



Admission Arrangements Coordinated Scheme 2026-27

Coordinated Admissions Scheme 2026-27

All schools in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole together with the Local Authority have, in accordance with statutory requirements, agreed to coordinate the main entry admission and transfer process for 2026-27. The agreed scheme enables an application to be made on a single application form.

The coordinated scheme applies to the following admission points of entry:

Point of Entry	Apply from:	National Closing Date (Applying on Time)
Entry in Reception at all First, Infant Primary and All-Through schools	1 November 2025	15 January 2026
Entry into Year 3 at Junior schools	1 November 2025	15 January 2026
Entry into Year 5 at Broadstone Middle School	1 November 2025	15 January 2026
Entry into Year 7 at all secondary schools with the exception of Corfe Hills School and LeAF Studio School	1 September 2025	31 October 2025
Entry into Year 9 at Corfe Hills School and LeAF Studio School	1 September 2025	31 October 2025

BCP Council will coordinate with other local authorities to ensure that a child receives only a single offer of a school place. It will seek to offer the highest preference able to be agreed subject to the receipt of information in sufficient time and the other local authorities' schemes providing for this.

Parents/carers should complete an application and name four different schools in the order they would like their child to attend. Parents/carers must submit their application to their home local authority by the published closing date specified in the table above.

Preferences on faith grounds

Parents and carers expressing a preference on faith grounds must check the relevant school admissions policy to find out how to provide evidence of religious faith and practice. Parents and carers may be required to complete a supplementary information form and submit the form before the published closing date. Where baptismal evidence is required, parents and carers must check how this is provided to the school. All relevant evidence must be submitted before the published closing date. The supplementary information forms can be downloaded from the BCP Council website or from the relevant school website.

Changes to or applications made after the national closing date

Applications or any change of preference received after the national closing date will be considered as a late application unless otherwise specified within the school's admissions policy.

Applications that are considered late will be processed after all on-time applicants have been notified of their result. Late applications received before the published late closing date will be processed in accordance with the timetable (see below).

Any applications received after the published closing date for late applications will be processed as quickly as possible after the timetable (see below) has been completed. Once processed, they will be immediately added to the waiting lists if a place is not available.

Living or applying for schools outside of BCP Council area

Parents and carers who live outside of the BCP Council area who wish to apply for a school will need to complete their home local authority's application form in accordance with timescales published in that local authority's scheme.

BCP Council will send a list of all applicants to all school admission authorities within the council's area. It will send applications for schools in other local authorities to the relevant local authority to administer.

Information from other admission authorities

Where a parent or carer lists a school which is its own admission authority, or a school in another local authority as one of their preferences, information is electronically transferred to the relevant school or local authority. The admission authority will then be required to rank in order the applications they received in accordance with their admission arrangements and decide whether they can offer the child a place.

Once the decisions have been made by the relevant admission authority, they are returned to the local authority (LA) by the deadline specified (see timetable below). The LA then compares the ranked lists; if a child's name appears on more than one ranked list, the LA will then refer to the preference order on the parent/carer application to see which school the family wants the most. Then, in accordance with the order of preference on the application form, the child's name will be retained on the list of the highest preference school able to offer a place and removed from the lower preference schools lists.

Places freed up by this process will then be offered to applicants who are next on a school's ranked order of priority.

When preferences cannot be met

For those applicants who are not able to be offered any of their preferred schools and do not have the opportunity to remain at their current school:

- if they are resident in BCP Council, they will be offered a place at the nearest school to their home address which still has places available with agreement from the relevant admissions authority; or
- if they are resident outside of the BCP Council area, they will be referred to their own local authority to discuss schooling.

Those applicants who apply after the national closing date go through a similar process again, resulting in further offers being made in accordance with the agreed late application timetable.

Outcome of applications

BCP Council will advise parents and carers who applied online by uploading the outcome to the online system. Parents and carers will be able to view the outcome of their application online on the relevant national offer date. BCP Council will issue letters to all parents on the national offer dates.

Waiting lists

The length of time a child's name is on the waiting list cannot be considered when places become available. Places are offered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria in the school's published admissions policy.

Waiting lists for the point of entry must be held until 31 December 2026. Not all schools hold waiting lists after this time. Parents will receive information in their notification letter about how the waiting lists are managed.

All waiting lists held for the full academic year 2026-27 will expire on 31 August 2027. Parents/carers must submit a new school application form for 2027-28 and any subsequent years. Applications can be submitted from 1 June 2027.

Timetable for on-time applications

	Secondary	Junior/Middle	Infant
Opening date for applications	01/09/25	01/11/25	01/11/25
Closing date for applications	31/10/25	15/01/26	15/01/26
BCP Council to exchange applicant information received with other local authorities and school admission authorities in the BCP Council area by	18/11/25	03/02/26	03/02/26
Admission authorities to send electronically a list of pupils to BCP Council in the order to be considered, together with the relevant criteria for each applicant by	13/01/26	10/03/26	10/03/26
First exchange of offers between BCP Council and other LAs for applicants resident in their respective areas by	27/01/26	17/03/26	17/03/26
Deadline for final exchange of offers between LAs for applicants resident in their respective areas	10/02/26	31/03/26	31/03/26
BCP Council to inform other admission authorities of final allocation of places by	24/02/26	10/04/26	10/04/26
BCP Council issues notification letters to all applicants and on-time notifications to be uploaded on	02/03/26	16/04/26	16/04/26

Timetable for late applications

	Secondary	Junior/Middle	Infant
Late applications submitted from	01/11/25	16/01/26	16/01/26
Closing date for late applications	23/01/26	06/02/26	06/02/26
BCP Council to exchange applicant information with other school admission authorities in the BCP Council area by	10/02/26	10/03/26	10/03/26
Admission authorities to electronically send a list of pupils in the order to be considered, together with the relevant criteria for each applicant by	27/02/26	23/03/26	23/03/26
BCP Council to inform other admission authorities of final allocation of places by	17/03/26	12/05/26	12/05/26
BCP Council to issue notification letters to all late applicants on	25/03/26	14/05/26	14/05/26
Parents accept/refuse offer by	08/04/26	28/05/26	28/05/26

Please note

At the end of the above timetable, BCP Council will continue to coordinate the allocation on a regular basis until the end of the school year.

In Year Admissions

BCP Council School Admission coordinates in-year applications for the majority of schools. This means that a single application form is available for parents to express one or more school preferences.

There are some schools that have chosen to manage their in-year admissions themselves. Parents should check bcpcouncil.gov.uk/schooladmissions for further information prior to making an application.

The following information is only relevant for schools who agree to be part of the local authority's in year coordination scheme:

In Year applications for faith schools

Parents and carers applying for a church school who request a place on faith grounds may need to provide a completed supplementary information form. The supplementary information form (SIF) is available from the school or a copy can be downloaded from the BCP Council website. Details of where to return the SIF are set out in the information on each school's websites regarding their admission arrangements.

Outcomes following submission of in year applications

Parents and carers applying for schools through BCP Council's School Admissions Team should expect to receive an outcome in writing within fifteen school days. The exception to this is where a parent applies for a place in a grammar school. In these cases, the school must notify the parent in writing within fifteen school days of the date for the assessment. Information regarding schools that do not process applications in a timely manner may be passed on to the Schools Adjudicator and/or relevant Department for Education agencies (e.g. Regional Schools' Commissioner, Education, Funding and Skills Agency). The need to request direction may also be considered.

Admission appeal outcomes

All Admission Authorities will inform BCP Council of the results of any appeal hearings within two working days of the appeal outcome.

Advance applications to start in September 2027 for places in a year group different to the point of entry

With the exception of applications for Grammar Schools, applications received will not be processed until after 1 June 2027.

Applicants applying any time before 1 June 2027 for the 2027/28 academic year will be informed that their application form will be cancelled and they will need to submit a new application. This does not constitute a refusal to offer a school place at any of the preferred schools and therefore there will be no right of appeal until such time as the application has been processed.

Grammar School applications will need to be processed early to allow sufficient time for testing and, if appropriate, to allow appeals to be heard before the end of the summer term. Parents will need to contact grammar schools to find out testing dates and the earliest date they can apply from.

BCP Council School Admissions and Transport Team

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