

Mulberry Tree Admissions Policy October 2011.

Our Admissions policy supports the values we hold close to our heart. Namely that all are valued as unique beings and all have the right to work, learn and play in a caring and secure environment in which the involvement of parents/carers in the development of their child is encouraged. Therefore Mulberry Tree will not discriminate on the ground of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief (assuming that the latter the prospective pupil and parents agree to support the ethos of the School as described in the prospectus, website and other literature).

The school must also feel that they reasonably sure that they are able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his or her potential and in line with general standards achieved by the pupil's peers, so that there is every chance that the pupil will have a happy and fulfilling and successful school career. These aims must continue to be met throughout the pupil's time at school.

Admissions Process

Preliminary Interview

As our approach to education is unique, it is important that parents understand our methods and some of our educational philosophy. Experience has shown that if there is a mutual understanding of child development and our curriculum between parents and the school the child benefits. It's recommended that parents attend an Open Day or meet with a member of staff to ensure understanding of this unique education.

Application

Following the interview parents can apply for a place at the school for their children by completing the application forms and sending appropriate documentation and application fee.

A. Admission procedure

1. New pupils may only apply using the School Application Form
2. New pupils are accepted on the basis of interviews with the child and parents at which we try to gain an all-round picture of each child and to gauge whether he or she will fit comfortably into the social fabric of the class.
3. A financial interview must be undertaken before the prospective pupil attends a visit.
4. The child must undertake a visit which is normally a week but may be longer for which a non-refundable registration fee is payable. The teaching group will then make a decision.
5. There's no entrance examination. All successful applicants are accepted on a probationary basis, the length of which is determined at the time of the admission.
6. Although admission to the school at the beginning of term is preferable, this is not a fixed policy.

B. Admission to Kindergarten

1. Admission to the kindergarten follows the same process as the Classes. We accept children and parents to informally visit our practice as part of the process.
2. It cannot be assumed that a child will automatically proceed to Class One having attended Kindergarten.

C. Children joining Mulberry Tree are allocated to classes by age and overall development, rather than ability.

Admissions Policy

Although we would hope that pupils can enjoy their entire education at the Mulberry Tree current educational development plans go as far as the end of Class 5.

We also cannot guarantee children a place in Class One from Kindergarten as it will be determined on the basis of interviews.

We will consider:

1. Mulberry Tree's suitability for his/her age, ability or special educational needs
2. Whether we can make reasonable adjustments to accommodate a particular pupil's needs.
3. Whether the acceptance of the applicant is compatible with the efficient education of the children already placed in our school.
4. Whether we have the resources to meet his/her needs within our own Learning Support.

Special Needs

We only cater for children who fall within an academic ability range which enables them to benefit from our rigorous and broad curriculum.

Children with mild dyslexia, dyspraxia and related conditions may be accepted if they attend at a young enough age, we cannot accept children with extra needs at a later stage. Where resources and the curriculum allow, adjustments will be made to accommodate children with medical or Special Educational Needs. In the case of pupils with medical needs, as part of the admissions process a risk assessment will take place as well as consultation with relevant specialists to ensure that an informed decision is made.

We aim not to over stretch our classes or teachers with more than a few children needing extra help. In some cases children may be accepted on a trial basis.

We especially welcome children from waldorf schools from all over the world the normal admission process will apply.

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Initially children might need some extra tuition in certain areas, in foreign languages for instance.

Decisions

The school may refuse entry to a pupil whose educational special needs are considered by the school to be beyond those which we can provide through our own Learning Support particularly when it is over-subscribed.

Waldorf classes and their equivalents in the State and independent Sector

Mulberry Tree	Age	State	Independent
Parent & Toddler group	0-2+	Playgroups, nurseries	Playgroups, nurseries
Kindergarten Yr 1 & 2	Rising 3-5	Pre reception YR,	Pre-preparatory
Kindergarten Yr3	5-6	Y1	
Lower School Class 1	6-7	Yr3 Juniors	
Class 2	7-8	Yr4	Preparatory
Class3	8-9	Yr5	
Class4	9-10	Yr 5	
Class5	10-11	Yr 6	Common Entrance exam

The cut-off date birth date which determines into what class a child is to be placed is the end of the summer term. Children with birthdays in July will be very carefully considered.

Children enter Class one in the September after their sixth birthday, those who have their birthday in August will already be seven years old.

Withdrawal of pupils for a temporary period

On reapplication to the school the usual admissions procedure will take place and the child placed back in their class. However it might not be possible for the following reasons:

- A significant amount of the curriculum will have been missed.
- The pupil may have changed
- The constitution of the class may have changed
- The class may be full
- Other

Attendance and unauthorized absence and irregular attendance is monitored. Further the School has an obligation to notify the LEA when a child is absent for more than 10 days.