

School Admission - First and Primary School Applications Frequently Asked Questions for September 2025

Q1. At what age can my child start school?

The law requires all children to start full-time education by the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Children who have reached their fourth birthday are entitled to attend full-time in a reception class from the September after their fourth birthday. The Reception academic year group from: 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026 is for children who were born between 01 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

Parents must apply for a school place by the closing date 15 January 2025 for admissions in the school year 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026.

Parents are entitled to send their child to school part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. You will need to check with the school you would like your child to attend, to see what their induction arrangements are.

Under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 parents have a legal responsibility to provide their child with an education either by regular school attendance or otherwise. Under this duty parents can decide to take

This process must be completed in advance of the closing date of 15 January 2025, in the event that the delayed entry is not approved, parents will need to make an application in time for the 2025 reception intake. Should the delayed entry be approved, you will receive details of how to proceed with an application for the following year.

Even if it is agreed that your summer born child can start school in the September following their fifth birthday in the reception class, the normal admission arrangements apply and there is no guarantee of a place. You should therefore give careful consideration to requesting delayed entry. If this is something you wish to discuss further then please contact 01905 822700.

Q3. What if my child is 4 between 1 September 2025 and 31 December 2026?

The local authority is not responsible for providing a school place for your child until the September following their fourth birthday. If your child is 4 between 1 September 2025 and 31 December 2026 s/he cannot therefore start school until September 2026.

Q4. Which school can your child attend?

The law says that the local authority must give parents the chance to state their preference for the school they wish their child to attend. The law does not give parents/carers an absolute right to "choose" the school for their child. It is important to find out the name of the catchment area school for the home address.

You may apply for other schools, including Academy, Foundation, Free or Voluntary Aided Schools, important considerations for you to note:

If your child is admitted to a first school or primary school of your preference, your child may not have the highest priority for transfer to the related middle school or high school. If the related middle school or high school is oversubscribed at the time of transfer, your child might then have to move in a different direction from other children attending the same first or primary school.

Having gained admission to a first or primary school of your preference does not mean that younger siblings will automatically gain admission

Please be aware that different LAs, Academies, Foundation, Free and Voluntary Aided Schools may have different admissions criteria, and therefore it is strongly advised that you ensure that you have understood the information that is available from each LA/School, before stating a preference on an application. (The Admissions Criteria for Worcestershire Academy, Foundation, Free and Voluntary Aided Schools are included under the Policies section on this website).

Please make contact with the School Admissions Team or any of the relevant LAs, if further information is required. (The contact details for neighbouring LAs can be found in the relevant 2025/26 Information for Parents Book).

Parents seeking a place at an Academy, Foundation, Free or Voluntary Aided School or schools outside Worcestershire must:

obtain from the school an admissions pack, including a prospectus which will explain if you need to provide/complete supplementary information/forms.

complete and submit a [Worcestershire on-line application](#) naming your school preferences.

It is very important that applications are received no later than the closing date 15 January 2025.

Late applications are always considered, though it may not be possible to allocate a place in the school you

(See the answer to question 9 regarding late applications).

You should inform the Headteacher of the allocated school, and School Admissions if you are withdrawing your application for any reason. School Admissions and the Headteacher must be notified immediately of any change in the

If your child currently lives outside Worcestershire, please see answer provided to question 7 on how to apply for school places.

Proof of application It is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure a receipt is obtained when making an application. Please retain any receipt as proof of application.

Applications made online would have been sent a return receipt via email once the application had been submitted. Please retain as proof of submission.

Q9. How do I make an application after the closing date?

After the closing date, from 16 January 2025 until July 202

Q12. Who has responsibility for the allocation of places?

If a school is oversubscribed (has more applications than places), it will use admission criteria to decide who to offer places to. Read them carefully for the schools you are interested in.

For Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, decisions are made by School Admissions. For Academy, Foundation, Free or Voluntary Aided Schools decisions are made by the governing bodies of the individual schools. See published admissions policies.

Q13. How are places allocated?

School Admissions will send details to its Academy, Foundation, Free or Voluntary Aided Schools of all applications received for that school, irrespective of ranking, for initial consideration, and also to neighbouring LAs, who will then apply their own oversubscription criteria.

Q16. How many children may be admitted to each school?

The County Council has a duty to ensure the provision of 1 0 300.31 72The