Bernards Heath Infant and Nursery School

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Bernards Heath Infant and Nursery School

Nursery Admissions 2027/28

Children are welcomed into Nursery in September. Nursery is a child's first year in the Foundation Stage and as such children in our Nursery wear the same uniform as the children in Reception and take a full and active part in school life.

Our Nursery has 26 places in the morning and afternoon sessions. We offer a combination of morning, All Day A (a full day Monday and Tuesday and a Wednesday morning), All Day B (Wednesday afternoon and a full day on a Thursday and Friday) and 30 hour places. Please click on this link to see if you are eligible for a 30 hour extended childcare place.

Parents have the choice to defer their child's entry to Reception if they are summer born and can choose for their child to spend an additional year in the Nursery. These children are given priority when allocating Nursery places for September 2027 if their parents have informed school of their decision to defer.

The allocation of sessions is an additional process to the admissions process and is overseen by a school governor. Our session allocation policy can be found on the Admission Page of our website.

Applications for our Nursery will be prioritised in the following order:

Rule 1 - children looked after

Children looked after by the local authority, including children who were previously looked after but were then adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order).
Adopted children must have been previously looked after by an English or Welsh local authority.
Evidence needed (Rule 1)
Include a letter or document from your child's social worker, advisory teacher or other professional as evidence.

Rule 2 - medical or social needs

Children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a particular medical or social need to go to our Nursery school.
The DfE Code of Practice stipulates that all settings (0-25 years) must support children with a wide range of additional needs and are expected to accommodate severe medical needs.
An application made under Rule 2 should clearly demonstrate why our Nursery is the only one that can meet your child's need in a way that no other Nursery can.
Evidence needed (Rule 2)
Recent independent objective evidence, for example from a doctor, psychologist, social worker or other professional involved with your child.
Professional evidence that outlines exceptional family circumstances making clear why only our Nursery can meet your child's needs.
If our Nursery is not the nearest Nursery to your child's home address, give specific reasons why closer schools will not meet your child's needs.
Evidence must relate specifically to the school being applied for under Rule 2.

A panel of governors will decide whether the evidence provided is enough to meet the requirements for this rule.

Healthy Schools

University of Hertfordshire UH

child
home school

We are committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected and we strictly adhere to the provisions of all relevant Data Protection Legislation, including GDPR, ensuring all personal data is handled in line with the principles outlined in the School's Data Protection Policy. Information about the types, use and retention of personal data we collect can be found on our website under Statutory Information - Data Protection Policy.

Examples of cases that have and haven't been accepted under Rule 2

Examples of cases that **have been accepted** under Rule 2:

- children with an exceptional illness or disability (for example, restricted mobility) who can only reasonably attend one school.
- where only one school is suitable due to child protection issues. We'll give priority to children whose education would be seriously affected if they did not go to a particular school.

Examples of cases that **have not been accepted** under Rule 2:

- cases made around childminding arrangements, such as using a childminder that children are already familiar with who caters for children attending certain schools. Or childminding by family members who live close to a specific school. These cases weren't upheld because they're not exceptional. Many families rely on complex childminding arrangements.
- Cases made for children with specific learning or behavioural needs where the professional evidence submitted is not school specific. All schools are able to support children with a wide variety of individual needs. If a child's individual needs warrant a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, the statement or EHC plan will name the appropriate school.
- Medical cases where even though there is a severe illness, more than one school could accommodate the child's needs.

Rule 3 - deferred entry to reception

Children who have received one year of Nursery education at Bernards Heath and who are born between 1/4/2023 and 31/8/2023 are eligible to defer their start to reception until autumn term 2028. Parents must notify the school about their decision to defer. Decisions to defer made after the cut-off time will not guarantee a Nursery space.

Rule 4 – siblings

Children who have a sibling on the roll in Reception to Year 2 of our school or in Year 3 to 5 at Bernards Heath Junior School (our linked school) at the time of application.

"Sibling" includes:

- brother or sister
- half brother or sister
- adopted brother or sister
- child of the parent / carer or partner
- children looked after or previously looked after. This doesn't include children temporarily living in the same house. For example, a looked after child in a short term foster or bridging placement.

In every case, the sibling must be living permanently in the same family home (at least Monday to Friday).

A sibling must be on the roll of our school or at Bernards Heath Juniors, or have been offered and accepted a place, at the school at the time of application (and when child starts).

Rule 5 – children living closest to school

Children who live closest to school are given priority. Children not considered under rules 1-4 will be considered under rule 5. To check the distance from your home to our school you can use the Hertfordshire mapping tool by following the link below. Please note this will check the distance between your home and all schools including those without a Nursery.

Hertfordshire Mapping Tool

Click ‘work out your home to school distance’
Type in your postcode and click ‘find address’
Select your address from the list
Select ‘find your nearest school for reception 2027 from the dropdown box
Scroll down to see the distance in metres your nearest schools are to your home

We reserve the right to request proof of your child’s address under rule 5.

Tiebreak

Admission rules are applied in order. If more children qualify for a school place under a particular rule than there are places available, a tiebreak will be used. That means the next rule will be applied to those children.

A tiebreak will also be used if 2 applications have addresses that measure the same distance from a school.

For example, if 2 applications had identical home to school distance measurements, a random tiebreak would be used to decide which applicant is offered a place.

If 2 applications were received from the same block of flats, the applicant with the lower door number would be classed as nearest and offered a place because they are likely to be closer to the ground floor and, therefore, the school.