

CHRIST CHURCH PLAYGROUP

Admissions Policy

Christ Church playgroup is a community playgroup run by a voluntary committee which is a sub-committee of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Christchurch, Highbury. The committee is principally constituted by parents of children who are or were at playgroup acting as officers (Chair, Secretary, Admissions, Treasurer, Parent Representatives) and members of the PCC.

It is essential that all parents support the committee by getting involved in the running of playgroup whether by joining the committee, supporting fundraising activities, providing any useful expertise, attendance at events or otherwise. Please think carefully about your ability to get involved before applying for a place for your child and bear in mind that everyone who is involved in playgroup has other family and work commitments and the more people involved the less reliance there is on a dedicated few.

The playgroup is part of Christ Church but religious affiliation is not an admission criteria.

We offer 26 places to children aged between 2 and 4 years (with a maximum of twelve 2 year olds at any one time). Places will be offered to children who will become 3 in the academic year starting on the first day of September following the application deadline. For example, if your child will be 3 between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 then you need to apply by 31 March 2014.

As recommended by Islington Council and in accordance with recognised best practice, there is a compulsory shorter session for all new starters. For the first half term of attendance, or such shorter or longer period as the Playgroup Leader decides is appropriate for your child bearing in mind that the start dates for new starters is staggered, pick up for new starters is at 11.15am. They will progress to the full session at the Playgroup Leader's discretion.

Places will usually only be offered to children resident within the London Borough of Islington. If there are still places available, once all Islington applicants have been admitted, then places will be offered to children resident in other boroughs.

If there are more applicants within an age band, i.e. 2 year olds and 3 – 4 year olds, than there are places available in that age band, the Admissions Secretary will admit children in that age band according to the following criteria and in the order of priority below:

1. Children who are in public care ('looked after children'). Recent written evidence should be supplied, at the time of application, from the relevant local authority.
2. Children with documented special medical or social needs. Recent written supporting evidence should be supplied, at the time of application, from a relevant professional, such as a doctor, social worker or educational psychologist or a community representative. The supporting evidence should state the reason why Christ Church Playgroup is the most suitable playgroup and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to go to another playgroup.
3. Children who will have one or more siblings attending playgroup at the time of their entry to playgroup, i.e. two siblings attending at the same time.
4. Children with a sibling who has attended playgroup in any of the preceding three full academic years
5. Other applicants, according to the proximity of their home address to the playgroup at the time an offer of a place is made.

Places will not be allocated according to the length of time a child's name is on the application waiting list.

Details of fees are available on the playgroup's website and from the Playgroup Leader.

As explained above, applications for admissions for each academic year starting on 1st September must have been received by the end of the preceding March. Applications must be made using the standard form, which is available from playgroup and can be downloaded from the playgroup's website.

Offers are made at the absolute discretion of the Playgroup Leader and Admissions Secretary.

Christ Church Playgroup does not have any specific units or facilities for pupils with particular special needs and there are no specific facilities for pupils with physical disabilities. However, the playgroup will ensure, as far as possible, that pupils with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as other pupils.

This updated policy was adopted at a meeting of the playgroup held on 25 February 2013.

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(Signed on behalf of the playgroup)