

The Rydal Academy Nursery

Admissions Arrangements 2026/2027

The principles and criteria for the admission of children to The Rydal Academy Nursery are as follows:

General Principles

- There will be no catchment areas for places.
- Children (regardless of race, gender, religious belief or affiliation, social or cultural background) should have equal access.
- Higher preference will be given to Special Education Needs /Looked After Children/Previously Looked After Children.
- Pupils will be given precedence due to date of birth (Oldest pupils move to the top of the waiting list)
- The offer of a place in Nursery does not guarantee a place in that school for the period of statutory education.
- Parents may apply for a nursery place from the beginning of the school year (1st September to 31st August) in which their child has his/her second birthday.
- A child is eligible for a 2-year-old funded place from the term after their second birthday subject to meeting eligibility criteria and the availability of places.
- A child is 'eligible for a free part-time Nursery education place from the term after their third birthday' subject to the availability of places.

Admissions Criteria

It may not be possible to offer a child a place at your chosen nursery school if the nursery school receives more applications than it has places.

Where this happens, children will be admitted to a nursery school in descending order, in accordance with the following criteria:

(i) Children with an Education Health Care Plan

- Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan, where The Rydal Academy Nursery is named on the plan.

(i) Looked After & Previously Looked After & Internationally Adopted previously Looked After Children

Looked After and Previously Looked After Children but immediately after becoming looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangement order or special guardianship order. Children who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Looked After & Previously Looked After Children are defined as:

- A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989):
 - An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002
 - A child arrangement order is an order outlining the arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989

- A special guardianship order is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians
- A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society

(ii) Children in Need

As defined by the Children Act (1989) i.e. those who are unlikely to achieve or maintain or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining a reasonable standard of health or development or a child/children whose health or development would be further impaired without the provision of services of the Local Authority. Applications under this criterion would need to be supported by an appropriate professional stating that attendance at a particular nursery unit is essential.

(iii) Medical Reasons

Children with exceptional medical factors directly relating to school placement. Applications under this criterion should be supported by written evidence from a professional practitioner.

If you state a preference for The Rydal Academy and indicate your reason for doing so is 'medical', then you are required to send a supporting letter from a professional practitioner. The supporting evidence should set out the particular reasons why the school in question is the most suitable school and the difficulties it would cause if your child had to travel to another school. Permission from parents must be given to share this information.

(v) Age

4-year-olds will be admitted before 3-year-olds.

(vi) Family Links

Children who have a brother or sister already attending the preferred nursery and who are expected to be on the roll at the time of admission.

Children have a family link if:

- They are half or full brother or sister
- They are adoptive brother or sister
- They are a foster brother or sister
- Their carers are married/co-habiting and children live together in the same household
- They are children in the same household (e.g. carers have Special Guardianship/Child Arrangement order)

(vii) Distance

Children who live nearest the preferred school measured from the front door of the home address (including flats) to the main school gate, by the shortest walking route judged to be safe (lighting at regular intervals and paved/tarmacked). This will be based on the child's permanent home address. If there were to be 2 children with an equal distance, then the elder child will be offered the place.

Offer of a Nursery Place

When offered a nursery place, parents will have 10 working days in which to accept or refuse the place offered. The school will then look to withdraw the offer. Should a vacancy arise then places will be offered according the oversubscription criteria.

No appeals process exists for nursery places as it is not statutory education.