



Alder Grove
Church of England Primary School



Nursery Admissions Policy 2026-27

Christian Vision at Alder Grove



Our vision for Alder Grove School is about the importance of roots. Just as a tree cannot grow to be healthy and strong without good roots, so we believe that children need the right conditions to grow and flourish.

Our school community at Alder Grove is rooted in the following values:

Kindness

Service

Truthfulness

Forgiveness

Courage

Perseverance

We see these values in the life of Jesus, and Christians choose to live their lives rooted in him. At Alder Grove, we want to help all our children, whatever their faith background, to grow deep roots which will enable them and the whole community to be strong and healthy learners, and to care for each other.

As we live out these values, we help each other to flourish and grow. Our vision is not just about individuals but about a whole community, so we emphasise the importance of serving each other, and treating each other as we would like to be treated, and we also believe in the importance of caring for the world around us.

When the roots are healthy, we will see fruit growing:

'They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season' (Psalm 1.3).

The right roots will allow our children to fulfil their potential in all areas of life.

ALDER GROVE NURSERY

ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 - 2027

THERE ARE SEPARATE ADMISSIONS POLICIES FOR THE NURSERY AND FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Please note:

- **Separate applications are required for Alder Grove Nursery and for Alder Grove CoE Primary School**
- **A successful application for Alder Grove Nursery does NOT guarantee a successful application to Alder Grove CoE Primary School**
- **Offers of a place in the Nursery will be sent in writing**

APPLICATION

Applications must be made by completing the appropriate form obtained from Alder Grove CoE Primary School, Shinfield, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 9RA or downloaded from the school's website.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

1. Children will normally be admitted to the Nursery at the beginning of the academic year after they turn three years old. If the child is born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023 they will join Nursery in September 2026.
2. The Nursery offers the equivalent of 78 part-time places using a combination of 15 and 30 hour places in the morning and afternoon. Each morning and afternoon session is capped at 39 places.
3. Children will be entitled to attend for a maximum free entitlement of 15 hours per week or 30 hours per week, depending on the parents' /carers' circumstances. For 30 hours' free childcare per week proof of entitlement will be required before attendance at Nursery can begin, and at the start of each subsequent term if attendance is to continue. Children attending for 15 hours per week will attend five morning sessions or five afternoon sessions. Session times are:

Morning: 8.30 am – 11.30 am

Afternoon: 12.30 pm – 3.30 pm

The Nursery sessions and times may be adjusted. All parents/carers will be given at least one terms notice if these changes are going to be made.

4. Parents and carers of children who have been allocated a place for 30 hours per week will be offered the following options:
 - **Full Use of the 30-Hour Entitlement (Including Lunch Hour):**
Children may attend from the beginning of the school day (8.30am until 2:30 pm), with no additional charges for childcare during this period. Please note that while the lunch hour is included within the 30-hour entitlement, parents/carers will be required to pay for a school-provided hot lunch if selected. Alternatively, packed lunches may be sent from home at no additional cost.
 - **Option to Purchase an Additional Hour:**
Parents/carers may choose to extend their child's day to align with the dismissal time of pupils attending the 15-hour provision and the wider school. This additional hour is available for purchase and is arranged on a term-by-term basis. Once chosen, this arrangement must remain in place for the entire term and cannot be altered mid-term.

Parents/carers wishing to amend their child's attendance pattern for the following term must notify the school via email before the start of the new term. If no communication is received, it will be assumed that the current arrangement will continue. Charges will apply for any additional hours requested, regardless of changes made to the funded hours. The cost of the additional hour is £6 each day.

5. Children will be expected to attend regularly. The Governors reserve the right to withdraw a place if a child is frequently absent or is absent for an extended period without a good reason. Places may be held open in exceptional circumstances such as a long period of hospitalisation.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

1. Completed Nursery application forms must be returned to the School office by:
 - 31 January 2026 for admission in September 2026

2. The Governors Admissions Committee will meet to consider the information on each application form before allocating the available places, according to the Admissions Criteria. Applications for 15 hours per week and those for 30 hours per week will be treated equally. Within the admissions criteria, should the need arise, priority will be given to those children living closest to the Nursery.
3. Distances will be measured using a computerised mapping system. The distance is measured as a straight line between the respective home address and the Nursery entrance at the time of the application. In the event of identical or equidistant addresses, random allocation will be used to decide which child will be allocated the remaining place(s). This will be by supervised drawing of lots, carried out in the presence of a person independent of the Nursery.
4. All offers of places will be made in writing.
5. All offers of places must be accepted within 7 days of the offer being made.
6. A parent/carer who refuses a place must re-apply if their child is to be considered for a place in future.
7. Applications at other times of the year, late applications or transfers from other nurseries will be considered by the Trust and a place offered if a vacancy exists.
8. A Waiting List will be kept by the school for unsuccessful applicants. Places will be offered from the Continuous Interest List, if a vacancy occurs, in category and distance order (see 'Admissions Criteria').
9. A parent/carer whose application is unsuccessful has no statutory right of appeal but may ask the Governors' Admissions Committee formally to reconsider the application.
10. If there are spaces in the Nursery and no applications on the Continuous Interest List, parents/carers may be offered the opportunity to buy additional hours of attendance at the then current rate.

Alder Grove Nursery is an Equal Opportunities establishment and all applications will be given equal consideration.

Following the allocation of a place parents/carers will be asked to provide the child's birth certificate or another acceptable form of identity such as a passport.

The right is also reserved to verify any of the information, including home address, given on the application form.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming Alder Grove Nursery in the Plan will always be admitted.

When completing the Nursery Application Form, parents/carers should decide under which of the following four categories (other than for children with an EHCP naming the Nursery) they wish to apply.

In the event of there being a greater demand for admission than there are places available, the following over subscription criteria will be applied in the order set out below.

Category One:

Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside England, but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.

Category Two:

Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at the school and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school.

Category Three:

Children of staff at Alder Grove Church of England Primary School where the member of staff is the parent of the child and has a) been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; and/or b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

Category Four:

Children living in one of the roads within the catchment.

Category Five:

Children living in the Wokingham Borough, but not in one of the roads listed within the catchment area.

Category Six:

Any other children whose parent/carer wishes them to attend Alder Grove Nursery.

Terms used are as defined below:

Looked After Children

"Looked after" means one in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services function. Previously looked after children are children who have been adopted, subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders. Adopted children are those for whom an adoption order is made under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46). A "child arrangements order" is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14). A "special guardianship order" is one appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian/s (Children Act 1989, Section 14A). Internationally adopted, previously looked after children – IAPLC. These children now have the same priority as those looked after and previously looked after children in England. Applications under this criterion must be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked after or was previously looked after (e.g. a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order). Evidence that a child from outside England was previously in state care will be required to come within this criterion. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society."

Definition of Parent

"Parent" is defined in law (The Education Act 1996) as either:

- any person who has 'parental responsibility' (defined in the Children Act 1989) for the child or young person; or
- any person who has care of the child or young person.

If you are in any doubt, please contact the school for advice.