St Aloysius Primary School Nursery Unit
Ballinderry Road
Lisburn
BT28 1TB

Principal: Mrs T McDowell BEd PQH
Chair of Board of Governors: Mr M McDonald

Maintained Nursery Unit
Admissions No: 26 (Full-time)
Session Times: 9am – 1:30pm

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Website: www.staloysiuslisburn.org.uk

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 a Selection Committee consisting of the Principal subject to the final approval of the Board of Governors. The admissions criteria will be reviewed annually by the Selection Committee. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the admissions 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/parents/admissions/pre-school-admissions-guide .

The application procedure opens for **Target-age** applications on **6 January 2027 at 12 noon** (GMT). **Target-age** applications (not including late deferrals) can be **submitted** by the closing date of **20 January 2027 at 12 noon** (GMT). After 12 noon on 20 January 2027, applicants cannot apply until Stage 2 of the Pre-School Admissions procedure opens on 18 March 2027.

As the pre-school admissions procedure is in two stages the timetable also specifies the application deadline date/time for Stage 2 **Target-age (including late deferrals) and underage** applications.

(For a P1 deferral of school starting age, a 'late deferral' is a child who has attended or is currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target-age child).

Children who are not normally resident in Northern Ireland at the time of the proposed admission will not be considered for places until all children who reside in Northern Ireland have been considered.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on 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. Examples of such information include (whether the child is the eldest child/has brothers or sisters attending the school).

In the event of there being more applications than places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set down, to select children for the available places.

Statutory Criteria
1 Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:
- on or between 2 July 2023 and 1 July 2024 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
- on or between 1 April 2023 and 1 July 2023 (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 2028.

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. 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).

Sub-criteria
In the event that the nursery unit is over-subscribed, criteria 1-2, preference shall be given to;

(a) Children whose brother(s) or sister(s), half-brother(s)/sister(s) are **currently enrolled** in St Aloysius Primary School or Nursery Unit (this must be stated on the application form);

(b) Children whose brother(s) or sister(s), half-brother(s)/sister(s) **will be** enrolled in St Aloysius Primary School in September 2027 (this must be stated on the application form – if the brother(s) or sister(s), half-brother(s)/sister(s) do NOT commence Primary 1, the Nursery place will be withdrawn);

(c) A child/children who are the eldest or only child in the family (Note: a child who is the first in the family eligible to attend a mainstream school will be treated as an eldest child).

(d) Children who live closest to the school, as measured by a straight line from home to the front gates of the school, using the measurement tool *'measure distance'* on *Google Maps* or an equivalent tool.

If at final placement multiple births will be treated as a single application.

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 2023 - 1 July 2023 (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 2024and 1 July 2025 (inclusive); or,
   - on or between 1 April 2024 and 1 July 2024 (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 2029.

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 date of birth sub-criterion (d) above will be used.

A copy of the child's birth certificate MUST accompany the application form, along with:
- **PROOF OF ADDRESS FOR THE PARENT** making the application (this could include bank statement, electric/gas utility bill, driving licence) AND
- **PROOF OF ADDRESS FOR THE CHILD** (such as a Health Trust letter, cover letter for a Medical Card, appointment letter from a dentist).

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 11 June 2027 all applications for admission to nursery 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 the end of the academic year.

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

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

Applications and Admissions to Pre-School

Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2025/2026*	41	26
2026/2027*	41	26

The Total Admissions figures includes all pre-school children admitted to the pre-school including those who have a statement of special educational needs and/or may be attending SPiMS.
(SPiMS = Specialist Provision in Mainstream School)