



ADMISSIONS

Nursery Admissions and Access

Admission to the Nursery

- In the Autism Early Support Trust Limited, the Nursery, we cater for children aged between 2 years and 5 years.
- Children usually have a diagnosis of either autism or complex language/communication difficulty.
- Criteria for admission are based upon an assessment of the needs of the child matching the specialist provision we offer and not upon a specific diagnosis.
- Places will usually be allocated on a first come first served basis - using the date on which a completed application form is received.
- Our Nursery is open for 35 weeks a year. Sessions available are:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday	9.45 am – 2.45pm <i>(2 sessions including lunch)</i>
Thursday & Friday - Morning	9.45 am – 12.15 pm
Thursday - Afternoon	1.15 pm – 3.30 pm

- Children may attend between 2 and 6 sessions per week. A session is two and a half hours long. The minimum of 2 sessions a week cannot be combined into one full day. Children attending only once a week would only access the curriculum and timetable run in the mornings once a week, and this would not be in the best interests of the child. For this reason, children should attend a minimum of 2 of the standard timetabled morning or Thursday afternoon sessions.
- Parents must agree to give one term's notice (12 weeks) when their child is to leave the specialist Nursery.
- Prior to admission to the Specialist Nursery, parents are asked to attend a Parent induction to inform them of the structure of the setting, and the vital part that funding and fundraising plays
- The nursery is proud to be a charity operating under the name of Autism Early Support Trust Limited and running the Specialist Nursery provision. It is our policy never to turn away any child who would benefit from our services, for whom we can find a place.

- Our fundraising activities support our income: we need about £450,000 per year to provide our services.
- Our Nursery operates as both an early years nursery, providing access to the EYFS and free entitlement (term time only) to nursery education for 3- and 4-year-old children, as well as a provider of specialist education and therapy for children who have special educational needs (as defined by the 1996 Education Act and the 2014 Children and Families Bill). AET heavily subsidises the specialist provision at the Nursery. This is exclusive of the nursery grant, which funds the provision for access to the EYFS.
- Parents must agree to enable AET to claim the Early Years Education Grant for their child (when eligible). If we are unable to claim the Early Years Education Grant, parents will be charged the equivalent amount. (This is currently £10.83 per week for a 2.5 hour session.) [This is in addition to the contribution for specialist teaching and therapy you will be asked to make
- Income is also received from Local Authorities (LAs) when an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) has been agreed for a child and Higher Needs Funding (HNF) or equivalent is made available. Most children who attend our nursery eventually obtain some level of LA funding for a portion of the cost of their place at our setting, either through their EHCP or HNF.
- However, these sources of funding still leave a significant gap that AET asks parents to help bridge.

Nursery Access

- Our Nursery is all on one level, we will do all we can to ensure any child who may have mobility difficulties can be accommodated.

Delaying school and sessions at our nursery

- **Children usually start school in the academic year they turn 5. The statutory requirement is that they must attend school from the term after they turn 5.** Parental preference mean parents can request their child to remain in a preschool environment and not commence school until the term after they are 5. Admission to our specialist nursery would only be agreed in these cases where the child is able to complete the minimum of two terms.
- Continuation of sessions for an existing child will only continue on our 3 subsidised sessions unless the local authority have agreed to fund more and agree to place the child at our setting.
- If offered a school place, which parents have elected to decline children would only be able to remain at our setting on the agreed number of sessions (up to 3 if not funded by the LA) or up to 6 if agreed and funded by the LA.

- **Local Authority agreement is required to defer school entry for your child. Without local authority agreement to defer, your child will be expected to join year 1 when they start school.**

For full information regarding parental contributions, funding and local authority fees please refer to our separate parental contributions, fees and funding information.

Review Date:	July 2019
Next Review Due:	July 2021