

Determined on 5 February 2025

Admission Arrangements for Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Community Primary, Infant, Junior and Nursery Schools

For academic year 2026/2027

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Introduction

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames is the admitting authority for community schools within the borough.

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames delivers its school admissions service through Achieving for Children (AfC), a community interest company set up in partnership with the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead.

This document sets out the local authority's admission arrangements for entry to schools for the academic year 2026/27.

These arrangements comply with the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), the School Admissions Code 2021, and the School Admission Appeal Code 2022.

Other admitting authorities within the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Voluntary aided schools, foundation schools, free schools and academies are their own admitting authorities. They are required to publish their own proposals for consultation (if required) and determine their own admissions arrangements. Details of their proposals and/or determined arrangements should be obtained from each individual school.

Community schools that become academies after 2 January 2025 will process applications in line with the arrangements published in this paper for admissions in September 2026. They will then be expected to determine their own arrangements for entry in September 2027.

There are no community secondary schools in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

Definitions and explanations

Admission authority - the authority responsible for setting and managing admission arrangements for a particular school.

Admission criteria - the rules used to prioritise the order in which children are offered school places.

Education, Health and Care Plan - An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is for children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities and where an assessment of education, health and social care needs has been agreed by a multi-agency group of professionals. It is available from birth to age 25. If a child has an EHCP naming a specific school they must be offered a place at the school named, in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice.

Looked after children - Looked after children are children who are (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (as defined in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

Normal admissions round - The period during which parents are invited to express up to six preferences for a place at any state-funded school, in rank order on the common application form provided by their home local authority. This period starts on 1 September, with deadlines for parental applications of 31 October (for secondary places) and 15 January (for primary places).

Oversubscribed - where there are more applications than places available. The admission criteria will be applied to all applications to determine who will be admitted into the school.

Parent - this is defined in the Education Act 1996 as including any person who is not a parent of the child but who has 'parental responsibility' (as defined in the Children Act 1989) for the child or young person, or any person who has care of the child or young person.

Previously looked after children - a child who was previously looked after, but immediately after being in care became adopted from local authority care, or subject to a child arrangement order under the terms of the Children Act 1989, or special guardianship order. A special guardianship order is defined in section 14A of the Children Act 1989 as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or special guardians. This provision includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. 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

Published admission number - this is the minimum number of pupils that a school is required to admit into the normal year of entry (Reception, Year 3 at a junior school, Year 7)

Sibling - children are considered siblings if they have a brother or sister, including an adopted, foster, half- or step- brother or sister, living at the same address. A sibling must still be attending the school at the time of admission of the child for whom a place is sought.

Admission policy for community schools from 1 September 2026

The authority strives to allocate places in a fair and transparent way. Every school has a published admission number (PAN) which is the number of pupils normally admitted to the entry year of the school. The numbers currently in force are given in a table at the beginning of each transfer group.

Where a school receives more applications than there are places available, applicants will be prioritised, and places allocated according to the published oversubscription criteria set.

Tiebreaker

If there are more applicants within each criterion, distance from home to school will be used as a tie-breaker and will be measured using the local authority's computerised geographical information system.

For applicants who live the same distance from the school, random selection by the drawing of lots is used as a final tie-breaker.

Measuring home to school distance

The Council has a standard method of measuring home to school distance as a straight line in metres, using the local authority's computerised Geographical Information System and data supplied by Ordnance Survey (OS).

The starting point is a grid reference point, which is supplied by Ordnance Survey. Residents of every floor level in a particular block of flats are given an identical start point, regardless of the distance to ground floor level.

The end point is measured to the main school gate, or the nearest school gate where the school has more than one school gate used for measuring home to school distances.

Home address for admissions purposes

Any offer of a place on the grounds of distance must be based on the child's permanent address at the time of application and admission. Proof of address will be sought and may be

the subject of further investigation. A temporary address, a business address, a childminder's address, or any address other than the child's permanent home will not be accepted. Where the child lives equally with both parents at different addresses the authority will consider all available evidence in order to confirm which address the authority will use to process the application.

The composite prospectus provides further information about the verification process for the home address, and [the Address Verification Protocol](#) is available in full on the Achieving for Children website.

Children with special educational needs and disabilities

If a child is undergoing an assessment of special educational needs and a parent does not know what the outcome will be by the closing date of application, they should apply for a school place using the common application form. If a particular school is later named in the child's education, health and care plan, a place will be provided automatically for the child at that school.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names a school will be allocated a place before other children, and are considered within the published admission number during the normal admissions round. The number of places available will be reduced by the number of children with an EHCP naming the school. If an application is received for a child with an EHCP naming a specific school outside the normal admissions round, the child must be admitted to that school even if it is full.

If a child has an EHCP but no named school, the admissions criteria will be applied to their application in line with the published arrangements.

Waiting lists

The child's name will automatically be put on the waiting list of any school which is a higher preference to the school he/she has been offered. A parent or carer may ask for their child's name to be added to the waiting list of a lower preference school to the one the child has been offered, or on one that they did not originally name as a preference.

Following the initial allocation, the names of late applicants will be added to waiting lists regardless of the date the application was received. Applicants are prioritised according to the published oversubscription criteria, and each added child will require the list to be ranked again.

Waiting lists for community schools will be kept open throughout the academic year until the end of June 2027. After this date, waiting lists for the current academic year will be disbanded, and parents who would like their child's name to be added to the waiting list for the following academic year will need to complete an in-year transfer application no sooner than 1 June 2027.

The local authority's Fair Access Panel may make placements over the admission number if the school is full, for children who are deemed to be vulnerable children (subject to a Child in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan within the last 12 months) or hard to place. Any children placed under the Fair Access Protocol will have priority over any children on the school's waiting list. [The Fair Access Protocol](#) is available on the Achieving for Children website.

Appeals

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 gives parents the right of appeal against a decision not to offer a place at a preferred school. The deadline dates relevant to the normal admissions round will be published in the authority's composite prospectus and in the relevant offer letter. Appeals can be submitted at any time during the academic year, and appellants are entitled to ten school days' notice of the appeal hearing date.

The School Admission Appeals Code requires that appeals for on time applications during the normal admissions round are heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals. Appeals for late applications are expected to be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals where possible or within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged. Appeals lodged by the closing date will be heard before the end of the summer term. Appeals lodged after the closing date will be heard as soon as possible.

Appeals relating to in-year applications must be heard within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.

Appeals for community schools are managed by [the Richmond Independent Appeals Service](#). All aspects of appeals for voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies are the responsibility of the school governors.

Admission of children outside of their chronological academic year group

The School Admissions Code enables a parent to request that their child is admitted into school outside of their chronological age group. Admission authorities are responsible for making the decision into which year group a child should be admitted and are required to make a decision based on the circumstances of the case. Parents do not have a right to appeal against entry into a specific year group. However, they may make a complaint to the local authority. See page 12 for more information on requesting delayed entry into Reception for summer born children.

Parents seeking admission outside of their child's chronological year group should submit a separate written request and may provide supporting documentation should they wish to do so. Each request will be carefully considered and a decision will be made on the individual merits of each case. The decision will take into account parents' views, information about their child's academic, social and emotional development, their medical history and the views of a medical professional, if applicable. Consideration will be given to whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely and whether they have previously been educated outside of their normal age group. Views of the headteacher and other senior school staff, staff at their current setting and other professionals will also be taken into account.

Children of a multiple birth

After the admission criteria have been applied, should applications for siblings of the same multiple birth fall either side of a school's PAN, the authority will admit above the PAN in order to allocate all siblings of the same multiple birth to the school.

Children of UK service personnel and crown servants

For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting, or crown servants returning from overseas a place will be allocated in advance of the family arriving in the area (as long as one is available), provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and some evidence of the intended address. A unit or quartering address will be used as the child's home address where a parent requests this. Applications for in-year transfer will only be processed within four months of the relocation date.

Admission criteria for community infant and primary schools

School	Published Admission Number
Alexandra Primary	60
Burlington Infant	120
Coombe Hill Infant	90
Ellingham Primary	60
Grand Avenue Primary	90
King Athelstan Primary	60
King's Oak Primary	90
Lovelace Primary	90
Malden Manor Primary	60
Maple Infant	90
Tolworth Infant	90

Where more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria set out below will apply. Once children with EHCPs naming the school have been allocated, remaining places will be allocated in the following descending order of priority:

- i. Places will be offered firstly to looked after children¹ i.e. children who are looked after by a public authority and are in public care, and previously looked after children² who were adopted, or subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order, immediately following having been looked after, including

¹ The definition of looked after children is on page 4

² The definition of previously looked after children is on page 5

those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. The authority may request further information and/or documentary evidence for applications under this criterion in order to be satisfied that priority should be given to the child's application;

- ii. places will be offered next to siblings - children who have a brother or sister, including an adopted, foster, half- or step- brother or sister, living at the same address and attending Reception to Year 6 at the same school (or the paired junior school³) at the time of admission;
- iii. places will then be offered in cases of exceptional family, social, or medical need requiring attendance at the school applied for rather than any other school. Such needs must be supported, at the time of application, by reports or letters from suitable professionals such as GPs, consultants or social workers;
- iv. places will then be offered to children of members of staff who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application and will continue to be employed at the school at the point of admission, or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
- v. the remaining places will be offered to children who live nearest to the school, measured as a straight line in metres, to the nearest pedestrian school gate used by the relevant year-group as measured using the Council's geographical information system. Accessibility of private or public transport will not be considered.

If there are more applicants than places within each criterion, the tiebreaker will be applied.⁴

³ Burlington Infant School with Burlington Junior ;Coombe Hill Infant with Coombe Hill Junior; Tolworth Infant with Tolworth Junior

⁴ Information on how the tiebreaker is applied is on page 6

Applying for entry into the reception class of a primary or infant school

Pupils are eligible to commence full time education from the September following their 4th birthday. However, a child does not legally have to be in full time education until the term following their 5th birthday.

For children currently attending a school nursery, parents must complete a common application form for entry into the Reception class even if the child attends the nursery class at the same school. Priority is not given to children who attend the nursery class in the same school. This is to ensure that parents who place their children in other kinds of nursery, or do not use a nursery, are treated fairly when applying for a school place for their child.

Deferred entry or part-time attendance in Reception year

Parents can defer their child's entry to school until later in the school year as long as the place allocated is taken up during the Reception academic year. The child must start school the term after reaching statutory school age, and no later than the start of the final full term. i.e. the latest their child can start school is at the beginning of the summer term 2027.

A child can start school part-time at any stage during Reception year as long as the child then attends the school full time from the start of the term following their 5th birthday.

Once a place has been offered, parents should confirm the arrangements with the Head teacher of the school.

Delayed entry for summer born children

Parents of summer born children (that is children whose 4th birthday falls within April to August in the year of typical admission into Reception) may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group into Reception rather than year 1.

A parent should make their application by 15 January 2026 for normal Reception entry, stating that they wish to enter Reception a year later than normal for their child's age, and providing information to support their request if they wish to do so. The decision the officer must make is whether the child will start school in Reception or Year 1 when they reach

statutory school age. If it is agreed that the child will be educated in a younger year group, the application will be withdrawn and parents will be required to re-apply between 1 September 2026 and 15 January 2027 for entry into Reception in September 2027.

Admission criteria for community junior schools

School	Published Admission Number
Burlington Junior	120
Coombe Hill Junior	90
Tolworth Junior	120

Where more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria set out below will apply. Once children with EHCPs naming the school have been allocated, remaining places will be allocated in the following descending order of priority:

- i. Places will be offered firstly to looked after children⁵ i.e. children who are looked after by a public authority and are in public care, and previously looked after children⁶ who were adopted, or subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order, immediately following having been looked after, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. The authority may request further information and/or documentary evidence for applications under this criterion in order to be satisfied that priority should be given to the child's application;
- ii. places will be offered next to children attending the "paired" infant school⁷. This criterion will only apply until 31 August when the applicant will have left the paired infant school;

⁵ The definition of looked after children is on page 4

⁶ The definition of previously looked after children is on page 5

⁷ Burlington Infant School with Burlington Junior ; Coombe Hill Infant with Coombe Hill Junior; Tolworth Infant with Tolworth Junior

- iii. places will be offered next to siblings - children who have a brother or sister, including an adopted, foster, half- or step- brother or sister, living at the same address and attending Reception to Year 6 at the same school (or the paired junior school) at the time of admission;
- iv. places will then be offered in cases of exceptional family, social, or medical need requiring attendance at the school applied for rather than any other school. Such needs must be supported, at the time of application, by reports or letters from suitable professionals such as GPs, consultants or social workers;
- v. places will then be offered to children of members of staff who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application and will continue to be employed at the school at the point of admission or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
- vi. the remaining places will be offered to children who live nearest to the school, measured by a straight line in metres, from the property to the nearest pedestrian school gate used by the relevant year-group as measured using the Council's geographical information system. Accessibility of private or public transport will not be considered.

If there are more applicants than places within each criterion, the tiebreaker will be applied.⁸

⁸ Information on how the tiebreaker is applied is on page 6

Relevant dates for the normal admissions round

Applications for the normal admissions round for entry in September 2026 open on **Monday 1 September 2025**.

The national closing date for on-time applications to be considered in the first round of allocations is **Thursday 15 January 2026**.

Primary National Offer Day is **Thursday 16 April 2026**.

Information on the coordination of applications for the normal admissions round can be found on [Achieving for Children website](#).

Applications outside of the normal admissions round will be processed in line with the in-year arrangements.

Admission criteria for community nursery schools

Community nurseries are attached to some community and infant schools, or may be standalone. The responsibility for administering applications for a community nursery place has been delegated to the individual nursery. More information about the nurseries and the application process (including key dates) is available on [the Achieving for Children website](#).

Where more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria set out below will apply.

- i. Places will be offered firstly to looked after children⁹ i.e. children who are looked after by a public authority and are in public care, and previously looked after children¹⁰ who were adopted, or subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order, immediately following having been looked after, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. The authority may request further information and/or documentary evidence for applications under this criterion in order to be satisfied that priority should be given to the child's application;
- ii. places will be offered next to siblings - children who have a brother or sister, including an adopted, foster, half- or step- brother or sister, living at the same address and attending Reception to Year 6 at the same school (or the paired junior school) at the time of admission ;
- iii. places will then be offered in cases of exceptional family, social, or medical need requiring attendance at the school applied for rather than any other school. Such needs must be supported, at the time of application, by reports or letters from suitable professionals such as GPs, consultants or social workers;
- iv. places will then be offered to children of members of staff who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application and will

⁹ The definition of looked after children is on page 4

¹⁰ The definition of previously looked after children is on page 5

continue to be employed at the school at the point of admission or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;

- v. the remaining places will be offered to children who live nearest to the school, the remaining places will be offered to children who live nearest to the school, measured by a straight line in metres, from the property to the nearest pedestrian school gate used by the relevant year-group as measured using the Council's geographical information system. Accessibility of private or public transport will not be considered.

If there are more applicants than places within each criterion, the tiebreaker will be applied.¹¹

¹¹ Information on how the tiebreaker is applied is on page 6

In year admission into school

An in-year application is for the admission of a child at the normal point of entry submitted on or after the first day of the first school term of the admission year; or it is for the admission of a child to an age group other than the normal point of entry.

In-year admissions into all Kingston schools are coordinated by the local authority.

Information on the coordination scheme is available on [the Achieving for Children website](#).

Applications should be made no earlier than one term prior to hopeful entry, based on the modern six term year. Applicants may state up to four preferences.

Applicants will be required to provide evidence of their child's date of birth if they have not previously made an application via the local authority. If the application is due to a house move, the applicant will need to provide evidence they are residing at the new address, such as a completion of sale document or a rental agreement, and evidence that the previous address is no longer available for them to live in. Further documents may be requested. The full Address Verification Protocol is available on [the Achieving for Children website](#).

Applications will be processed and, where vacancies exist, a place will be offered at the highest preferred school possible.

If a place is not available at a preferred school then parents will be informed of their right of appeal. The child will automatically be placed on the preferred school(s) waiting list which will be prioritised in line with the over-subscription criteria, and re-ranked every time a new application is added.

Where no school place is available at a preferred school, and a child is currently without a school place within a reasonable distance, then the authority will, as a minimum, inform applicants of the availability of places at alternative schools. Where possible, the authority will offer a school alternative school place at the next nearest community or voluntary controlled school with a vacancy. A referral may be made under the Fair Access Protocol.

The guide which provides information for parents on how to make an In Year application is available on the [Achieving for Children website](#).