

## **Astbury Acorns Admission Policy**

Our Pre-School children enjoy a well-rounded school experience so that when the time comes to start "big school" they are raring to go! They are integrated into the reception classroom from age three and enjoy joining in with school routines as well as having their own dedicated Pre-School learning experience.

Our main intake is at the start of the academic year in September and priority will always be given to parents of children who are applying to Astbury St Mary's Reception the following September. We will always consider in-year admissions for Pre-schoolers moving into the area, or once school offers have been made in April. We would encourage you to consider a minimum of 2 days/4 sessions so your child has the opportunity to make relationships and get to know our routine.

Every child will be entitled to 15 hours free to claim at Astbury Acorns Pre-School starting the term after their 3rd birthday. Additionally, you may be entitled to 30 hours. Check here: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>.

We are a busy Pre-School and therefore operate a waiting list and though we try our best to accommodate every request, we do fill up very quickly. Priority will always be given to Reception starters at Astbury School. If space allows we may be able to offer places to some younger children. This may be afternoon sessions initially. If your child is not yet three, you are welcome to add them to our waiting list so they can start straight away after their birthday as long as a place is available.

To add your child to our waiting list, please complete all of the forms in our Pre-School application pack which can be found on the website and return them to our school office by post, email ([admin@astbury.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@astbury.cheshire.sch.uk)) or pop them straight to us between the hours of 8.30am and 3.20pm Monday-Friday by hand. If you would like to enrol your child for any number of sessions you may also telephone the School Office, on 01260 272528 to check the availability of spaces before completing your forms.

Once applications are received, we apply the following criteria:

1. **Children who have a brother or sister in school, who will still be attending school the following year.**
2. **Children resident in the ecclesiastical parish of Astbury.** A map showing the parish is available from school, on the website and online [https://www.achurchnearyou.com/search/?lat=53.1523732&lon=-2.2258103&place=ChIJDZx9vNdEekgR11yQBGc\\_6n8&&text=](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/search/?lat=53.1523732&lon=-2.2258103&place=ChIJDZx9vNdEekgR11yQBGc_6n8&&text=)
3. **Children with a parent or carer who work at the school.**
4. **Children who live nearest to the school.**

A place in the Reception Class cannot be guaranteed to all children attending Astbury Acorns Pre-School.

Parents will be contacted by email by the School Office to offer a pre-school place prior to the start of the term. Emails will be sent by the end of June for the September intake, the end of November for the January intake and the end of February for the April intake.

Our Pre-School operates for ten sessions each week. The sessions are from 8.50 until 11.50am and 12.20 – 3.20 p.m. It is a part of Astbury St Mary's School and is registered to accept a wide variety of Nursery Vouchers. If your child is attending Pre-School all day, the session runs from 8:50 – 3:20pm.

Key dates:

<b>Preferred start date</b>	<b>Application to be received by</b>	<b>Parents and carers informed by</b>
September	End of May	End of June
January	End of October	End of November
April	End of March	End of February



Diocese of Chester

