise applications according to the oversubscription criteria.
- 13.2.** We will endeavour to give the hours requested on the [application form](#). It is inevitable, however, that some parents who have been prioritised will not be able to access the hours



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they have requested. In these instances, we will offer times (days/hours/weeks) that fall closest to the hours requested.

- 13.3.** We will contact successful parents to welcome them to the preschool and to make arrangements for admission itself. You will also be contacted if we do not have a place available so that you can apply to another provider.

### 14. Overview of the Admissions Process

<b>1) Visit the nursery in:</b>	Spring/Summer term	Autumn term	Spring term
<b>2) Apply by:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> May	15 <sup>th</sup> October	31 <sup>st</sup> January
<b>3) Admissions panel meet in:</b>	June	November	February
<b>4) Receive communications about your application before:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June	30 <sup>th</sup> November	28 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>5) Reply to the letter</b>	Reply to the email within 2 weeks to accept a place (or ask why you did not get a place). You can telephone, email or write to the school	Reply to the email within 2 weeks to accept a place (or ask why you did not get a place). You can telephone, email or write to the school	Reply to the email within 2 weeks to accept a place (or ask why you did not get a place). You can telephone, email or write to the school
<b>6) Start at Nursery (or at the start of term closest to that month)</b>	September Autumn Term	January Spring term	April Summer term

**You can apply for a preschool place outside of these times or mid term by contacting [admin@southtawton.org.uk](mailto:admin@southtawton.org.uk) or ringing 01837 840242**

### 15. Published Nursery Admissions Number (PNAN)

- 15.1.** This is the number of places we intend to make available for our normal nursery/preschool intake. Once we set this number, we will not refuse admission for applications below the PNAN. If there is unexpectedly high demand and we believe we could admit more children, we inform Devon County Council's Early Years and Childcare Team and either some children will be admitted above the PNAN or we will increase the PNAN. The number of children that can be admitted will depend on their age, the amount of floor space we have and whether additional staff will be required.
- 15.2.** The Admissions Committee also factor in the local demand for places. If there is a change to the PNAN part way through the year this will be published on our website.
- 15.3.** If there is an increase in the demand for places the Admissions Committee may decide to increase the PNAN in order to accommodate children on the waiting list and conversely reduce the PNAN if there is a very low demand.





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- 15.4.** Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the Resolutions Committee will use the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the (Published Nursery Admissions Number) in the nursery/preschool the governing body will use the following **oversubscription criteria** to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

A child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school will be admitted.

1. Looked after Children or those who were Looked After but ceased to be because they were adopted, made the subject of a child arrangements order or made the subject of a special guardianship order.
2. Children with an exceptional medical or social need to attend this nursery.
3. Children who live in the designated area and are eligible for two-year-old funding.  
[Check your eligibility for two-year-old funding and free school meals in the nursery](#)
4. Children who live in the school's designated area who have a sibling at the school.
5. All other children who live in the designated area.
6. Children who live outside of the designated area with a sibling at the school.
7. Children who live outside the designated area who are eligible for the early years funding for two-year-olds.
8. Other children.

### 16. Waiting lists

- 16.1.** Following the allocation of preschool places, the school will retain a waiting list. Waiting lists will be kept in order of the oversubscription criteria above. Places on lists will not be prioritised according to how long a child's name has been on that list or by the age of the child or by whether the sessions are funded or bought. It is possible that a child's name could go down on a list as well as up.
- 16.2.** If a place is only available for a short period of time, i.e. half a term or less, then the school will discuss with the parent whether it would be in the child's best interest to attend the preschool for such a short period of time before having to find a place at another provider. Continuity and consistency of care is most important in the early years and having lots of transitions can be disruptive for a child.

### 17. Increasing the hours attended

- 17.1.** If a place/session becomes available part way through a term and there is a waiting list, priority for the place/session will be given to the children on the waiting list. If the parents on the waiting list do not want the sessions as the times that are available, then they can be offered to parents of children who are already attending the preschool. Similarly, if there is not a waiting list and there are parents of children that already attend the preschool who want to either take up additional funded hours and/or buy extra hours then a list of those parents will be made, and the oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine who should be given priority for that place.



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### **18. Admissions appeals**

- 18.1.** If a preschool place is refused, parents can go through the Trust's complaints process [here](#) to express their concerns. The Admissions Committee will review the decision and decide whether the refusal was justified on the grounds that the nursery is full. Even if it is agreed that the preschool was full, it will also consider the impact on the child and family and may still award a place at the preschool if there is both the physical space and sufficient staff available.

### **19. Transport**

- 19.1.** No transport is available for nursery children.

### **20. Uniform**

- 20.1.** Children attending our preschool are not expected to wear a uniform. However, T-shirts and sweatshirts with our logo are available from Mole Avon Country Stores. Parents unable to purchase items of uniform or equipment will not be penalised, wearing uniform in the nursery is optional. Our PTA also sells good quality second-hand uniform for £1 a piece. Please ask us for further information.

### **21. Claiming the Early Years Funding**

- 21.1.** The Early Years Funding can be taken at more than one provider; parents cannot use providers on more than two sites in one day. The provider claims the funding on your behalf.
- 21.2.** It is important that both the school and parent can see what time is funded and what time is being bought.
- 21.3.** Parents must not claim more than the 570 or 1140-hour entitlement, checks are carried out to ensure that over claims are not made.

### **22. Changes to attendance**

- 22.1.** Changes to the times when a child is attending will generally only be agreed to take effect from the start of a term. The oversubscription criteria will be applied to both a) and b) below to determine within each group which children should be given priority. Order of priority for the consideration of unfilled places.
- a) New applications from parents whose children do not yet attend the nursery.
  - b) Requests by parents whose children attend the nursery, and they want to increase OR change the times their child attends

- 22.2.** It is expected that parents will ensure that their child will attend at the times agreed so that children can establish a routine and be ready to start school.

### **23. Induction and transition arrangements for starting preschool.**

- 23.1.** When starting at our preschool, children can attend for the full amount of time, or a phased transition to suit the needs of your child.

### **24. Contacts and further information**

<b>Principal</b>	Sarah Marvin
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<b>E-mail:</b>	admin@southtawton.org.uk
<b>Telephone:</b>	01837 840242
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.southtawton.co.uk">www.southtawton.co.uk</a>