



Guidance for Parents/Carers and Sponsors on School Admissions for Ukraine Nationals arriving on Government schemes

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Introduction

The Government have set up the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme which allows Ukrainian nationals and their family members to come to the UK if they have a named sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Phase One of the scheme opened on 18 March for visa applications from Ukrainian applicants who have named people in the UK willing to sponsor them.

The Government has also set up the Ukraine Family scheme which allows Ukraine nationals and dependents to come to the UK to join family members.

Both schemes allow you to live, work and study in the UK and access public funds.

School Admission

School admissions in Reading are delivered by Brighter Futures for Children, on behalf of Reading Borough Council.

School admissions can support you in applying for children who are already of school age, children who were eligible to start school for the first time from September 2022 and children due to start school for the first time in September 23.

Family Information Services can offer impartial information, advice, and guidance service on admission into a Nursery or early-years setting.

If you have a child aged 16-18 (up to 25 years old for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities 'SEND' and care leavers) please contact Elevate, who can help provide impartial advice to support you into employment, education or training.

How to apply for a school place?

Applications should be submitted by the parent/carer. If the application cannot be submitted by the parent/carer, written confirmation is required, from the parent/carer confirming they give authorisation for another person to be added as a contact on the application.

Applications can be submitted online via our website but if a paper application is required this can also be supplied.

The applications should be submitted after reviewing the relevant admission guide. Guides are available on our website.

Applications should only be submitted if you can provide the required supporting evidence.

The 'My Reading' Reading Council link allows you to check the catchment school for a Reading address. Not all addresses in Reading have a catchment school <http://my.reading.gov.uk/>

A list of Reading schools can be on the website at <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/schools-in-reading/>

In-Year Admission

In-Year application should be submitted for children already of school age. Children are taught according to their chronological age and follow the national curriculum for that age group.

National Curriculum Year Groups- from September 2022				
Reception	1/9/2017	-	31/8/2018	Primary
Year 1	1/9/2016	-	31/8/2017	
Year 2	1/9/2015	-	31/8/2016	
Year 3	1/9/2014	-	31/8/2015	
Year 4	1/9/2013	-	31/8/2014	
Year 5	1/9/2012	-	31/8/2013	
Year 6	1/9/2011	-	31/8/2012	
Year 7	1/9/2010	-	31/8/2011	Secondary
Year 8	1/9/2009	-	31/8/2010	
Year 9	1/9/2008	-	31/8/2009	
Year 10	1/9/2007	-	31/8/2008	
Year 11	1/9/2006	-	31/8/2007	

You should apply once you have all required documents.

You need to be aware that there are areas in Reading that are heavily oversubscribed. Many year groups in our schools are already full with local children and it is not always possible to offer children a place at their preferred school during an academic year.

If we are unable to offer a listed preference a divert school will be offered at the closest school with available space. This will be at the catchment school if it has available space or the closest school to the 'home' address with available space.

Where possible, the school admissions team will try and allocate siblings the same school.

The school admissions team cannot guarantee admission at the school that the sponsors children attend or where other family members children attend.

Some schools in Reading coordinate their own In-Year admission. Further information can be found on our website. You should still submit our In Year application but must also complete the school's own application.

If you decide to continue your child's learning online with their previous school in Ukraine, please let us know. We will need to record your child as electively home educated on our systems.

For information on schools with available spaces please email the school admissions team.

Admission to Primary school- Reception entry

Children born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 can join school, in Reception, for the first time from September 2023. National Offer Day for on-time applications is 17 April 2023. Our website has further information on the admission process and timelines.

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/primary-admissions/>

Admission to Secondary school – Year 7 entry

Children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 – or currently educated in Year Six – should start secondary school, Year 7 from September 2023. National Offer Day for on-time application is 1 March 2023. Our website has further information on the admission process and timelines <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/secondary-admissions/>

Evidence required to support school application

If the reason for applying for your child's school place requires you to submit supporting evidence, you should only apply when you can provide the necessary documents. If you are eligible to apply but cannot provide the evidence, please do not submit an application as the application will not be accepted. You should email the School Admissions team explaining why the evidence cannot be provided. Please email admissions@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

- Copy of child's Passport- you only need to provide the picture page
This is required to check the child's details so an education record can be created.
- Copy of travel confirmation.
We can accept flight confirmation/boarding pass/ Ferry Booking/Eurostar confirmation and entrance clearance page which has been stamped.
- Copy of permission letter from UK Visa and Immigrations (UKVI)
This is required so the Local Authority can track which scheme each child is arriving on
- Evidence of UK address;
 - o Home for Ukraine – Sponsors details
 - o Ukraine Family scheme - Family members details and letter from liable person on council tax

Please check your eligibility for applying in the routine round (Children joining Reception, Year 3 at a Junior school or Secondary school for the first time in September) if a child is not in the UK. Please refer to the Guide to admissions for 22/23.

Questions

I do not have the required documents to support my application.

Please do not apply yet. If you are unable to provide the required evidence, please email the school admissions team Admissions@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

I am a sponsor and would like the guest child(ren) to attend the same school as my own children will that be considered?

Where possible we will allocate a place at a same school/preferred school if it has available spaces. If a school is oversubscribed in the year group required

Some schools consider siblings in their oversubscription criteria. In most cases, sibling is defined as *Brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, adopted brother or sister, stepbrother or stepsister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living in the same family unit at the same address.*

Therefore, host families children are not classed as siblings

The school you have allocated is not my preferred school. Can my child still be considered for my preferred school?

Yes, your child will automatically be added to the waiting list for all preferred schools that have been unable to offer a place.

I want my child to attend a lower year group, will they automatically be considered for the year group I want?

No, children are always taught in the appropriate national curriculum year group for their age. If there are exceptional circumstances that have been identified by an educational professional and, in some circumstances a medical professional which confirms that it is in the child's best interest to place them in a different year group a request can be made for a child to be offset into a lower year group.

If you wish for your child to be considered in a different year group, please contact the school admissions team before making an in-year application, they will send you the relevant information.

It is up to the appropriate admission authority to make the decision in the best interest of a child.

The school you have allocated is too far from my address, will you provide school transport?

You can apply for free school transport if your nearest suitable school for your child/ren is not within walking distance of your home. Walking distance is:

- two miles for children under eight
- three miles for children between eight and 16 years old

You can also apply if you are on a low come.

For further information and the online school transport application please visit <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/transport/>

Helpful links

In-Year admission- <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/in-year/>

Primary admission- <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/primary-admissions/>

Secondary admission- Year 7 entry- <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/secondary-admissions/>

Family Information Services- <https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=25MIHxk6ME0>

School Transport- <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/transport/>

Reading Council Guidance and Support- <https://www.reading.gov.uk/ukraine/>

Education Hub- Department of Education- <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/04/11/how-do-families-arriving-from-ukraine-apply-for-a-school-place-and-childcare>

