

Mill Strand Integrated Nursery Unit
35 Ballywillan Road
Portrush
Co. Antrim
BT56 8JL

Grant Maintained Integrated Nursery Unit
Admissions No: 52 (**Full-time**)
Session Times: 8:30am-1pm
A mid-day meal is available

Telephone: 028 7082 3090
Email: info@millstrandintegratedps.portrush.ni.sch.uk
Website: www.millstrand.co.uk

Principal: Mr C. Hannigan
Chair of Board of Governors: Mrs L. Rossington

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

The Board of Governors will determine the Admissions Criteria. The criteria will be applied by a sub-committee of the Board of Governors.

As an integrated nursery unit, a key purpose of the school is to educate together children of different traditions.

In applying the admissions criteria, the Board of Governors will strive to ensure a balance of Roman Catholic, Protestant and other religions and children of no religion.

The religious affiliation/community background (Protestant, Catholic or Other/None) of a pupil will be determined by one of the following methods:

- a) For parents/guardians applying for a place via the Education Authority's online application you will be prompted to and must select your child's religious affiliation when completing the form, OR
- b) For parents/guardians applying using a paper application you must also complete our school Religious Affiliation Form which can be obtained from our school website or school office, or you can provide alternative written confirmation to our school. Your Religious Affiliation Form/written confirmation of religion must be sent directly to our school by email or by post to the above address.
- c) If the parents/guardians do not supply this required information, then the Board of Governors will treat the application as being from those in the community who describe themselves as being from the Other/None category.

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 07 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 21 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 21 January 2026 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.

Admissions criteria to be used in the event of the school being oversubscribed. The criteria are listed in order of priority.

Statutory Criteria

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:

- on or between 2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; 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,
 - 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 2027.

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).

Sub-Criteria

If there are more children satisfying the last criterion above, which can be applied, then selection for the remaining places will be on the application of the following sub-criteria in the order set down below:

Full Time Places:

- a. Children for whom a preference for an integrated education is clearly expressed by means of preference on the application form. i.e. those whose form indicates this Nursery School as first preference provider will be selected before those whose form indicated this Nursery School as a second or subsequent preference provider; second preference will be selected before third or subsequent preferences etc.
- b. Children already attending Mill Strand Integrated Nursery School by the closing date of application.
- c. Children whose brothers and sisters, half-brothers/half-sisters, step-brothers/step-sisters, foster brothers/foster sisters are current or past pupils of Mill Strand Integrated School or Nursery. (Full name, dates of attendance must be stipulated on application form).
- d. Children/grandchildren of a permanent employee of Mill Strand Integrated Nursery School by the closing date of application.
- e. If still oversubscribed, children will be selected on the basis of the initial letter of their surname (as entered on their current birth certificate) in the order set out below:

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

- 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 initial forename (as detailed on the child's current birth certificate) will be used.
- In the event of two or more identical names, selection will be made according to the one whose parents' home is nearest to this Nursery School as decided by walking distance from home to school using Google Maps. For the purpose of this measurement, only verified public walkways and footpaths that are normally accessible throughout the year will be used. Routes that pass-through areas with restricted or seasonal access will not be considered.

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 and are most likely to be on a part-time places.

3. Children who were born:
 - on or between 1 April 2022 - 1 July 2022 (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 2023 and 1 July 2024 (inclusive); 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 that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2028.

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 the above random selection of letters for places will be used.

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- Relevant until 30 June 2027

If you had applied to Mill Strand Integrated Nursery and had not been allocated a place at our school following the Open

Admissions criteria for entry September 2026

Enrolment process, your child details will automatically be placed on the waiting list. Parents do not need to reapply. Mill Strand Integrated Nursery School's policy on the consideration of applications after the Open Enrolment Admissions procedure has been completed is that should a vacancy arise, Governors will, in the following order:

- Consider all available information with reference to children who have special personal or home circumstances. Each case will be dealt with on their own merit and must be accompanied by supporting evidence from relevant professionals.
- Apply the original criteria to all pupils remaining on the waiting list.

Applications and Admissions to Pre-School (Nursery)		
Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2025/2026	76	54