Ambleside Centre

Admission Policy for Supported 2 year old places

The Centre currently has 8 supported funded places. These provide up to 15 hours a week per child during school term times.

These places are offered immediately after half term for the following term.

Once supported funding has been agreed via Wokingham Borough Council places will be allocated using the following criteria:

1. Looked after children and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order' (previous looked-after children).*

2. Children 'at risk' (or the sibling of a child 'at risk') who are subject to a child protection plan or child in need plan*

3. Children known by the local authority to have identified additional needs and whose needs can be best met at the preferred setting –applications made under this criterion would need to be supported by supporting evidence from an appropriate professional e.g. medical practitioner

For any remaining funded places the following criteria will be applied:

- Children with siblings in the maintained nursery school (Meadows) at the time of the place being taken up
- Children whose permanent home address is in the RG5 post code area for The Ambleside Centre
- Children of an appropriate age to fill the vacancy to ensure a balance of places across the age range.

We recognise that family circumstances may change and that children may become eligible for the funding after taking up a charged place. Should this be the case then the above criteria will be applied to prioritise whether a funded place can be made available.

A supported funded place can only be requested once funding has been agreed by the local authority.

Children with a supported funded place in Pastures will be given a priority place in Meadows the term after they turn three.

Supported funded children accessing additional sessions:

- Where parent/carer requests either adhoc or permanent additional hours the usual procedures for booking/cancelling apply.

- Where requests for additional hours/adaption to hours are made by persons other than a parent/carer i.e. LA, education, health or Early Years professional (e.g. to attend training/meeting) the request will be met as long as
    - A space is available and staffing levels appropriate,
    - It is not detrimental to wellbeing of the child and/or other children/staff in the nursery.

- Payment for additional sessions either by parent/carer or LA will be based on the published nursery rates.

- Where a child has or needs additional support to effectively engage in the nursery environment each request for additional hours either by parent/carer or other party will be viewed individually.

*This includes children living in Woodley but under the care of Children's Social Care team other than Wokingham.