

# School Admission Arrangements 2026-2027

Community and Voluntary  
Controlled Schools

**Access to Learning, Education Strategy**

**Admission Arrangements for Voluntary and Voluntary Controlled Schools  
For the Academic Year 2026/27**

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## **Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled First, Infant, Primary, Junior and Middle Schools**

### **Admissions at normal age of entry: academic year 2026/2027**

The normal point of entry for admission to First, Infant and Primary Schools is Reception where full time places will be available in September of the academic year in which the child becomes five years old.

The normal point of entry for admission to a Junior School is the September in which the child is admitted to National Curriculum Year 3.

The normal point of entry for admission to a Middle School is the September in which the child is admitted to National Curriculum Year 5.

Staffordshire County Council is the admissions authority for the schools listed on page 16 to 17 of this document. It is our policy to try and meet parents' wishes where possible, however in some cases there may be more applications for a particular school than there are places available. Although parents have the right to express a preference for the school that they wish their child to attend, there is no guarantee of a place being offered at their preferred school where this is the case.

In accordance with legislation, children who have an education, health and care plan (EHCP) that names a school as being the most appropriate to meet the child's needs must be admitted to that school. This will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.

Admission to oversubscribed community and voluntary controlled schools are decided using the oversubscription criteria detailed below.

### **Oversubscription criteria**

If the total number of preferences for admission to a school exceeds the school's published admission number (PAN), the following order of priority will be used to allocate the available places:

- 1) Children in care and children who ceased to be in care because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order), including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted *see additional note \* below*.
- 2) Children whose current exceptional circumstances satisfy both of the following tests:

Test 1: the child is distinguished from the great majority of other applicants either on their own medical grounds which requires regular and sustained medical treatment or by other extreme exceptional circumstances.

Medical grounds must be supported by a medical report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application). This report must clearly justify, for health reasons only, why it is better for the child's health to attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

Exceptional circumstances must relate and be relevant to the preferred school and the individual child, i.e. the exceptional circumstances of the child, not the economic or social circumstances of the parent/carer. They should be supported by a recent professional's report (obtained by the applicant and provided when the application is submitted), e.g. social worker. This report must clearly explain why the child's circumstances are exceptional and why it is considered best that they attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

and

Test 2: the child will suffer hardship if they were unable to attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

Hardship means severe suffering of any kind, not merely difficulty, inconvenience or mild to moderate emotional distress, which is likely to be experienced as a result of the child attending a different school. Applicants must provide detailed information (which may be included within the professional's report) detailing both the type and severity of any likely hardship at the time of application.

- 3) Children who have an elder sibling in attendance at the preferred school (or in the case of an infants school, the affiliated junior school) and who will still be attending the school at the proposed admission date; (For the application to be prioritised under this criteria the children must be living at the same home address for the majority of the school week and either: have one or both natural parents in common; are related by a parents marriage; are adopted or fostered by a common parent or are unrelated children who live at the same address, whose parents live as partners.)
- 4) Children whose home address is located within the catchment area of the preferred school. *see additional notes and \*\* below*
- 5) Children whose parents regularly attend a Church of England church, or a church in communion with the Church of England, or of a church which is affiliated to the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland or the Evangelical Alliance. Evidence of such attendance will be required in the form of a letter from a minister of the churches concerned (*Only certain voluntary controlled schools use this criterion, see additional notes \*\*\* below*). Regular attendance is defined as attendance at a church service (or an explicitly defined church activity) on a Sunday or weekday on at least two occasions per month for at least two years. In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, or the person has been unable to partake in such activities due to health restrictions, the requirement in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship and/or the person was able to partake in such activities
- 6) Other children arranged in order of priority according to how near their home addresses are to the main gate of the school, determined by a straight-line measurement as calculated by the local authority's geographical information system. *see additional notes \*\*\*\* below*

Where it is not possible to accommodate all children applying for places within a particular category then we will allocate the available places in accordance with the remaining criteria. If for instance, all the catchment area children cannot be accommodated at a school, children who are resident within the catchment area will be arranged in order of priority according to criteria 5) followed by those children resident within the catchment area arranged in order of criteria 6).

If we cannot distinguish between applicants using the criteria listed, e.g. children who live in the same block of flats, then the child or children who will be offered the available spaces will be randomly selected. This process will be independently verified by an officer outside of the School Admissions Service.

### **Additional notes**

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide any supportive information required in order for the application to be assessed against the above published admissions criteria, we will not seek to obtain any supportive information on behalf of an applicant in support of a school application.

\*Children in care means children who are looked after by a local authority in accordance with section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989 and who is (a) in care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see definition in Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a "special guardianship order" as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

\*\*Copies of school catchment area maps are available from the local authority or individual schools. [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Catchment-areas.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Catchment-areas.aspx)

\*\*\*Category 5 is relevant and will be applied in respect of the following schools:

Berkswich CE (VC) Primary, Stafford  
Forsbrook CE (VC) Primary, Blythe Bridge  
Hob Hill CE/Methodist (VC) Primary, Rugeley  
Holy Trinity CE (C) Primary, Burton upon Trent  
St Luke's CE (VC) Primary, Cannock

St Margaret's CE (VC) Junior, Newcastle under Lyme  
St Paul's CE (VC) Primary, Stafford

\*\*\*\*The local authority uses a geographical information system (GIS) to calculate home to school distances in miles. The measurement is calculated using Ordnance Survey (OS) data from an applicant's home address to the main front gate of the school. The coordinates of an applicant's home address are determined and provided by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and OS address point data.

Attendance at particular nursery or infant school will not provide priority for admission to any particular primary or junior schools. Even where children are attending infant or nursery schools attached to particular schools, parents must make a separate application for admission to primary or junior school at the appropriate time.

The requirement for the local authority to meet the infant class size legislation may result in the refusal of catchment area or sibling applications where a class has already reached its limit of 30 pupils. However, as an exception, the local authority will give careful consideration to offering places above the published admission number to applications from children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted even when there are no vacant places.

Admissions for the normal age of entry are administered through a coordinated admission scheme and preferences for maintained schools will be processed centrally by the School Admissions and Transport Service. The aim of the scheme is to ensure that each child will receive only one offer of a place at a maintained school on a prescribed date.

It is expected that parents will agree on school places before an application is made, and it may be necessary to request evidence from parents to confirm that this is the case. The local authority is not in a position to intervene in disputes between parents over school applications and will request that these are resolved privately.

### **Home Address**

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parent/carer's main and genuine principal place of residence at the time of the allocation of places i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than legal guardianship) the friends or relatives address will not be considered for allocation purposes. (See below for clarification of position in respect of children of armed forces families.)

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

If a child's home address changes during the admissions process it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the local authority immediately. Where there is a proposed house move taking place during the admissions process the local authority will only accept the revised address for purposes of allocation where parents/carers can provide documentary evidence of the move by **6 March 2026**. It will be necessary for sufficient evidence of a permanent move

to be provided by the applicant by this date before it will be taken into account for allocation purposes at the national offer date (see note below for clarification of position in respect of children of armed forces families).

If a place is offered on the basis of an address that is subsequently found to be different from the child's normal and permanent home address at the time of allocation of places then that place is likely to be withdrawn.

Any Staffordshire child not obtaining a place at any of their parent's preferred schools will be allocated an alternative school place and advised about the independent appeals process.

### **Children of Armed Forces Families**

The Local Authority will allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area, provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date.

For children of armed forces families where an intended home address is provided in support of the application, the Local Authority will use the intended address in respect of applying the oversubscription criteria as long as the family provide some evidence of their intended address. Where an intended address can not be evidenced, the Local Authority will use a Unit or quartering address as the child's home address when considering the application against the oversubscription criteria, where a parent requests this.

### **Deferred entry to reception class**

Parents may decide to defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the application was made. In addition, where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age. Before deciding whether to defer their child's entry to school, parents should visit their preferred school(s) to clarify how they cater for the youngest children in reception and how the needs of these children are met as they move up through the school.

### **Admission outside of the normal age group**

Parents may wish to apply for their child's admission to school outside of their normal age group. In addition, the parents of summer born children may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted outside of their normal age group to reception rather than Year 1.

Any such parents will need to make an application alongside children applying at the normal age explaining why they consider it to be in the child's best interest to be admitted outside of their normal age, this may include information such as professional evidence as to why this is the case and why an exception should be made in the case of the child. A decision as to whether this is agreed will be made by the local authority. They will take into account the circumstances of the case including the parent's views and information provided; information about the child's academic, social, and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of any medical professionals; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely as well as views of the headteacher of the community or voluntary controlled school concerned. Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group.

## **Waiting lists for Admissions and Normal Point of Entry**

Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria stated above and not based on the date their application was received. There will be a period of two weeks after the national offer date whereby available places will not be reallocated. If places become available after this date they will be offered according to the child at the top of the waiting list.

For cases where the infant class size regulations apply, the waiting list will operate until the cohort concerned leaves year 2.

For all other cases, waiting lists will be kept until **31 December 2026**.

Inclusion on a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available at the preferred school.

A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed and is subject to change during the year i.e. they can go up or down the list since each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the oversubscription criteria.

Children who are subject of a direction by a local authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with the fair access protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

### **Late applications**

Preferences received after the closing date will be considered alongside those applicants who applied on time wherever possible. Where it is not practicable because places have already been allocated, or are shortly to be allocated, then late preferences will be considered only after those that were made before this point in time.

A late application does not affect the right of appeal or the right to be placed on a school's waiting list.

For late applications made after the time that is practicable because places have already been allocated, are shortly to be allocated, there will be a period of two weeks after the national offer date whereby available places will not be reallocated. If places become available after this date they will be offered according to the child at the top of the waiting list.

### **Repeat applications**

Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the local authority has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.

### **"In-year admission" arrangements**

Parents or carers seeking to be admitted to a community or voluntary controlled school may make an application directly to the preferred school using the appropriate application form

which is available from the county council website [In-year school admissions: Overview - Staffordshire County Council](#). This application will be processed in line with the procedure outlined in the determined admission arrangements and parents and carers need to be aware that in the case of transfers between local schools, any date set for joining the new school may be after the next term or half term holiday and those parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child continues to receive appropriate education in the interim.

## **Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools**

### **Admissions at normal age of entry: academic year 2026/27**

The normal point of entry for admission to a Secondary School is the September in which the child is admitted to National Curriculum Year 7 with the exception of Codsall Community High which admits children in the September in which the child is admitted to National Curriculum Year 9.

Staffordshire County Council is the admissions authority for the schools listed on page 16 to 17 of this document. It is our policy to try and meet parents' wishes where possible, however in some cases there may be more applications for a particular school than there are places available. Although parents have the right to express a preference for the school that they wish their child to attend, there is no guarantee of a place being offered at their preferred school where this is the case.

In accordance with legislation, children who have an education, health and care plan (EHCP) that names a school as being the most appropriate to meet the child's needs must be admitted to that school. This will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.

Admission to oversubscribed community and voluntary controlled schools are decided using the oversubscription criteria detailed below.

### **Oversubscription criteria**

If the total number of preferences for admission to a school exceeds the school's published admission number (PAN), the following order of priority will be used to allocate the available places.

- 1) Children in care and children who ceased to be in care because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order), including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted *see additional note \* below*.
- 2) Children whose current exceptional circumstances satisfy both of the following tests:

Test 1: the child is distinguished from the great majority of other applicants either on their own medical grounds which requires regular and sustained medical treatment or by other extreme exceptional circumstances.

Medical grounds must be supported by a medical report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application). This report must clearly justify, for health reasons

only, why it is better for the child's health to attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

Exceptional circumstances must relate and be relevant to the preferred school and the individual child, i.e. the exceptional circumstances of the child, not the economic or social circumstances of the parent/carer. They should be supported by a recent professional's report (obtained by the applicant and provided when the application is submitted), e.g. social worker. This report must clearly explain why the child's circumstances are exceptional and why it is considered best that they attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

and

Test 2: the child will suffer hardship if they were unable to attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

Hardship means severe suffering of any kind, not merely difficulty, inconvenience or mild to moderate emotional distress, which is likely to be experienced as a result of the child attending a different school. Applicants must provide detailed information (which may be included within the professional's report) detailing both the type and severity of any likely hardship at the time of application.

- 3) Children who have an elder sibling in attendance at the preferred school and who will still be attending the school at the proposed admission date; (For the application to be prioritised under this criteria the children must be living at the same home address for the majority of the school week and either: have one or both natural parents in common; are related by a parents marriage; are adopted or fostered by a common parent or are unrelated children who live at the same address, whose parents live as partners.)
- 4) Children whose home address is located within the catchment area of the preferred school. *see additional notes and \*\* below*
- 5) Children who attend certain middle schools defined as major contributory middle schools *see additional note \*\*\* below*
- 6) Other children arranged in order of priority according to how near their home addresses are to the main gate of the school, determined by a straight-line measurement as calculated by the local authority's geographical information system. *see additional note \*\*\*\* below*

Where it is not possible to accommodate all children applying for places within a particular category then we will allocate the available places in accordance with the remaining criteria. If for instance, all the catchment area children cannot be accommodated at a school, children who are resident within the catchment area will be arranged in order of priority according to the remaining criteria i.e. criteria 5 and then criteria 6.

If we cannot distinguish between applicants using the criteria listed, e.g children who live in the same block of flats, then the child or children who will be offered the available spaces will be randomly selected. This process will be independently verified.

### **Additional notes**

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide any supportive information required in order for the application to be assessed against the above published admissions criteria, we will not seek to obtain any supportive information on behalf of an applicant in support of a school application.

\*Children in care means children who are looked after by a local authority in accordance with section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989 and who is (a) in care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see definition in Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a special guardianship order as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

\*\*Copies of school catchment area maps are available from the local authority or individual schools. [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-secondary/Catchment-areas.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-secondary/Catchment-areas.aspx)

\*\*\*Category (5), major contributory middle schools are relevant to the following schools:

<b>School</b>	<b>Major Contributory Middle Schools</b>
Codsall Community High School	Bilbrook CE (C) Middle Codsall Middle Perton Middle

\*\*\*\*The local authority uses a geographical information system (GIS) to calculate home to school distances in miles. The measurement is calculated using Ordnance Survey (OS) data from an applicant's home address to the main front gate of the school. The coordinates of an applicant's home address are determined and provided by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and OS address point data.

Admissions for the normal age of entry are administered through a coordinated admission scheme and preferences for community, controlled, aided and foundation schools will be processed centrally by the School Admissions and Transport Service. The aim of the scheme is to ensure that each pupil will receive one offer of a place at a school on a prescribed date.

It is expected that parents will agree on school places before an application is made, and it may be necessary to request evidence from parents to confirm that this is the case. The local authority is not in a position to intervene in disputes between parents over school applications and will request that these are resolved privately.

## Home Address

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parent's main and genuine principal place of residence at the time of the allocation of places i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than legal guardianship) the friends or relatives address will not be considered for allocation purposes (see below for clarification of position in respect of children of armed forces families).

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

If a child's home address changes during the admissions process it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the local authority immediately. Where there is a proposed house move taking place during the admissions process the local authority will only accept the revised address for purposes of allocation where parents/carers can provide documentary evidence of the move by **23 January 2026**. It will be necessary for sufficient evidence of a permanent move to be provided by the applicant by this date before it will be taken into account for allocation purposes at the national offer date (see below for clarification of position in respect of children of armed forces families).

If a place is offered on the basis of an address that is subsequently found to be different from the child's normal and permanent home address at the time of allocation of places then that place is likely to be withdrawn.

Any Staffordshire child not obtaining a place at any of their parent's preferred schools will be allocated an alternative school place and advised about the independent appeals process.

## Children of Armed Forces Families

The Local Authority will allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area, provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date.

For children of armed forces families where an intended home address is provided in support of the application, the Local Authority will use the intended address in respect of applying the oversubscription criteria as long as the family provide some evidence of their intended address. Where an intended address can not be evidenced, will use a Unit or quartering address as the child's home address when considering the application against the oversubscription criteria, where a parent requests this.

## Waiting lists for Normal Point of Entry

Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria stated above and not based on the date their application was received. There will be a period of two weeks after the national offer date whereby available places will not be reallocated. If places become available after this date they will be offered according to the child at the top of the waiting list.

Waiting lists will be kept until **31<sup>st</sup> December 2026**. No other waiting lists will be maintained.

Inclusion on a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available at the preferred school.

A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed and is subject to change during the year i.e. they can go up or down the list since each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the oversubscription criteria.

Children who are subject of a direction by a local authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with the fair access protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

### **Late applications**

Preferences received after the closing date will be considered alongside those applicants who applied on time wherever possible. Where it is not practicable because places have already been allocated, or are shortly to be allocated, then late preferences will be considered only after those that were made before this point in time.

A late application does not affect the right of appeal or the right to be placed on a school's waiting list.

For late applications made after the time that is practicable because places have already been allocated, are shortly to be allocated, there will be a period of two weeks after the national offer date whereby available places will not be reallocated. If places become available after this date they will be offered according to the child at the top of the waiting list.

### **Repeat applications**

Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the local authority has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.

### **Admission outside of the normal age group**

Parents may seek to apply for their child's admission to school outside of their normal age group, for example if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such parents will need to make an application alongside children applying at the normal age explaining why they consider it to be in the child's best interest to be admitted outside of their normal age, this may include information such as professional evidence as to why this is the case and why an exception should be made in the case of the child. A decision as to whether this is agreed will be made by the local authority. They will take into account the circumstances of the case including the parent's views and information provided; information about the child's academic, social, and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of any medical professionals; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely as well as views of the headteacher

of the community or voluntary controlled school concerned. Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group.

### **Sixth form admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled Secondary and High schools**

Applications for admission to the sixth form will be dealt with by the school in accordance with the school's published admission arrangements. Individual schools will provide detailed information on the admission policy including minimum entry requirements for particular courses on request.

Children already in the school will not be required to apply formally for places in year 12 but should have reached the minimum entry qualifications for admission into the sixth form, details of which are included in the published admission arrangements.

External applicants will not be refused the opportunity to make an application or told that they can only be placed on a waiting list rather than make a formal application.

Any applicant refused a place in year 12 is entitled to make an appeal to an independent appeal panel whether the child is already attending the school or is an external candidate. Minimum entry requirements are the same for internal and external applicants.

Schools must not interview children or their families for entry to year 12, although meetings can be held to provide advice on options and entry requirements for particular courses. Entry must not be dependent on attendance, behaviour record or perceptions of attitude or motivation.

### **"In-year admission" arrangements**

Parents or carers seeking to be admitted to a community or voluntary controlled school may make an application directly to the preferred school using the appropriate application form which is available from the county council website [In-year school admissions: Overview - Staffordshire County Council](#). This application will be processed in line with the procedure outlined in the determined admission arrangements and parents and carers need to be aware that in the case of transfers between local schools, any date set for joining the new school may be after the next term or half term holiday and those parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child continues to receive appropriate education in the interim.

### **Staffordshire County Council's definition of 'relevant area'**

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires each local authority to establish a 'Relevant Area(s)' in which admission authorities must consult regarding their proposed admission arrangements. The Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 requires local authorities to review and consult on their proposed relevant area every two years.

For individual admission authorities within Staffordshire, the relevant area will be:

- All schools or neighbouring LAs which are within 5 miles for a secondary school and 3 miles for a primary school (primary schools need not consult secondary schools).
- All other bodies as prescribed within the School Admissions Code

**Published admission numbers 2026/27**

A school's published admission number (PAN) reflects the number of children to be admitted at the normal age of entry and should only be exceeded in exceptional circumstances and with prior agreement from the Local Authority.

<b>DfE No</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>PAN 2026/27</b>
4500	Abbot Beyne School	150
3110	All Saints CE (VC) First School, Standon	12
2370	Amington Heath Community School	30
2322	Ashcroft Infants	45
3137	Baldwin's Gate CE (VC) Primary School	22
3027	Barlaston CE (VC) First School	30
3028	Berkswich CE (VC) Primary School, Stafford	30
3029	Betley CE (VC) Primary School	15
4517	Bilbrook CE (VC) Middle School	50
2396	Blakeley Heath Primary School	60
2177	Bridgtown Primary School	60
2406	Burton Manor Primary School	45
3040	Chadsmoor CE (VC) Junior School	60
2178	Chadsmoor Community Infant and Nursery School	60
2355	Chancel Primary School	30
3494	Chase View Community Primary School	30
2191	Cheadle Primary School	60
3076	Christ Church CE (VC) Primary School, Lichfield	60
2123	Christchurch Primary School, Burton	45
4075	Codsall Community High School	250
2399	Cooper Perry Primary School	30
2321	Endon Hall Primary School, Endon	30
2180	Five Ways Primary School	90
2409	Flash Ley Primary School, Stafford	30
2332	Florendine Primary School	39
3000	Forsbrook CE (VC) Primary School	30
2413	Fulfen Primary School, Burntwood	60
2208	Fulford Primary School	15
2342	Glenthorne Community Primary School	30
2386	Gorsemoor Primary School	60
2346	Hanbury's Farm Primary School	30
2251	Hassell Community Primary School	30
2327	Hayes Meadow Primary School	30
3139	Hob Hill CE/Meth(VC) Primary School	30
3144	Holy Trinity CE (C) Primary School	30
3026	Hugo Meynell CE (VC) Primary School	30
2369	Jerome Community Primary School	30
4087	King Edward VI School, Lichfield	250
2394	Landywood Primary School	60
2368	Lane Green First School	30



<b>DfE No</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>PAN 2026/27</b>
2256	May Bank Infants School	60
4066	Norton Canes High School	120
2348	Oakhill Primary School	20
2293	Oakridge Primary School, Stafford	30
4055	Paget High School	169
2372	Perton First School	60
4170	Perton Middle School	120
2345	Pirehill First School	60
2157	Ravensmead Primary School	60
3500	River View Primary School	60
3136	Sir John Offley CE (VC) Primary School, Madeley	25
2344	Springcroft Primary School, Blythe Bridge	30
2315	Springfields First School, Yarnfield	30
3035	St. Anne's CE (VC) Primary School, Brown Edge	30
3082	St. Bartholomew's CE (VC) Primary School, Longnor	6
3091	St. Chad's CE (VC) Primary School, Newcastle	48
3098	St. Chad's CE (VC) First School, Pattingham	30
3116	St. John's CE (VC) Primary School, Swindon	15
2403	St. Leonard's Primary School, Stafford	45
3093	St. Luke's CE (VC) Primary School, Silverdale	30
3492	St. Luke's CE (VC) Primary School, Cannock	60
3094	St. Margaret's CE (VC) Junior School	60
3112	St. Michael's CE (VC) First School, Stone	60
3149	St. Paul's CE (VC) Primary School, Stafford	15
2207	St. Stephen's Primary School, Fradley	60
2153	The Croft Primary School, Armitage	30
2360	The John Bamford Primary School	45
3497	The William Amory Primary School	30
2326	Thomas Russell Junior School	60
3117	Tittensor CE (VC) First School	15
2140	Tower View Primary School	60
2132	Victoria Community School	60
4142	Walton Priory Middle School	150
2184	West Hill Primary	60
2397	Westfield Community Primary School	60

## **Coordinated Scheme for Admissions to Primary, Infant, Junior, First, Middle and Secondary Schools – 2026/2027**

Staffordshire County Council's School Admissions and Transport Service (SA&TS) will coordinate all admissions at all maintained schools in Staffordshire, including all voluntary aided and foundation as well as academy schools in respect of applications for school places at the normal age of entry.

Staffordshire County Council is the relevant admissions authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools within the county of Staffordshire.

The individual governing body is the relevant admissions authority for foundation, voluntary aided, trust and academy trust for academy schools within Staffordshire.

In accordance with regulations, admissions to middle schools at the normal age of entry will be coordinated in accordance with the primary school timetable.

### **The scheme**

1. This scheme meets the requirement for a coordinated admission scheme under The School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements (England)) Regulations 2012 and applies to applications made by Staffordshire parents for all maintained schools and academies at the normal age of entry (except special schools and nurseries).
2. The purpose of the scheme is to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable,
  - i) each parent who applies for a school place at the normal age of entry receives only one single offer of a school place under the scheme, whether that be at a school within the county or one maintained by another authority, and
  - ii) a child is granted admission to whichever of the schools that is ranked highest on that application wherever possible.
3. Parents of children resident in the county of Staffordshire must make an application for the normal age of entry through Staffordshire County Council to apply for any school within Staffordshire or in another authority.

### **Applying for school places at the normal point of entry**

4. Staffordshire County Council's School Admissions and Transport Service will provide a common application form to enable parents to apply for any school within the County or in another local authority. Parents will also be able to apply online.
5. Staffordshire parents will be able to name up to three school preferences, rank them in order of preference and have the opportunity to give reasons for their preferences. Parents must name all schools at which they wish to be considered for a place in order of preference, including any maintained foundation, trust, voluntary aided or any schools outside of Staffordshire including academies.

6. Any Staffordshire school that receives an application directly must ensure that it is forwarded to the School Admissions and Transport Service.

### **Applying for school places in-year**

7. An application form can be obtained from any of the following sources;
  - From Staffordshire County Council's website  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions)
  - Customer Contact Centre Service (0300 111 8007)
  - Child's current school or preferred school (if in Staffordshire)
8. The application form will enable parents to apply for a school of their preference, and to provide their name and address and the name, address and date of birth of the child and also to include any documentary evidence in support of the application. The application form will also allow the parents to give reasons for the preference. Parents must apply directly to all schools for which they wish to be considered for a place, including any maintained foundation, voluntary aided, academy or any schools outside the county of Staffordshire.
9. Any Staffordshire school that receives an application directly must ensure that the local authority is notified of the application and subsequent outcome.

### **Supplementary application forms**

10. Where an in-year application is made for a school for which the governing body are the admission authority, the application must be forwarded together with supporting information provided by the parent, to the governing body. The governing body of a foundation, voluntary aided or academy school may require parents who make an application to provide supplementary information in order to apply their own admissions policy.
11. Parents are under no obligation to forward supplementary information, unless it is required to enable the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria.
12. Where supplementary information is required for applications at the normal point of entry it must be returned to the School Admissions and Transport Service along with a valid application so that all information can then be passed to the relevant admissions authority.
13. For applications made for the normal point of entry, where documentary evidence in support of the application is received or a school receives supplementary information then it will not be regarded as a valid application, unless the parent has also completed an application with Staffordshire County Council.
14. Where documentary evidence in support of the application or supplementary information is received directly by a foundation, voluntary aided or academy school for the normal age of entry, the school must inform the School Admissions and Transport Service immediately so that it can verify whether an application has been received and if this is not the case then, the parent can be contacted and requested to complete an application.

### **Closing date for return of applications – normal age of entry**

15. All secondary school applications should be submitted by the national closing date of **31 October 2025**.
16. All primary school applications should be submitted by the national closing date of **15 January 2026**.

### **Variations for schools in the three-tier system – normal age of entry**

17. Children admitted to middle schools in year 5 technically form part of the primary coordinated scheme.
18. Non Staffordshire year 6 children attending a Staffordshire middle school will only receive information about the secondary transfer process if parents specifically request it.
19. Non Staffordshire year 8 children attending a Staffordshire middle school must apply for school places through their home local authority.

### **Processing applications – point age of entry**

20. By **14 November 2025** for secondary applications and **30 January 2026** for primary applications, the School Admissions and Transport Service will have forwarded and received all details of appropriate applications to and from other local authorities and will merge this information into the admissions database.
21. By **2 December 2025** for secondary applications and **24 February 2026** for primary applications the School Admissions and Transport Service will have forwarded all details of appropriate applications (and accompanying supplementary application forms where provided) to academy, trust, aided and foundation schools in Staffordshire. The School Admissions and Transport Service will then draw up preference lists for all community and voluntary controlled schools by applying the county council's oversubscription criteria.
22. Each school which is its own admission authority will apply their oversubscription criteria to all applications and by the **16 December 2025** (secondary schools) and **6 March 2026** (primary schools) will forward a list of all applicants to the School Admissions and Transport Service indicating the rank order in which all children meet the school's oversubscription criteria along with an indication of which oversubscription criteria apply to each child.
23. The School Admissions and Transport Service compares the ranked lists from all schools. After applying the oversubscription criteria for each stated preference, where a child qualifies for a place at more than one school, the School Admissions and Transport Service will allocate a place at the parent's highest ranked preference. The child would then be removed from the other school's lists and if there were other children awaiting places at that school the list would be adjusted accordingly taking the next applicant in the order of the oversubscription criteria.

24. By **9 January 2026** (secondary schools) and **13 March 2026** (primary schools) the initial results of places in Staffordshire schools will be known. These will be shared with other local authorities and exchanged for details of Staffordshire pupils gaining places at out of county schools.
25. These results are then compared to rankings and a list of provisional offers will be produced.
26. Local authorities will then repeat the process set out in 23 to 25 and exchange final results on **20 February 2026** (secondary schools) and **1 April 2026** (primary schools).

### **Decisions**

27. On **2 March 2026** the School Admissions and Transport Service will notify all Staffordshire parents who have applied for a secondary school at the normal age of entry of the outcome of their preference and make a single offer of a school place.
28. All Staffordshire parents who have applied for a place in a primary, infant/junior, first or middle school at the normal age of entry will be notified on **16 April 2026**.
29. Offers of school places being made to Staffordshire children for the normal age of entry on behalf of a voluntary aided school, a foundation or academy school or a school in another authority will be sent by Staffordshire County Council on behalf of the relevant admission authority.
30. Children resident in other local authorities who have made preferences for schools within Staffordshire for the normal age of entry will be notified of the outcome of their school allocated by their home local authority.
31. Where a Staffordshire child (without an EHCP) does not qualify for admission to any of their preferred schools and is also not on the roll of a school within a reasonable distance of the home address, an alternative school will be offered in conjunction with the relevant admission authority.
32. Where refusals are made for Staffordshire schools, parents will be given information about the appeal process.
33. Where refusals are made on behalf of other local authorities further information will be provided to parents to enable them to appeal, should they wish to do so.

### **Waiting lists and late applications**

34. Staffordshire County Council as the admissions authority shall maintain a waiting list for the normal age of entry for at least 1 term in the academic year of admission, for every oversubscribed community or voluntary controlled school, according to the published admission arrangements.

35. Academies, voluntary aided and foundation schools are responsible for deciding whether to operate a waiting list and how their waiting list will operate.
36. The waiting lists will be clear, fair and objective and will not give priority to any child based on the date that their application was received or the date that the child's name was added to the waiting list.
37. It must be noted, that children who are the subject of a direction by a local authority to admit or those that are allocated to a school in accordance with the fair access protocol must take precedence over other children on the waiting list.
38. There will be a 2 week period after national offer dates whereby available places will not be allocated from community and voluntary controlled school waiting lists or to applications that were received very close to or after the national offer date.

### **Acceptance of school place**

39. Parents will have at least two weeks after the date of offer to notify the authority as to whether or not he/she wishes to accept the place offered where relevant to the individual school admission arrangements.

### **Change of preference**

40. During the admission process the order of school preference may be changed by parents in writing up to the closing date. After this date, any change of preferences received will be dealt with in line with the late application policy relevant to the individual school admission arrangements.
41. Parents wishing to change their preferences to include schools not previously named will need to make a late application, which will be administered in line with information provided in the individual school's admission arrangements.
42. Parents wishing to change their preferences after the notification date will need to make a late application which will then be administered in line with information provided in the individual school's admission arrangements.

### **Failure to express a preference (children eligible for secondary school place)**

43. Where a Staffordshire parent does not make an application for any school and the child is known to the School Admissions and Transport Service, the child may be allocated an alternative school place if there is one available within a reasonable distance of the home address (providing the child has no EHCP). Transport assistance will not necessarily be provided.

### **Processing applications – in-year admissions**

44. The process for in year transfers for Staffordshire schools is not coordinated. In line with the School Admissions Code, parents are able to contact the School Admissions and Transport Service for information about places available and then make applications directly to schools.

45. Application forms for in year places are available from the county council along with guidance on completing them. Academies and other schools which are their own admission authority may also have their own forms which can be obtained from the school.
46. Completed application forms should be returned directly to the preferred school. The school must notify the local authority of both the application and the outcome of the application within 15 school days, including sending through a copy of the decision letter and application where the application has been refused.
47. All decisions on applications will be made in line with the determined admission arrangements and will be subject to scrutiny to determine whether or not they meet the criteria for consideration under the fair access protocol. A copy of this protocol is published on the local authority's website.
48. When determining school place applications outside the normal admissions round, admission authorities must not refuse to admit a child thought to be potentially disruptive, or likely to exhibit challenging behaviour, on the grounds that the child is first to be assessed for special educational needs.
49. Where a child has been permanently excluded from two or more schools there is no need for an admission authority to comply with parental preference for a period of two years from the last exclusion. The twice excluded rule does not apply to children who were below compulsory school age at the time of the exclusion, children who have been re-instated following a permanent exclusion (or would have been had it been practicable to do so), and children with an education health care plans. There is an expectation that the PAN at the normal age of entry will apply as the year group works through the school wherever possible.
50. When it is not possible to offer a place, parents **must** be advised of their right of appeal under the School Admissions Appeals Code. Schools should confirm that this has been done in their notification to the local authority by sending a copy of the formal decision to parents with the application.
51. For unsuccessful applications for year groups at community and voluntary controlled schools where a waiting list is in operation, the School Admissions and Transport Team will add unsuccessful applicants to the waiting list. Academies and other schools which are their own admission authority may have their own waiting list policy. Schools **must not** offer places to applicants in excess of the published admission number where a waiting list is in operation without consulting with the School Admissions and Transport Team.
52. Where a refusal means that a child does not have a school place, the School Admissions Team will contact parents to discuss options for securing a place. This may involve approaching other schools in the area that have places on parents behalf to offer them an alternative school.

53. The School Admissions and Transport Service is available to both schools and parents as a source of advice on the admissions process.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Primary and Middle</b>
Closing date - all applications to be submitted to School Admissions and Transport Service	31 October 2025	15 January 2026
Applications sent to and received from other Local Authorities.	14 November 2025	30 January 2026
Application details and supporting documentation sent to academies, aided and foundation schools.	2 December 2025	24 February 2026
Academies, Aided and Foundation schools forward lists of all preferences ranked in accordance with criteria to School Admissions and Transport Service.	16 December 2025	6 March 2026
Provisional offers shared between Local Authorities.	9 January 2026	13 March 2026
Final offers exchanged with other Local Authorities.	20 February 2026	1 April 2026
Parents notified of outcomes.	2 March 2026	16 April 2026
Places offered to children who have made late applications that cannot be considered within above timescales and to those included on oversubscribed waiting lists	2 weeks of above	2 weeks of above