



## **Frequently Asked Questions – EYFS Tours**

### **What is the catchment area for the school?**

We have no specified catchment area.

Places are offered first to children with Education Health Care Plans and any Looked after children, alongside siblings of pupils currently at school.

Thereafter, places in reception are allocated to children based on distance lived from the school. Each year, this means that the catchment radius around the school changes dependent on number of siblings in school and the location of those families new to the school.

In the last few years, the distance has varied from within 0.3 miles from the school or less, up to approx. 0.7 miles distance from the school.

If your child attends our nursery, they are not guaranteed a place in our reception. We manage admissions for nursery but the local authority are responsible for Reception allocation.

### **If I want to choose Brookburn but I do not live nearby, what should I do?**

If you are not likely to fall within a reasonable catchment distance for the school, it is unlikely that you will be successful in securing a place. By placing Brookburn as 1<sup>st</sup> choice, you potentially jeopardise gaining your most local school as your 2<sup>nd</sup> choice. All we can advise is that you make sure your closest school is placed as your 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> school, but advise you that not having your local school down 1<sup>st</sup> means you may not get a place there if Brookburn is also full.

### **Do you have a waiting list?**

Like other schools, we do have a waiting list, and you can keep your child's name on it for the duration of the autumn term. At Christmas, if you want to remain on the list, you should contact the local authority to make them aware that you intend to take a place if one were to come up at Brookburn.

### **If we don't get a reception place, can we appeal?**

You can appeal the Local Authority's decision if you are not happy with the school allocation you have been given. Details for appeals can be found on the Local Authority website.

### **Do we have to pay for nursery?**

Nursery provision can be paid for using your statutory 15 hours of childcare support. There are an additional 15 hours available that you can apply for. These hours are means tested – i.e. they are offered to families where neither parent earns in excess of £100,000 per year. This funding allocation is granted each term. It is parents' responsibility to reapply each term for the funding, otherwise as a

school, we will need to bill you for your child's place. If you do not qualify for 30 hours free child care, there will be a charge for a full time place, which is currently £50.00 per week.

**Do you offer part time nursery places?**

We have a limited number of part time places. We offer half weeks, so full days Monday and Tuesday and a half day on Wednesday morning OR a half day on Wednesday afternoon, and full days on Thursday and Friday.

If you take a part time place initially, but intend to move to full time later in the year, we cannot guarantee that we will have space to accommodate your child in the future as it is based on the number of children we can have in our provision at any one time.

When trips and visits are organised, we cannot guarantee that these will happen on the days of your child's placement. If the trip is on a day where your child does not attend nursery, due to ratios, we would not be able to accommodate them on the trip.

**I am worried about my child settling in nursery. Do they find it really hard when we drop them off?**

Historically, we have offered a daily stay and play session for all parents in Nursery. This gives you the ability to stay and play with your child for the first 20 minutes of each day. Some children find separating from you hard, and whilst it is tough, they are always fine once the initial hurdle of leaving you has taken place. You getting to stay with them for the first part of the day, interact with them in the environment, and catch up with other parents too, is a nice way to start the day, and please be assured, the separation does get easier!

In recent Covid months, we have not been able to have parents stay and play and interestingly, where we thought this would make settling harder, children have coped brilliantly and we have seen less tears than in previous years. In the interests of honesty, we have not yet made any decisions about stay and play next year. We will always offer regular opportunities to spend time in the environment, although we are not sure yet if this will return to how things were before Covid or not at the time of sharing this document.

**My child is summer born and I am worried about them starting school in September? Can they stay behind a year or start on a part time placement?**

It is always hard when your children are the youngest in the year and have just turned 4. Starting school can be daunting for them, and for you as parents. Unfortunately, unless children have significant need, recognised through an Education Health Care Plan, we are not able to accommodate a child starting school in the year group for their age.

We will always work with you if you feel that your child needs a gradual / phased transition into reception however in our experience, for most children, getting into the routine of school, and getting quickly familiar with their peers and adults, makes a huge difference immediately and supports them

in settling well. We will keep you well informed of how your child is settling and are happy to work with you if we agree that your child needs a differentiated approach to starting school.

**My child has some additional needs. What is in place to support them?**

We have a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator who works across the school and takes responsibility for supporting all children with additional needs. The SENCo works closely with our teaching staff and is on hand to discuss any concerns that you have about your child, prior to them starting at our school.

We would strongly recommend that you contact the school to speak to the SENCo if you feel that your child has any difficulties which have been identified. This helps us prepare effectively for their transition.

We have many children in our school with additional needs, and a skilled team of staff on hand to support them.

**We need a place for our child at before and after school club. Do you provide these facilities and how can we apply?**

We run out of hours childcare, which is called Dolphins. Children can arrive from 7.45am and can be collected through to 6pm.

This provision is very popular, and we have done our very best to serve as many families as possible given the high number of working parents we have in our community. Unfortunately, this provision is currently full and a waiting list exists. We are **not able to guarantee** a place to anyone for this provision.

We are continuing to do all that we can to increase our provision capacity in order to support more families. There are a number of alternative options by way of child care providers who collect groups of children from Brookburn and our office team will be happy to share the contact details of all providers if you do require more support.

**What events take place for the community at Brookburn?**

We are incredibly lucky and have a wonderful parent community who engage with our school brilliantly. One key group here is our PTA, Friends of Brookburn. They do so much to support the school, running fundraising events and prioritising community gatherings in support of the school.

Our PTA are always looking for new members to bring ideas and enthusiasm to events that are run, and they meet regularly to talk about opportunities. They organise school discos, film nights and fairs. They support a Welly Walk event in the Spring Term and are very proactive in helping maintain our outdoor environment, regularly meeting at the weekend to access our school site, families in tow, to develop our grounds.

Everyone here is very friendly and welcoming. We have no doubts that you will make many new friends within the community.

Within school, we offer lots of opportunities for parents to come in for workshops and visit your children's classrooms to see learning taking place.

### **How is information communicated to us as parents?**

Key headline information for the whole school is shared via our ParentMail app, which you will be able to download when your child starts at our school.

We also use a ParentPay app, enabling you to pay for trips or events electronically. We are now a cashless school.

Informal chats with you and your child's teacher can happen as required – our staff are available at the start and end of the day. This includes for year groups further up the school. Should you need a meeting with your child's teacher, we would ask you to email the school and make this request, simply so that our teachers can set aside the required time to meet with you, and prepare should that be needed.

We have two parents' evening events through the year and send a report at the end of the school year.

At the end of each year, we run a meet the teacher event so that you have the opportunity to meet your child's next class teacher and hear about key information for their next year group.

### **What is your feeder Secondary School?**

Children at Brookburn go to many schools for Year 7. Nearly half of our children attend Chorlton High, and some now choosing Chorlton High South. Chorlton High is our main feeder school.

A number of children sit the 11+ examination, with multiple grammar options available – including Stretford Grammar, Urmston Grammar and Sale Grammar.