

Little Acorns and Nursery Admissions Policy

2026-27

Little Acorns and Nursery Admission

Here at Silvertrees Academy, we know how important the early years of a child's life are. Therefore, we offer funded and paid places for nursery-aged children, including eligible 3-year-olds and children who have turned 4 but are not yet due to start Reception.

Nursery
Children are eligible to join Nursery if they are aged 3 on or before 31 August of the relevant academic year. Places are offered in line with statutory staffing ratios of 1:13.

Little Acorns (Pre-Nursery)
Our pre-Nursery provision, Little Acorns, is for children who turn 3 during the academic year. Children are admitted in the term following their third birthday, with intakes in January and April. Places are offered in line with statutory staffing ratios of 1:8.

Rising 3s
Subject to staffing availability, we offer a limited number of places for children aged 2 who will turn 3 during their term of entry. Places are offered in line with statutory staffing ratios of 1:5.

Places are offered subject to the availability of appropriate staffing, accommodation, and the school's ability to meet the needs of all children safely and effectively within statutory requirements.
The school reserves the right to limit admissions where admitting additional children would exceed statutory staffing ratios or where the needs of the existing cohort require staffing and resources to be deployed in a way that reduces the number of places available.

Sessions Available

We offer both **15-hour** and **30-hour** nursery places.

15-Hour Places

Morning Session: 8:30am to 11:30am
Afternoon Session: 12:30pm to 3:30pm

30-Hour Places

Option 1: Monday to Friday (30 hours + 5 hours lunch provision)

- Hours: 8:30am to 3:30pm each day
- Cost: £20.00 per week to cover the lunchtime period

Option 2: Monday to Thursday (30 hours)

- Hours: 8:30am to 4:00pm, Monday to Thursday

If a Friday session (8:30am to 3:30pm) is required in addition to Option 2, this is charged at £56.00 per day.

Meals
Children may:

- Bring a healthy packed lunch; or
- Purchase a school meal at a cost of £2.75 per day.

How to apply for a Little Acorns or Nursery place

All applications must be made via the school office. Application forms can be requested from the school or office or be found on the school website: Silvertrees Academy Trust Infant School - Nursery Provision We require you to provide your child's original birth certificate.

Oversubscription

Where applications for Nursery or Little Acorns exceed the number of places available, or where admitting additional children would exceed statutory staffing ratios or compromise the school's ability to meet the needs of all children safely and effectively, places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

a) Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.

b) Children who have a sibling attending the school at the time of admission.

c) Other applicants, with priority given according to the distance between the child's home address and the school.

Waiting List

In the event of oversubscription, children who are not offered a place will be placed on a waiting list maintained by the school.

Early Years Funding

All 3 and 4-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of funded early education and childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year. Some families may also be eligible for the 30-hour working parent entitlement. Information about the funding available for your child can be found at: Best Start in Life

Eligible working parents can access up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year. To access this entitlement, parents must apply through HMRC and provide the school with their 11-digit eligibility code. [beststarti...ife.gov.uk]

It is the responsibility of parents to apply for and reconfirm their eligibility code. To ensure funding can be claimed for the following term, codes must be valid by:

- **31 August** for the Autumn Term
- **31 December** for the Spring Term
- **31 March** for the Summer Term

Families who are not eligible for the 30-hour entitlement are welcome to purchase additional sessions. Further information is available from the school office.

Please note that government funding covers childcare hours only and does not usually cover additional charges such as meals, trips or extra activities.

Wraparound Provision

We offer wraparound care through our Rainbow Club during term time for children aged 3 and over, supporting families who require childcare before and after the school day.

Rainbow Club is available at an additional cost. Children may attend from **7:30am** and remain in our care until **6:00pm**.

For further information about session times, charges and availability, please visit the school website or contact Jenni Cox in the school office.

Attendance

Although it is not compulsory for children to attend a Nursery, if you do choose to take up a place at Silvertrees Little Acorns or Nursery, good attendance is expected. Children whose attendance is deemed to be poor could be at risk of losing their place. Attendance is closely monitored and in the case of an extended leave of absence or where attendance does not improve despite support the place may be withdrawn.

As Nursery provision is non-statutory, there is no statutory right of appeal against a decision regarding admission to Nursery.

Policy approved by trustees

Date: September 2026