

## Section 2

# Nursery and Pre-School Education

### Information about Early Years Provision for 3 and 4 year olds

This section explains what is currently available for children aged from three to five. Parents have a choice where their child accesses the Free Early Years Entitlement. This can be taken at a maximum of two providers. However, all children are legally required to start full time school the term after their fifth birthday. Wakefield Council has responsibility for all admissions to school.

### Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Year's Foundation Stage is the framework for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. The practitioners working with your child will identify their interests and abilities and aim to build on these through play. Meeting the individual needs of all children is an intrinsic part of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Early Years practitioners should deliver personalised learning, development and care to help children to get the best possible start in life. This should also give you confidence in leaving your child with a nursery, playgroup or childminder knowing that they are happy, safe and well cared for. All early years practitioners must follow the guidelines set out in the framework.

### Early Years Provision in Wakefield.

A child can access a free part-time nursery place from the term after their third birthday. Children can access up to 15 hours per week of free early years provision for 38 weeks of the year. See 'Flexibility' towards the end of this section for further details about how the free entitlement can be accessed.

Free nursery places are only available through a provider or setting that is part of the Wakefield Directory of Providers. Always check that the setting you choose offers Free Early Years Provision and the number of hours that can be taken up in that setting each day.

Within Wakefield there are the following providers:

- Three Nursery Schools
- Nursery and Foundation Units in most infant and primary schools
- Private day nurseries
- Pre-school playgroups
- Council day nurseries

- Independent schools
- Childminders who are part of an accredited network

Some settings also offer extra childcare outside of the hours of free daily entitlement. There will be an additional charge to use these. A list of nurseries and schools can be found in Appendix 1. Parents who need a flexible place may be able to access one where there is sufficient demand or flexibility in the area. See 'Flexibility and Wraparound Care' towards the end of this section for further information.

### Starting nursery

The earliest date a child can start a free nursery place is the term after the child's 3rd birthday. Although a free part-time nursery place for each child whose parents want one is guaranteed, this place may not be at the school of your preferred choice or within the area you live. Nurseries often have a waiting list for places.

Date of Birth	Term in which 3rd birthday Falls	1st term of eligibility following 3rd birthday
1 January - 31 March	Spring	Summer (after Easter)
1 April - 31 August	Summer	Autumn (September)
1 September - 31 Dec	Autumn	Spring (January)

### How nursery places are allocated.

Each setting, school, private nursery or independent provider is responsible for allocating their own nursery places. You will need to contact them to find out how to apply for a place.

## School nursery places

Where a school receives more applications than places available then children should be admitted in the following order:

1. Children under special educational needs statutory assessment or with a statement of special educational needs (which names the school);
2. Children in public care (Looked After Children);
3. Children who live in the school's catchment area or parish area, who have brothers or sisters attending the school at the time of admission;
4. Other children who live in the school's catchment area;
5. Children who live outside the school's catchment area but have brothers or sisters in attendance at the school;
6. Other children by age order (admitting eldest first).

Brothers and sisters are defined as children with brothers or sisters (including step-brothers or sisters) living at the same address, in attendance at the same school or a school on the same site, on the date of admission.

Where any criterion category is over-subscribed then children within that category should be admitted in an age order basis (eldest first).

All voluntary aided, foundation (trust) schools and academies should admit part-time children following their own full-time admissions criteria as in the published Primary Guide for Parents.

Children from families living outside the Wakefield district will be considered alongside those who live in the district.

The school/provider will be able to tell you when and if a place is likely to become available.

To register your interest in a place you should put your child's name on a waiting list once they reach two years old. You may want to choose more than one setting, just in case your first choice doesn't have places.

For nurseries within schools there is an agreement that they will let parents know at least six weeks before the term your child would be due to start.

This should give you time to make other arrangements if your child does not get a place.

A place in a school nursery class does not guarantee a full-time place at that school. Parents of children in nursery units must complete an Admission Preference Form, in order to request a full-time place in a school, because the admissions criteria has to be applied afresh to determine which school has places. Schools should not put pressure on parents for their child to attend nursery, in order to gain a place at the school.

### How to choose the best setting for your child

Every child and parent's needs are different therefore it is recommended that you visit and spend some time with each prospective setting to see which you like best and to discuss your child's needs.

### Flexibility

Where available the free provision can be taken up flexibly over a minimum of three days a week. A maximum of 10 hours and a minimum of 3 hours can be claimed in one day, although this is usually available and offered by private day nurseries and local authority day nurseries. The majority of school nursery classes offer 3 hour long morning or afternoon sessions, although some schools are offering the free entitlement flexibly. You will need to ask the school if they are offering the free entitlement flexibly. If you require further information about the flexible offer, please contact the Childcare and Market Development Programme on 01924 305630.

### Wraparound care

Wraparound care is childcare which wraps around the free part-time place. For example, if you would like your child to attend for more than 15 hours and they attend for 5 mornings, and you would like them to attend for a full day then you would pay for the lunchtime and afternoon session.

The list of schools at the back of this guide gives you an idea of what each school can offer. This can change, so please check with the school or the Wakefield Families Information Service.

### Before and after school childcare

Some schools offer care and play opportunities for children aged 3 to 11 years. The type of care offered includes breakfast clubs, which are open before school around 8.00 am, after school clubs, open until 5.30 pm or 6.00 pm and holiday care during half-term and main school holidays. You will have to pay to use these. Please check with the school to find out what they offer.

### Children's Centres

Children Centres offer access to a range of support for all families with children 0-5 years. Services support families to give children the best start in life and help them to reach their potential. They offer a range of services;

- Support for parents – including advice on parenting, local childcare options and access to specialist services for families
- Child and family health services – ranging from health visitor and health screening services to breastfeeding support
- Helping parents into work – with links to Jobcentre Plus and training
- Integrated childcare and early years education either on site or through linked providers.

See the list below to find your nearest Children's Centre, or contact:

### The Children's Centre Central Support Team

Unit 21  
Greens Industrial Estate  
Caldervale Road  
Wakefield  
WF1 5PJ  
01924 306857/305343  
childrenscentres@wakefield.gov.uk

## Children's Centre Contact Information

### Acorn Children's Centre at

Ackton Pastures J&I School  
College Grove  
Castleford  
WF10 5NS  
01977 723038  
ccentre@acktonpastures.wakefield.sch.uk

### Airedale Children's Centre

The Square  
Castleford  
WF10 3JJ  
01977 724044  
airedalechildrencentre@wakefield.gov.uk

### Apple Tree Children's Centre at

Horbury St Peter's and Clifton CE (VC) Primary  
Shepstye Road,  
Horbury,  
Wakefield,  
WF4 5BE.  
01924 270516

### Ash Tree Children's Centre at

Smawthorne Henry Moore Primary School  
Ashton Road,  
Castleford  
WF10 5AX  
01977 723012  
ashtree@smawthorneprimary.wakefield.sch.uk

### **Butterflies Children's Centre** at

Normanton Newlands Primary School  
Wakefield Road  
Normanton  
WF6 1BB  
01924 307835  
childrenscentre@newlands.wakefield.sch.uk

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### **Castle Children's Centre**

255 Barnsley Road  
Sandal  
Wakefield  
WF1 5NU  
01924 303211  
headteacher@castlecc.wakefield.sch.uk

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### **Cedars Children's Centre**

Barnsley Road  
Hemsworth  
WF9 4PU  
01977 722215  
cedarschildrenscentre@wakefield.gov.uk

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### **Forest Wood Children's Centre** at

Mackie Hill J&I School,  
Painthorpe Lane,  
Crigglestone,  
Wakefield,  
WF4 3HW.  
01924 252517

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### **Havercroft Children's Centre** at

Havercroft Junior & Infant School  
Cow Lane  
Havercroft  
Wakefield  
WF4 2BE  
01226 726478  
cc@havercroft.wakefield.sch.uk

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### **Little Owls Children's Centre** at

Common Road Infant & Nursery School  
Common Road  
South Kirkby  
Pontefract  
WF9 3EA  
01977 723868  
littleowlsadmin@commonroad.wakefield.sch.uk

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### **Maypole Children's Centre** at

Gawthorpe J & I School  
High Street  
Gawthorpe  
Ossett  
WF5 9QP  
01924 302990  
maypolecentre@gawthorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

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### **Michaelmas Children's Centre** at

St Michael's Primary School  
Flanshaw Lane  
Wakefield  
WF2 9JA  
01924 303747  
childrencentre@st-michaels.wakefield.sch.uk

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### **Oakhill Children's Centre** at

Girnhill Infant School  
Hardwick Road  
Featherstone  
Pontefract  
WF7 5JB  
01977 722680  
oakhillcc@girnhill.wakefield.sch.uk

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### **Orchard Head Children's Centre** at

Orchard Head J, I & N  
Orchard Head Lane  
Pontefract  
WF8 2NJ  
01977 723466  
orchardheadcc@wakefield.gov.uk

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### **Pinmoor Children's Centre** at

Pinder's Primary School  
Eastmoor Road  
Wakefield  
WF1 3SQ  
01924 302646  
pinmoorchildrenscent@wakefield.gov.uk

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### **Pomfret Children's Centre** at

Pontefract De Lacy Primary School  
Rookhill Road  
Pontefract  
WF8 2DD  
01977 722644  
pomfretcc@chequerfield.wakefield.sch.uk

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### **Sharlston Children's Centre** at

Sharlston Community School  
Hammer Lane  
Sharlston Common  
Wakefield  
WF4 1DH  
01924 303930  
childrenscentre@sharlston.wakefield.sch.uk

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### **Small Steps Children's Centre** at

Wrenthorpe Primary School,  
Imperial Avenue,  
Wrenthorpe,  
Wakefield,  
WF2 0LW. 01924 298995

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### **Sycamores Children's Centre** at

Simpson's Lane J & I School  
Sycamore Avenue  
Knottingley  
WF11 0PL  
01977 722527  
childrenscentre@simpsonslane.wakefield.sch.uk

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### **Stanley Children's Centre** at

Stanley St Peter's CE (VC) Primary and Nursery School  
Long Causeway  
Stanley  
Wakefield  
WF3 4JB  
01924 303181  
stanleycc@wakefield.gov.uk

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### **Sunbeam Children's Centre**

9-11 Lupset Crescent  
Lupset  
Wakefield  
WF2 8RH  
01924 302333  
Sure\_start@wakefield.gov.uk

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### **Sunflower Children's Centre** at

Moorthorpe Primary (J&I) School  
Regent Street  
Moorthorpe  
Pontefract  
WF9 2BL  
01977 723872  
ccadmin@hotmail.co.uk

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### **Upton Children's Centre** at

Upton Primary School  
Waggon Lane  
Upton  
Pontefract  
WF9 1JS  
01977 723838  
ccentre@upton.wakefield.sch.uk

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