

Admissions criteria for entry September 2025

Rathmore Primary School Nursery Unit
Rathmore Road
Bangor BT19 1DJ

Principal: Mrs Julie M Hardy BEd (Hons) MEd PQH (NI)
Chair of Board of Governors: Mrs Caralyn Scales
Information Evening: Tuesday 10 December 2024, 5.30 – 6.30pm
Open Morning: Tuesday 7 January 2025, 10am – 12pm

Controlled Nursery Unit
Admissions No: 52 (Part-time)
Morning Session (26): 8:50am – 11:20am
Afternoon Session (26): 12:20pm – 2:50pm
Nursery: 028 9146 9192
Primary School: 028 9127 0399
E-mail: info@rathmoreps.bangor.ni.sch.uk
Website: www.rathmoreps.co.uk
'Caring, learning, excelling, together.'

Rathmore PS & Nursery have a live DE Development Proposal to transform to Controlled Integrated School Status by September 2025 (or as soon as possible thereafter)

Respective Functions of the Board of Governors and the Principal in relation to admissions.

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. The admissions criteria will be reviewed annually by the Board of Governors.

In response to regulations issued by the Department of Education the Board of Governors has drawn up the following admission criteria:-

Admissions Criteria

A timetable of pre-school admissions procedures setting out the dates by which an application is to be submitted is available at www.eani.org.uk/admissions under 'Pre-School Admissions'. During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered.

The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 will be treated as a late application.

As the pre-school admissions procedure is in two stages the timetable also specifies the relevant dates at Stage 2 which will determine if an application is to be considered as punctual or late.

The following criteria will be applied, in the order set down 1-3 by the Board of Governors of Rathmore Primary School, in selecting children for admission to Rathmore Nursery in September 2025.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. PARENTS SHOULD THEREFORE ENSURE THAT ALL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THEIR CHILD AND RELEVANT TO THE SCHOOL'S ADMISSIONS CRITERIA IS STATED ON THE APPLICATION FORM OR UPLOADED. An example of such information includes – whether the child has brothers or sisters attending the school with their details.

Admissions criteria to be used in the event of the school being oversubscribed with applications for available places.

Statutory Criteria

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:
 - on or between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
 - on or between 1 April 2021 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
 - have not attended or are not currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged child; and,
 - that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2026.

Note: Children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' means a child whose parent has an entitlement to (i) Income Support, or (ii) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or (iii) Income related Employment and Support Allowance, or (iv) Universal Credit. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must provide Benefit Verification to confirm that they have an entitlement. The application procedure for Pre-School will outline how Benefit Verification can be submitted.

2. Children not from socially disadvantaged circumstances (as defined above) who are in their final pre-school year (as defined by Criterion 1).

Admissions criteria for entry September 2025

Sub-criteria

In the event of over-subscription in criteria 1-2 the following sub-criteria will apply in the order listed a, b, c.

- (a) Children whose brother/sister, half-brother/sister, fostered brother/sister or step brother/sister is enrolled at Rathmore Primary School. (From Nursery – P7 - name and class must be included)
- (b) Children who currently attend Rathmore Nursery
- (c) Children whose parent/guardian/ grandparent is presently a permanent employee of the school. (name must be included)
- (d) Children who have had an older brother/sister, half-brother/sister, fostered brother/sister, step brother/sister enrolled at Rathmore Primary School P1-P7. (Since or including 2019. Names and dates attended must be included) and further proof may be requested by way of sibling birth certificate.

Supplementary Criteria

In the event of over-subscription by application of any of the above sub-criteria, preference will be given to children who live closest to the Nursery as measured from their house to the school's front entrance (RAC Route Planner, shortest route, will be used to measure the distance).

In the event of children living equidistant, final selection will be made on the basis of the initial letter of their surname as recorded on the child's birth certificate in the order set out below:

O Mac W S E P U A X K N J B D F V G Z Mc T C Q Y M H L R I

This order was determined by a randomised selection of letters. In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used.

Non-statutory criteria

Note: Applications falling under Criterion 3 are processed only during Stage 2 of the admissions process, after final pre-school year (Statutory 1 and 2) applications.

3. Children who were born:

- on or between 1 April 2021 - 1 July 2021 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
 - and have attended or are currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged (not penultimate aged) child; and,
 - that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1, or
- on or between 2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023 (inclusive); or,
- on or between 1 April 2022 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2027.

Tie Breaker – Non Statutory Criterion 3

Children within Criterion 3 will be selected in Chronological Order of Age – eldest child first. In the event of two or more children having the same DOB, preference will be given to the child who lives closest to the Nursery as measured from their house to the school's front entrance (RAC Route Planner, shortest route will be used to measure the distance).

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

Waiting List Policy

Should a vacancy arise after the Open Enrolment procedure concludes all applications for admission that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This waiting list will be in place until 30 June 2026.

The school will contact you in writing if your child gains in the school by this method.

Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list.