

The Ambleside Centre



The Meadows

(A maintained Nursery School for
children 3-5 years of age)

Registration Information

"A very special place to learn" OFSTED
December 2012



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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The Ambleside Centre

The information in this brochure is correct at August 2015. At this time, we have very little information about the proposed additional funded hours promised by the current Government. Consequently we are not able to confirm what sessions, hours, flexibility etc will be available to children from September 2017. We recommend you visit the Meadows and put your child's name on our waiting list so that we can contact you when the situation is clearer and more information becomes available.

The Centre aims to offer a seamless service of care, learning and development for children aged 0-5 years and their families together with training and support for practitioners across the district. The Centre celebrates diversity, is committed to the inclusion of all and uses a problem solving approach to meet individual needs.

Registration Procedure

Please call in to the Centre to register your child.

- If you wish to register your child for a place in The Meadows, or wish to find out more, please speak to the administration staff in reception.
- Registration may be made at any time - please bring along their birth certificate.
- The Senior staff regularly offer tours of the Meadows, answering any questions you may have.
- You will be invited to visit the Meadows with your child just before you take up his/her place.

When do I need to apply?

Child's Date of Birth falls:	Apply before 3 rd birthday by:	Places Offered:	Child Starts at Nursery:
1 st April to 31 st August	End of February	Early April	September (Autumn Term)
1 st September to 31 st December	End of May	Early July	January (Spring Term)
1 st January to 31 st March	End of October	Early December	April (Summer Term)

Admission to The Meadows for 3 - 5 year olds

The Meadows is the maintained Nursery School aspect of The Ambleside Centre.

Families living within the Wokingham Borough Council area are eligible to apply for a place at The Ambleside Centre. However, families intending to send their child to a primary/infant school that has an attached nursery are recommended to consider using that nursery.

Places will be offered in the following order of priority (in date of birth order within each category) :

- Children who live in the Wokingham Borough and are looked after by the local authority or have been adopted from care.
- Children known by the Local Authority to have an identified additional need, and whose need can be best met at Ambleside. Applications made under this criteria would need additional supporting evidence.
- Children who attend the Pastures Nursery under the free entitlement for two year olds.
- Children living within the Woodley RG5 postcode area.
- Children of other families.

Children are eligible for government funded early education and care from the term following their 3rd birthday until the September following their 5th birthday. Most children will take a primary school place from the September following their fourth birthday. Consequently we have a large number of spaces for a September start, some spaces for January start and very few (if any) for the summer term.

In our experience, continuity of care is very important and neither Wokingham Borough Council nor staff at The Ambleside Centre recommend splitting funded sessions between different providers.

The government will fund 15 hours of early education offered flexibly across the week for all 3 and 4 year olds for 38 weeks per year.

We will ask you to choose your preferred sessions, indicating any alternatives that will be acceptable to you.

The government’s rules about the times/sessions are:

- You must take the 15 hours over at least 3 days per week and 38 weeks per year.
- You must take at least one 3 hour session on each day that your child attends. Sessions available are as follows:

8.00- 9.00 am	9.00- 12.00 noon	12.00- 1.00 pm	1.00- 4.00 pm	4.00- 5.00 pm	5.00- 6.00 pm
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So you could start at 8.00am, 9.00am, 12.00 noon or 1.00 pm and finish at 12.00 noon, 1.00 pm, 4.00pm, 5.00pm or 6.00pm.

Food: If attending at 8.00am, you can purchase breakfast at £1.00.

If attending 12.00 noon -1.00pm , you can purchase a hot meal (currently £1.95) or provide a packed lunch.

If attending 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm, you can purchase tea (£1.00).

If you wish to discuss your options, please speak to a member of the Ambleside Reception team.

Additional sessions may be purchased - subject to availability

Charges are available on request. Please indicate the sessions you wish to purchase on the Session Request Form.

The Meadows Staff Team

All sessions for 3-5 year olds are staffed by a professional team with high level and relevant experience and expertise.

The statutory adult : child ratio is 1 : 13 when there is a qualified teacher working in the nursery and 1 : 8 when there is not. We frequently have more adults in the nursery than are legally required.

Organisation in the Nursery

Children are placed in a small group with a **Key Worker** who has overall day to day responsibility for them. However, the whole staff team work very closely together supporting all children's learning and well being.

The resources for 3-5s are carefully laid out, indoors and out to cover the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. Children take part in activities across the whole area, some of which they initiate themselves, some which adults initiate. All children are encouraged to express themselves, make choices and decisions about their learning and solve problems together with adults and other children.

Care, Learning and Development

Children are supported and encouraged to work in their own way towards the goals set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. This is the mandatory framework for all settings and individuals working with children, from their birth until the September following their 5th birthday. It includes:

Three Prime areas:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development
- Communication and language

Four Specific areas:

- Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design

The '**Characteristics of Effective Learning**' are also part of the framework. These are:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Ambleside holiday sessions

The Centre is open 48 weeks of the year from 8.00am – 6.00pm. All sessions during school holiday periods are paid for by parents, who can book as many or as few sessions as required.

A separate application is needed for this service; please see the Ambleside Reception team for a form and for further information.

Liaison with Other Settings

There is close co-operation with the staff teams of local pre-schools and primary schools who meet regularly and who have common aims. Children's records are passed from one setting to the next.

The Early Years Foundation Stage requires that any professionals who work with children must liaise closely to offer a seamless experience for children.

Children's Centre

The Children's Centre based at Ambleside offers a broad range of services to support families with children under 5 years of age. Facilities include a Family Room, which is open 8.30am – 4.00 pm on most days of the week. When you register for Meadows we will share information with you about the Children's Centre and the services on offer.

The Pastures Nursery

This is our nursery area for babies and children 3 months to 3 years. We have an experienced workforce who can give high quality care, learning and development opportunities. Pastures is open 8.00am – 6.00pm, 48 weeks per year. Please ask for further information and details of costs.

A limited number of funded places are available for children eligible for the government's 2 year funding. Further information is available from our Children's Centre or see <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/family/grants/>

Additional information

Language and Communication Support

A speech and language therapist works alongside staff several days per week supporting the development of speech and language for all children. Children already receiving or awaiting speech and language therapy will be specifically supported by her. Parents are welcome to seek her advice and request an assessment if appropriate.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The Centre welcomes all families, celebrating individual differences.

The whole team makes every effort to ensure that children with disabilities/special educational needs are able to access the appropriate curriculum. The Meadows is specifically resourced for children with a hearing impairment. If you would like more information about this please ask.

Keeping Children Safe

We believe that every child regardless of age has, at all times and in all situations, a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged.

We recognise our legal and moral duty to promote the well-being of children and protect them from harm, and to respond to child abuse.

We will respond to any concerns raised by children, parents or other adults and will take appropriate action in accordance with the procedures issued by Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board.

Diversity

We are part of a rich, diverse cultural society. We celebrate individual differences and help everyone to express their feelings and needs whilst respecting others.

We invite everyone in the Centre to demonstrate their unique personality and express their feelings. Everyone is supported to negotiate for the things they need and to solve the problems that occur when a group of people work together.

Partnership with Families

Parents are children's first and most enduring educators and each family is unique. The staff team aim to work in true partnership with parents to help each child's development. Staff understand children, but parents are the experts for their own children.

Parents are encouraged to share information regularly and are welcome to spend sessions in the Centre working alongside the children.

Many opportunities are offered to share learning between home and school, e.g. library books and story sacks.

Governing Body

The Centre has a full governing body which is made up of representatives of staff, parents and the community. It has overall responsibility for the Centre's activities. Please ask at Reception if you would like more information.

OFSTED

All aspects of the Centre are inspected by OFSTED as part of their regular monitoring procedures. Meadows was inspected in December 2012 and judged to be 'Outstanding' for the 4th time in a row. To read the report go to our website [www.ambleside.wokingham.sch.uk/links/Ofsted/Meadows Ofsted Report Dec 12](http://www.ambleside.wokingham.sch.uk/links/Ofsted/Meadows%20Ofsted%20Report%20Dec%2012)

Or to the Ofsted website

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/schools/for-parents-and-carers/find-school-inspection-report> (put RG5 4JJ in the Address search box)

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**For more information about our Centre, please visit our website
www.ambleside.wokingham.sch.uk/home**

If you would like to see our Meadows nursery, and hear more, please book on to a tour.

Contact Details

Address: Ambleside Close
Woodley
Reading
RG5 4JJ

Telephone: 0118 377 6444

Email: office@ambleside.wokingham.sch.uk

Please ask if you need help with this booklet.

Last revised August 2015