



Brindishe Schools Nursery Admissions Policy

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Brindishe Green School Beacon Road, London SE13 6EH Tel: 020 8852 7245
Brindishe Lee School Wantage Road, London SE12 8NA Tel: 020 8318 4626
Brindishe Manor School Leahurst Road, London SE13 5LS Tel: 020 8852 0852

Executive Head: Rachel Waite Chair of Governors: Lindsay Dale

Admissions Policy

Applying for a place in a nursery class at Brindishe Green or Brindishe Manor. Please note Brindishe Lee does NOT have a nursery class.

How and when can I apply for a place in the nursery?

The nursery takes in children aged 3 and 4 years. You can apply for a place after your child has had their second birthday. Children may start in the nursery after the age of 3 years.

You can collect and complete an application form from the school any day from Monday to Friday between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

Does applying early help my child to get a place at Brindishe Green or Brindishe Manor schools?

No. Places are not given on a "first come first served" basis. As long as you have registered in time your application will be considered along with all of the others.

How many places are available?

We offer part time places – a morning or an afternoon, with one extra session per week. For example if your child has a morning place, they can have one extra session in the afternoon but they will have to go home for lunch. The nursery class has 24 places in each session. The majority of children start nursery in the September after their 3rd birthday. Some places may become available at other times of the year if children leave during the year.

Can I apply to more than one nursery?

Yes. You can apply to any nursery in your local area. You can make multiple applications. However you can only take up one free nursery place of 15 hours a week- you will need to pay for the additional place if you have your child in more than one nursery

How does my child get a place in the nursery?

Nursery education is not compulsory. It is non – statutory. Nursery places are in great demand. Not all of Lewisham's children get a nursery place in a school. Over half attend private or voluntary sector provision.

The Headteacher, in conjunction with Lewisham Education and the Director of Children and Young Peoples' Services, allocates places and decisions are made to give priority in the following order:

- a) To children in public care. A 'looked after' child, is a child who is in care to a local authority or who is provided with accommodation by that authority, as well as children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or become subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
- b) To children with an exceptional medical or social need for this particular school. There is discretion to admit a child who would not otherwise qualify for admission if they, or their family, have acute medical or social need for this school. (This must be supported by professional documentation clearly setting out the reasons why this school is the only one able to meet the child's needs).
- c) To children whose brother or sister (a sibling*) is on the roll of the main school when the

application is made and is expected to be on roll at the school at the intended date of admission. (Siblings must live at the same address, *and include all blood or adoptive siblings, or half-siblings, foster siblings of 'looked after' children, and step-siblings.)

d) To children living nearest to the school. All distance being measured in a straight line from home to the main school gate.

If the school is oversubscribed entirely with siblings, priority will be given to :

- those with exceptional social or medical need.
- those living nearest.

You are advised not to use false or fraudulent information in order to gain a place at the school.

The Headteacher has discretion over the balance of 3 and 4 year olds in the nursery.

An existing child-minder's address may be taken into account to determine nearness if the child has a medical or social need for a place in the nursery. Any claim for a place on these grounds should be supported by professional documentation and the Headteacher will consult the admissions section of Lewisham Education before making a decision. The child's home address must also be in Lewisham.

What kind of needs matter?

The Headteacher considers the needs of the child not the needs of parent, carer or child-minder. A child's needs may include:

- language delay
- new to English
- learning difficulties
- difficult home/personal circumstances

When will I hear if my child has a place? You will hear in June if you have been offered a place

for the following September. We have a very high number of applications therefore we only write to you with an offer, we do not write to you if you are not offered a place. The nursery class is for children aged 3 and 4 years. Most children will have 3 terms in nursery (September-July). Some children may have up to five if spaces are available. Unfortunately we can't always meet these ideals. Sadly some are disappointed and are not offered places at all. Some can only be offered one or two terms.

What happens once I have been offered a nursery place?

Once you have been offered and accepted the place we will need to see your child's birth certificate or passport. We also need a means of proving the child's home address.

This must be:

A council tax statement and an up to date gas, electricity or water bill and either a tenancy agreement or mortgage statement or title deed. If you have recently moved to the area we will require the following information: closing accounts for the original property, official confirmation of

the end of tenancy, or house sale. A tenancy agreement with a commercial letting agency must be for more than 12 months and go beyond your child's start date, or solicitors' letter confirming the purchase of the new property. If a residence or court order is held this should be provided. We will need to see this proof before we can confirm the offer.

The London Borough of Lewisham may check the details which you provide against records held within the Council and by other agencies. After we have verified the information we will then confirm your child's admission to nursery.

What happens next?

The school will write to you and let you know when you will be able to visit the nursery with your child. This is known as an induction meeting and is intended to give your child the chance to meet their new teacher and it will give you the chance to tell the teacher about your child. During the visit the nursery teacher will let you know the starting date and settling procedures for your child. She will also discuss the arrangements for ensuring that your child's start in the nursery is a happy and confident one.

What if my child doesn't get a place - Can I make an appeal to the Local Authority for one?

No. Nursery education is non statutory. This means it is not compulsory for children to attend a nursery.

Some of the children in the nursery are younger than my child and they've got places. Why is this?

Places are given according to the child's needs, circumstances and the distance they live from the school; not necessarily according to their age.

If my child has a place in the nursery does it mean they will get a place in the main school?

No. Places in the main school are allocated according to the admissions criteria specified by Lewisham Authority. See 'Applying for a place in Reception'