



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you



Admissions to Secondary School

September 2027 - 2028

Guide for Parents and Carers - Moving on to Secondary School



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Introduction

Dear Parent/Carer,

Transferring from primary to secondary school is an important step in your child's education. Reading schools are an excellent choice.

This guide is designed to help you through the process and to make applying for a school place as smooth and straightforward as possible. It gives you a flavour of the full range of opportunities our wonderful schools offer.

The admissions process follows the national School Admissions Code, which is a set of rules that all state-funded schools must follow to ensure that school places are allocated in a fair, clear and transparent way for every family.

This guide contains a lot of detail, so please read it carefully and follow the guidance step by step. This will help you make a complete application and understand how school places are allocated.

Throughout you will see references to both 'Children Looked After' and 'Looked After Children'. We use the former term and are encouraging others to do so, as we've asked our children in care and it's a term they prefer. However, this guide will refer to both as the latter is the statutory term.

The information in this guide was correct at the time of production.

If you need further help with your application, please contact the School Admissions Team at:



**School Admissions Team, Reading Borough
Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading,
RG1 2LU**



schooladmissions@reading.gov.uk



0118 937 3777



Key information for parents and carers

This page provides a summary of the main points for applying for a secondary school place for September 2027. You should read the full guide for detailed information.

Important dates

- Applications open: **2 September 2026**
- Closing date: **31 October 2026**
- National Offer Day: **1 March 2027**
- Accept offer by: **14 March 2027**

Before you apply

You should:

- Research schools (websites, open events)
- Consider how your child will travel to and from school
- Check admission arrangements and criteria
- Consider including your catchment or nearest school

Submitting your application

- Apply through your home local authority
- You may list up to four schools
- List them in your true order of preference
- Include more than one school, as places cannot be guaranteed

Only one application per child can be processed.

How places are allocated

Applications are processed using the Equal Preference System:

- Each school considers applications in line with its published admission arrangements
- Schools do not know your preference order
- If more than one of your preferred schools can offer a place, you will be offered the one you ranked highest. If none of your preferred schools can be offered, you will be offered an alternative school with an available place.
- You will receive **one offer** on National Offer Day.



Important to remember

- You have the right to express a preference, but not a guarantee of a place
- Living in a catchment area does not guarantee admission
- If a school is oversubscribed, priority criteria will be applied
- Some schools require supplementary forms, which must be completed
- Eligibility for free home to school transport is assessed separately under Reading's Home to School Transport Policy, so parents and carers should not assume that transport will be provided to a preferred school. You should consider how your child will travel before naming your school preferences.

If you are not offered a preferred school

You may:

- Remain on a waiting list
- Appeal the decision,
- Accept the place offered (this does not affect appeals or waiting lists)

Need help?

School Admissions Team

Tel: 0118 937 3777

Email: schooladmissions@reading.gov.uk

Further information

The admissions process follows the School Admissions Code, ensuring it is fair, clear and transparent for all families.



Explanation of terms

Some of the terms, abbreviations, and legal extracts we are required to use in this guide may be difficult to understand and we hope these explanations will help. However, if you are unsure about anything, please telephone the School Admissions Team.

Admission Authority

The admission authority of a school determines the admission policy for the school. The admission authority for community primary schools is the local authority and the admission authority of a voluntary-aided school or academy is the governing body of the individual school. There are no community secondary schools in Reading.

Published Admission Number (PAN)

Every school has a Published Admission Number (PAN). The PAN is normally based on the number of classrooms and specialist teaching rooms (i.e. the physical capacity). The PAN represents the maximum number of places available in the year group which pupils normally enter on joining the school. Places must be offered up to this number. The admission number for each school is given in the information on schools later in this guide.

Categories of schools

State schools are governed in different ways depending on the type of school. The category of the school determines the admission authority. Although the admission authority may be the governing body, applications for admission into Year 7 at these schools must be made to the child's home local authority and the home local authority will make the offers of places at these schools.

Community Schools

These schools are maintained by the local authority (LA). The LA is the admission authority, and it is responsible for determining the admission arrangements and allocating school places. There are no community secondary schools in Reading.

Voluntary-Aided (VA) Schools

A school set up and owned by a voluntary body, usually a church body. Management responsibility is shared with the LA, but the church or governing body play a greater role. The governing body is the admission authority, and its admission criteria will normally be different from those used by the LA. The governing body is responsible for allocating school places.

Foundation Schools

A type of state school introduced in 1999 by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, which gives the governing body more freedom to manage their school and decide their own admissions policy. The governing body is responsible for allocating school places.



Academy / Free Schools

Academies are publicly funded schools which operate outside of local authority control. The government describes them as independent state-funded schools. Essentially, academies have more freedom than other state schools over their finances, the curriculum, and teachers' pay and conditions. A key difference is that they are funded directly by central government, instead of receiving their funds via a local authority.

Free schools may be set up by groups of parents, teachers, charities, trusts, religious or voluntary groups. They will be set up as academies and funded in the same way - directly from central government. They are 'all-ability' schools, so cannot use academic selection processes like a grammar school. Free schools can set their own pay and conditions for staff and change the length of school terms and the school day. They do not have to follow the national curriculum.

Independent Schools

Reading has several independent schools. These are not administered by the local authority school admissions service. If you would like your child to attend one of these schools, you must apply directly to the school.

Application Form (CAF)

The Common Application Form (CAF) is used to apply for a secondary school place. Parents and carers must apply through their home local authority.

If you live in Reading Borough, you can apply online at:

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/secondary-admissions/> or by completing a paper application form.

Applications for **UTC Reading** must be made directly to the college. Please note that UTC Reading admits students from **Year 10** rather than Year 7.

Normal admission round

This is when children start school at the earliest entry point for that school. Normal admissions rounds are as follows:

- Entry to primary or infant schools in Reception Class
- Entry to junior schools in Year 3
- Entry to secondary schools in Year 7
- Entry to Year 10 for Studio Schools and University Technical Colleges (UTCs), and for further education providers offering places for students aged 14 to 16
- Year 12 for schools with a sixth form.



In-Year Admissions

An In-Year application is used when applying for a school place outside the normal admissions round for a child who is already of school age.

You would usually make an In-Year application if you have recently moved home, arrived in the UK, or would like your child to transfer to a different school.

Department for Education (DfE)

The Department for Education (DfE) is the government department responsible for education and children's services in England. It publishes the School Admissions Code, which sets out the rules that admission authorities and local authorities must follow when allocating school places. Further information is available at: www.gov.uk

Designated Area/ Catchment Area

Catchment area (sometimes called a designated area) is the geographical area used by some schools to give priority for admission when there are more applications than places available. Living in a catchment area may improve your child's chances of being offered a place, but it does not guarantee admission. Not all schools have a catchment area.

Feeder Link

Some schools give priority to children attending named feeder primary schools as part of their oversubscription criteria. You should check the admission arrangements for your preferred school(s) to see whether a feeder school criterion applies.

Home Address

The definition of a child's home address can vary between schools. You should check the admission arrangements for your preferred school(s) for full details.

Local authority (LA)

Your home local authority is the council responsible for the area where you live and pay council tax. This may be different from the area in which your child attends school. If you live in Reading, your home local authority is Reading Borough Council (RBC).

Children Looked After (CLA)

These are children who are in the care of a local authority, or who are provided with accommodation by a local authority through the exercise of its social services functions.

We use the term Children Looked After (CLA) throughout this guide, although legislation and some school admission arrangements use the term Looked After Children (LAC).

Medical/social

Some schools give priority to children with exceptional medical or social needs as part of their oversubscription criteria. Not all schools have this criterion, and the level of priority given may vary between schools. If you believe your child should be considered under this



category, you should check the admission arrangements for each preferred school carefully and provide any supporting evidence required by the admission authority.

National Curriculum

The current National Curriculum provides a broad and balanced education for all children. It is divided into four Key Stages, according to age.

It includes statutory assessments, consisting of tests and teacher assessments, at the end of Key Stage 2 and teacher assessments at the end of Key Stages 1 and 3. The key stages in secondary school are:

Year 7	Key	11-12 years
Year 8	Stage	12-13 years
Year 9	3	13-14 years
Year 10	Key	14-15 years
Year 11	Stage 4	15-16 years
Year 12	Post 16	16-17 years
Year 13		17-18 years

NOR (Number on Roll)

The total number of pupils attending a school.

Ofsted

Ofsted is the organisation responsible for inspecting and regulating schools in England. Inspection reports can be viewed on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Oversubscribed Schools

This is where there are more applicants than places available at a school.

Oversubscription Criteria

Oversubscription criteria are the rules used to decide which children will be offered places when a school receives more applications than places available. The oversubscription criteria for each Reading school are included later in this guide.

Parent

For school admissions purposes, a parent includes any person with parental responsibility for a child, or who has care of a child. This may include a natural parent, adoptive parent, guardian, special guardian, foster carer, or another adult who is caring for the child.

The full legal definition can be found in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/576>



Pupil Premium

The Pupil Premium is additional government funding provided to schools to support disadvantaged pupils and help improve their educational outcomes. More information about eligibility can be found here <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/pupil-premium/> or speak to your child's school to see if you are eligible.

Service Premium

The Service Premium is additional government funding provided to schools to support children and young people with a parent serving in the armed forces. More information about eligibility can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-what-you-need-to-know>

Selective Schools or Grammar Schools

Selective schools, also known as grammar schools, admit pupils based on academic ability. Children must take an entrance test and achieve the required standard to be considered for a place.

Registration for entrance tests usually opens during the summer term before the year of admission. Parents should check the school's website for registration and test dates.

In Reading, Kendrick School and Reading School are grammar schools. Reading Girls' School also offers a selective stream.

SEND

SEND stands for special educational needs and/or disabilities. A child or young person may have SEND if they need additional support to help them learn or access education.

Sibling

The definition of a sibling may vary between schools. Unless otherwise stated in a school's admission arrangements, a sibling is:

- a brother or sister
- a half-brother or half-sister
- an adopted brother or sister
- a stepbrother or stepsister
- the child of a parent's or carer's partner

In all cases, the children must be living in the same family unit at the same address.

In most cases, a sibling will only qualify under the sibling criterion if they will still be attending the preferred school in September 2027. You should check the admission arrangements for each preferred school, as definitions and requirements may vary.

Children from a multiple birth, such as twins or triplets, are not treated as siblings when applying the oversubscription criteria. However, if applying the criteria would mean one child from a multiple birth is offered a place and another is not, the admission authority will usually admit the other child or children as well.



Specialist Status

Some schools have a particular focus on certain subjects or areas of learning. Information about any specialisms can be found on the school's website.

Straight-line distance – Tiebreaker

Many schools use straight-line distance (sometimes called "*as the crow flies*") between a child's home and the school as a tiebreaker when there are more applications than places available within a particular oversubscription category.

In Reading, straight-line distances are measured electronically using Ordnance Survey data and Reading Borough Council mapping software. Each address has a unique map reference point, based on its Easting and Northing coordinates. This point may be located anywhere within the property boundary. The distance is measured in a straight line between the home and school data points and is recorded in miles to three decimal places.

Admission authorities in other local authority areas may use different methods of measuring distance. However, most authorities also use straight-line distance measurements.

Supplementary forms (SIF)

Some schools require parents and carers to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) to provide information needed to apply their oversubscription criteria. This may include information relating to faith, eligibility for Pupil Premium, or other admissions criteria.

SIFs can be downloaded from the Brighter Futures for Children website:

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

Parents and carers should check the relevant school's admission arrangements carefully, as schools may have different requirements and return arrangements for supplementary forms.



Timetable

ACTION	DATE
Guide for Parents & Carers to be placed on Brighter Futures for Children's website	By 1 September 2026
Online admissions site opens for applications	2 September 2026
National closing date for receipt of applications	31 October 2026
Deadline for providing evidence to meet admissions criteria (please see individual school pages to see which schools require additional information)	31 October 2026
Deadline for late applications, changes of preference and changes of address to be accepted with good reason (evidence of reason must be submitted).	31 December 2026
National Offer Day - offer letters posted second class to Reading residents who applied via a paper application.	1 March 2027
Online applicants may view outcome of their application.	1 March 2027
Deadline for parents to accept place offered	14 March 2027
Closing date for submitting an appeal, to be heard on time.	29 March 2027 (subject to change)
Late applications for oversubscribed schools added to waiting lists and changes of preferences processed.	22 March 2027 (subject to change)
Appeals to be heard if submitted by the deadline	May to July 2027
Coordination with other LAs ends	20 August 2027
Waiting lists held for Reading schools	Until at least 31 December 2027 (subject to change)



Admissions to secondary school in Reading Borough

There are ten secondary schools in Reading, including two grammar schools. The School Admissions Team coordinates applications and allocates places in accordance with each school's published admission arrangements and the number of places available.

This guide explains how secondary school places are allocated, sets out the key dates in the admissions process, and provides information about schools in Reading and neighbouring local authority areas that are commonly attended by Reading pupils. A glossary of terms and abbreviations is included at the beginning of the guide.

If you live in Reading Borough (that is, you pay council tax to Reading Borough Council), you must apply through Reading School Admissions for any state-funded secondary school, whether it is in Reading or another local authority area.

If you live in another local authority area, you must apply through your home local authority. If you are considering a school in Reading, you should read this guide to understand how places are allocated. Any preference for a school in Reading will be passed to Reading School Admissions by your home local authority.

All local authorities operate a coordinated admissions scheme, which allows information to be shared electronically so that school places can be allocated in accordance with published admission arrangements. This process continues until 20 August 2027 and ensures that each child receives only one school offer.

Only one application can be processed for each child. Where more than one application is received, the most recently submitted application will be treated as the valid application.

Applications should be submitted by **31 October 2026** to ensure they are treated as on-time applications.

If you have any questions about the admissions process or need help with your application, please contact:

School Admissions Team, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street,
Reading, RG1 2LU

Tel: 0118 937 3777

Email: schooladmissions@reading.gov.uk

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



What you need to consider before submitting an application.

There is a coordinated admissions process in England with exchange of information between local authorities (LA). This means that you must apply to your home LA for any state-maintained secondary school in England.

The main points of Reading Borough Council's coordinated scheme are:

- If you live in Reading Borough, you must apply to Reading School Admissions either online or by completing a paper application form
- You may list up to four preferred schools on your child's application
- You are advised to put more than one preference as you are not guaranteed a place at your preferred school. If we cannot offer any of your preferred schools, we will offer a place at the closest co-educational school in Reading with an available place.
- Preferences should be ranked with your most preferred school listed first (i.e. preference 1)
- You must include any state school you would like your child to attend including schools in other LAs e.g. Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Wokingham. This includes voluntary-aided schools, foundation schools, grammar schools, free schools, and academies
- You may also need a supplementary form for some schools. Failure to submit these forms may result in your child being ranked in a lower category
- You must apply by 31 October 2026
- Applications for schools named by parents/carers are considered by the appropriate admission authority for the school without reference to your preference order
- All parents/carers who have applied for a school place by the closing date will receive an offer of one school place
- The offer of a place by the LA may be on behalf of other admission authorities.
- Offer notifications will be distributed, to those who submitted "on time" applications, on National Offer Day
- You will be required to accept the place offered by the deadline as stated in the timetable at the beginning of this guide
- All schools will run waiting lists until at least the end of December 2027, and some may hold waiting lists longer
- Ensure you have read the section on 'How the offers are decided' section
- Look at how places were allocated in previous years for your preferred school.

How can I find out more about a school?

The School Admissions Team cannot recommend individual schools. Parents and carers are encouraged to research schools carefully before submitting an application.

You may already have an idea about what is important to you and your child. While speaking to other parents and carers can be helpful, you should also research schools yourself to make an informed decision.



You can find out more about schools by:

- Attending open days or evenings, or arranging a visit directly with the school
- Visiting school websites, which usually provide information on:
 - the school's aims and ethos
 - the curriculum offered
 - pupil attainment and achievements
 - attendance levels
 - extra-curricular activities and clubs
 - key policies, such as behaviour and discipline
 - sixth form provision (where applicable).

You can also view Ofsted reports, performance data and other information about schools on the Department for Education's Get Information About Schools website: <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>

Things to consider when choosing schools

When deciding your preferences, you should consider:

- The distance to the school and how your child will travel
- The cost of travel and whether you may be eligible for assistance Please refer to the school transport section
- Whether the school gives priority based on faith or other criteria
- The number of places available and the level of demand in previous years
- Whether the school is oversubscribed and how places were allocated.

Past allocation information can help you understand how places were allocated in previous years. However, it should be used as a guide only, as the number of applications and the availability of places can vary from year to year.

You should also check whether your preferred school has a catchment (designated) area and whether your home address falls within it. This can be checked using Reading Borough Council's website: <https://my.reading.gov.uk/>

Please note:

- Not all schools have a catchment area
- Not all addresses have a catchment school



Important information about catchment areas

Living in a catchment area does not guarantee a place at that school. However, it may give your child a higher priority for admission.

You are strongly advised to consider including your catchment school and/or nearest school as one of your preferences. If you are not offered one of your preferred schools and there are no places available at your catchment school, you may be allocated a place at a school some distance from your home.

Submitting your application

Once you have decided on your preferred schools, you must submit a Common Application Form (CAF) by 31 October 2026.

While you have the right to express a preference for a school, you do not have the right to a place at that school. Where there are more applications than places available, the admission authority will apply its oversubscription criteria to decide which places can be offered.

Where can I get help with my application?

If you have any questions about the admission process, you can contact the School Admissions Team:

- Telephone: 0118 937 3777
- Email: schooladmissions@reading.gov.uk

If your child has special educational needs or a disability (with or without an education, health and care plan), Reading Information Advice and Support Service for SEND (known as Reading IASS), can offer you free, confidential, and impartial information, advice, and support around secondary transfer.

- Telephone: 0118 937 3421
- Email: iass@reading.gov.uk
- Website: www.readingiass.org





Key dates at a glance

-  Applications open: 2 September 2026
-  Closing date for applications: 31 October 2026
-  National Offer Day: 1 March 2027
-  Deadline to accept your offer: 14 March 2027
-  Appeals deadline: 29 March 2027 (*subject to change*).
-  Waiting lists available from: 22 March 2027 (*subject to change*).

Please refer to the admissions timetable for full details and additional deadlines.

Secondary School Application Checklist

Before submitting your application, have you:

- ☐ Researched your preferred schools
- ☐ Read the admission arrangements for each preferred school
- ☐ Checked whether your preferred schools have a catchment area, sibling criterion, feeder school criterion or other oversubscription criteria
- ☐ Attended school open events or reviewed information on school websites
- ☐ Checked whether you need to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF)
- ☐ Gathered any supporting evidence required for your application
- ☐ Added sibling details where applicable
- ☐ Checked the address details on your application
- ☐ Listed your schools in your genuine order of preference
- ☐ Considered including your catchment or nearest suitable school as one of your preferences
- ☐ Checked that all school names are correct
- ☐ Submitted your application by **31 October 2026**
- ☐ Saved or printed your application confirmation email.

Remember

- ☒ Applying online is quick and secure
- ☒ You can change your preferences until 31 October 2026
- ☒ You will only receive one school offer on National Offer Day
- ☒ Listing a school as a lower preference does not affect its chances of being offered.



How to apply

Apply online

- It is simple and convenient
- You can apply on most smartphones and tablets
- You can change your preferences at any time until the closing date 31 October 2026
- You will receive an email confirming your application has been submitted
- You will receive an email on 1 March 2027 informing you to which school your child has been allocated.
- You can also log in and view your allocation on 1 March 2027.

Reading residents apply online at (*click on the link below*):

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

Please apply to the LA where your child lives - only apply to Reading if your child's permanent home is in the borough of Reading

Admissions to state funded secondary schools in England are coordinated across local authority boundaries. This means that, if a child lives in Reading and the parent wants to apply for a place at a school in a different local authority, the parent must apply via Reading Admissions Team.

Please read carefully through this guide on how to apply. The following information will also help you to apply online or complete the paper application form. Full details on how to apply online are available on the Brighter Futures for Children website.

Paper application forms are available from any Reading primary school or from the School Admissions Team.

Paper application forms and online applications are treated the same and are not treated on a "first come, first served" basis.

If you apply using a paper application, your formal offer letter will be posted second class on 1 March 2027 to the home address provided on the application form, unless you have provided an email address. Where an email address has been provided, the offer will be emailed to the parent/carer.





1. Child's details

You must provide your child's legal surname as given on their birth certificate (or deed poll in cases where there has been a change of name).

2. Home address

Your home address is an important factor in how your application is considered. We will check addresses against council tax data held by Reading Borough Council. The address you give on the form **MUST** be your child's single permanent home. Please refer to the Address information section for further information. If you give an incorrect address and we offer a school place based on that address, the offer may be withdrawn.

The admission authority reserves the right to obtain additional information to verify addresses.

3. Parents/carers details

Please ensure you complete the parent/carer details section and provide a daytime telephone number. We recommend that the parent/carer who is listed on the Council Tax record makes the application, as this facilitates the address verification process.

4. Preferences

Choosing your preferred schools and deciding the order in which to list them is an important part of the application process. You may name up to four schools, with Preference 1 being the school you most want your child to attend.

Before applying, you should research schools carefully by reading this guide, visiting school websites and, where possible, attending open events.

School places are allocated in line with each school's published admission arrangements. If a place cannot be offered at one of your preferred schools, it will be because other applicants had a higher priority under the school's oversubscription criteria. If you believe your child should be considered under a particular criterion, you must provide any required supporting information.

You do not have to use all four preferences. However, naming more than one school may increase the likelihood of being offered one of your preferred schools. You should also consider including your catchment or nearest school. If we cannot offer any of your preferred schools, we will offer a place at the closest co-educational school in Reading with an available place.

If you wish to add a school outside Reading Borough to your online application, select **Advanced Search** in the preferences section. Enter the school name, select the relevant local authority and click **Search**. If the school does not appear, try increasing the search distance and check that you have selected the correct local authority. If you still cannot find the school, please contact the School Admissions Team.



If you are applying for a Maiden Erlegh Trust school, please ensure you select the correct school. If you wish to apply for **Maiden Erlegh School in Reading**, you must enter the full school name. Applications listing only "**Maiden Erlegh School**" will be assumed to refer to **Maiden Erlegh School, Wokingham**.

5. Siblings

If your child has a sibling who will be attending one of your preferred schools in September 2027, you must provide the sibling's name and date of birth on your application.

A child who is part of a multiple birth (e.g. twins) is not classed as a sibling for the purpose of ranking by oversubscription criteria. However, where application of the oversubscription criteria would result in splitting children from a multiple birth, the other child/children will usually be admitted to the school.

Some schools do not include siblings who will be in Years 11, 12 or 13 in September 2027 within their sibling oversubscription criterion. You should check the admission arrangements for each of your preferred schools.

Failure to provide sibling details in the correct section of the application form may mean your child is not considered under the sibling criterion.

TOP TIPS!

- ☒ List more than one school wherever possible
- ☒ Research each school's admission arrangements before applying
- ☒ Consider including your catchment or nearest suitable school as one of your preferences
- ☒ If you wish your child to be considered under a particular oversubscription criterion, make sure you provide any required supporting evidence
- ☒ Do not assume that living in a catchment area, having a sibling at the school, or naming a school as your first preference guarantees a place.

6. Declaration and signature

Please check all sections of the application form carefully. If you have completed a paper form, you must sign and date it. If you apply online, you will not be able to submit your application until you have accepted the terms and conditions.

By signing the paper form or accepting the online terms and conditions, you are confirming that the information provided in your application is correct, that you have read this



admissions guide, and that the application has been submitted with the knowledge and agreement of all persons who hold parental responsibility for the child.

Where incorrect or misleading information is provided, the School Admissions Team reserves the right to withdraw an offered place at any stage of the process.

7. Returning the application form

If your child attends a Reading primary school, you may return the completed paper application form to the school, which will forward it to the School Admissions Team.

PLEASE NOTE: If you submit a paper form, the School Admissions Team will write to confirm that it has been received. We aim to acknowledge all on-time paper applications within 15 school days of receipt. However, this may take longer during busy periods. If you have not received a response by 30 November 2026, please contact the School Admissions Team.. Late applications are not processed until after 22 March 2027 (Subject to change). Once the late application has been processed, you will receive confirmation.

The closing date for receipt of paper application forms is 31 October 2026.

The website will close at midnight on 31 October 2026.

If your child does not attend a Reading school, please return the form to: School Admissions Team, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU.

Please note that A4 envelopes are not charged at the standard postage rate. Failure to pay the correct postage charge may delay receipt of your application.

Applications posted on **31 October 2026** will not be accepted as on time unless they are received by the deadline. The application must be received by the School Admissions Team or your child's primary school provider during office hours on **31 October 2026**.

The information provided by parents/carers will be kept safely on a database in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This ensures the data provided is only used for defined purposes.

How to apply for a place in Year 10 in September 2027 at a UTC or Studio School

Parents of young people born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 (inclusive) may apply for places in Year 10 for their children in Studio Schools or University Technical Colleges (UTCs). Parents do not need to do anything if they wish their children to continue at their current secondary school. Parents should note that not all University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools in England are part of the coordinated admission process for their local authority. Applications for UTC Reading or other UTC or studio schools should be made directly to the relevant schools.



Oversubscription criteria

Please consider whether any of the following apply to your child's application and provide the relevant information/evidence.

Strong medical or social grounds

Some schools give priority to children with exceptional medical or social needs. You should check the admission arrangements for your preferred school(s) to see whether this criterion applies and what evidence is required.

In some cases, the evidence must demonstrate why that school is the only school able to meet your child's or family's needs. Applications will only be considered under this category where the required evidence is provided.

Supporting evidence must be submitted by **31 October 2026**. Evidence received after this date may not be considered before National Offer Day and may only be taken into account when reviewing waiting lists.

Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to obtain and submit all supporting evidence. Neither the School Admissions Team nor the school will contact professionals on your behalf.

Pupil Premium and Service Premium

Some schools (such as Maiden Erlegh in Reading) give priority within a category to children who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium (PP) at the time of application. To be considered for this priority, parents/carers are required to complete a Supplementary Information Form (which must be endorsed by the child's current school) confirming they receive pupil premium for the child. This form can be downloaded from the Brighter Futures for Children website or obtained from the relevant school.

Religious reasons

If you have selected a school for religious reasons (for example Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School), you are advised to complete the school's supplementary form (SIF) in addition to the main application form and return it by the deadline set by the school. You should check the relevant school's admission arrangements for the correct deadline and return instructions. Failure to submit this form to the school(s) may result in the application being ranked in a lower category.



Address information

Home address

The definition of a child's home address may vary from one local authority to another. You should consult the admissions policies of the local authorities in which your preferred schools are located. The following definition is used to establish the home address for most schools in Reading. Please note that Kendrick School and Reading School use a different deadline for establishing whether an applicant is in their designated areas. The address used on the Kendrick School or Reading School application form should correspond to the address provided on the local authority application. Where it is not the same, the discrepancy will be investigated. Please check the Reading School and Kendrick School admission policies for clarification.

Definition of home address

Applications are processed using the child's single permanent home address, where the child lives with parent(s)/carer(s)/legal guardian(s). The child must live at this address on the closing date for applications and, when submitting their application form, the applicant is confirming the child will reside at the address on National Offer Day.

The application form should be completed using the address (owned, leased, or rented) where the child lives for most of the school week. This is based on the number of school nights a child spends at the home (Sunday at 6pm to Friday at 9am). The applicant should consider whether their name is on the council tax records (or tenancy agreement) for the address. If the applicant's name is not showing on these documents, it may be more difficult to prove their liability at the address.

Reference will be made to council tax records when determining a single address for consideration under the home address criteria of the schools' policies. It is for the applicant to satisfy the local authority that they live at the address stated. The School Admissions team may require proof that the applicant is living at the same address. An address will not be accepted where the child is resident other than with a parent or carer (unless this was part of a private fostering or formal care arrangement).

Fraudulent addresses or false information

We have a duty to ensure applications are genuine in all aspects. If you provide an alternative address as a deliberate device to improve your child's priority for a school place, or other details are provided on the application form which prove to be untrue – this is a misleading application. If it becomes clear a place has been allocated based on false information, we may withdraw the child's offer, even if they have already started at the school.

The School Admissions Team occasionally receives information from members of the public concerning potential misleading or fraudulent applications. Signed statements will be required to support such allegations, together with supporting evidence, in order that they may be investigated. The names of anyone supplying information will be withheld in accordance with the council's whistle-blowing policy (details of which may be found here:



<https://www.reading.gov.uk/the-council-and-democracy/council-strategies-plans-and-policies/whistleblowing/>

Temporary addresses

Some residential arrangements will be considered temporary. In such cases, the School Admissions Team will examine available evidence to determine whether, on balance, the declared home address may be considered the child's permanent home for the purpose of admission.

In cases where the declared address is rented, yet the applicant has no claim on another property, it may still be considered a temporary address where there is evidence to show the applicant is renting the property solely for the period necessary to secure admission to a school.

A temporary address cannot be used to obtain a school place and will only be considered where evidence is provided showing a genuine reason for the move e.g., homelessness, flooding or subsidence.

Multiple properties

Checks will be made to determine whether the home address declared is that of a second home (with the main home being elsewhere).

Any circumstance where the declared address is to be accepted as the permanent home, despite another home being owned or otherwise available for occupation, must be declared at the point of application. Without being exhaustive these might include:

- an owned property being a considerable distance from the preferred school, indicating that the family had permanently relocated to the new home; or
- an owned property that is uninhabitable and cannot reasonably be made habitable in the period leading up to admission to the school; or
- an owned property that is in the process of being sold and the family live permanently in the declared property; or
- a family home that, following divorce or separation, cannot be occupied by the applicant, or otherwise treated as the child's permanent home.
- an owned property on a buy to let mortgage which is occupied by tenants.

Changes of address

If you have submitted an on-time application and relocate on or before 31 December 2026 (bar Kendrick School and Reading School who have their own dates), you must inform us of your change of address. You will need to submit the details to

schooladmissions@reading.gov.uk along with evidence that your move has taken place.

The evidence we require is either proof of "completion document" or a fully signed tenancy agreement showing your child will reside at the address past their entry into secondary school. If you move within 20 miles, we will also need evidence that you have disposed of



your previous property, such as a copy of the end of tenancy arrangements or completion document.

We cannot consider changes of address received after 31 December 2026 for the initial allocation process. Any change received after this date will be considered after National Offer Day.

If you are moving into the Reading local authority area from another local authority, you must provide the relevant supporting evidence, as outlined in the Evidence of 'home' address section. Reading will only become responsible for processing your child's application once the required evidence has been received. If you are moving from the Reading area to another local authority, please check that authority's deadlines and evidence requirements.

If your move takes place after 31 December 2026, but evidence is provided confirming that the move was completed before 1 March 2027, the new address will only be considered after National Offer Day. Reading will become responsible for processing the application from that point onward. If you are due to move out of Reading during this time, please check the change of address requirements with the new local authority.

Please note that the evidence required by the relevant Local Authority may differ from one to another.

Evidence of 'home' address

- Where the Reading property is owned, a solicitor's letter confirming completion of sale. In cases where the owned property is currently rented out, an 'end of tenancy notice' to the current occupiers should be supplied
- Council Tax bill - naming applicant
- Driving licence - naming applicant at address
- Where the Reading address is rented, a copy of the tenancy agreement showing the applicant at the address and dates liable.

Split living arrangements

Where a family claims to be resident at more than one address, evidence of the family's circumstances will be required (e.g. formal residence order, child arrangements order or legal separation documentation). The application must be completed by the parent using the address which is owned, leased, or rented and where the child lives for most of the school week. This is based on the number of school nights a child spends at the address (from Sunday at 6pm to Friday at 9am).

Where children live across two addresses, families cannot use whichever address would advantage their child's admission into a certain school.

Where there is an equal split or there is any doubt about residence, the School Admissions Team will assess and make a judgment about which address to use for the purpose of allocating a school place. Where necessary, further information may be requested, for example:



- any legal documentation confirming residence
- the pattern of residence
- the duration of the current arrangement
- confirmation from the current school of the primary contact details and home address supplied to it by the parents
- the address where child benefit or other benefit (if applicable) is paid
- where the child is registered with their GP
- any other evidence the parents may supply to verify the position.

It is recommended that consensus be reached by both parties regarding the school preferences listed. Only one offer letter will be sent to the main applicant, unless otherwise requested (and agreed) by both parties.

The information provided to determine the home address will be considered by an admissions panel of at least two officers and their decision is final.

Disputes between parents

Anyone with parental responsibility may apply for their child's school place and list up to four preferred school(s). However, the child's address on the application should be recorded as the place they spend most of the week as set out in our definition of 'Home Address'.

When completing application forms, parents/carers must tick to confirm they have parental responsibility for the child and that their application is made with the agreement of all parties having parental responsibility.

Where parents disagree over which school preferences should be named, we recommend starting the following process as early as possible as national closing dates are fixed and cannot be extended under any circumstances.

We urge parents to work together in the best interests of their child; it is advised that the applicant should inform all other parties who have parental responsibility before submitting the application.

All parties should agree with the school preferences to be listed. Any disagreements should be resolved before an application is submitted. If parents are unable to reach an amicable agreement, then both parents should seek their own legal advice or recourse through the Family Court.

You should note that the local authority will only process one application per child and will only make one offer of a school place.

Where more than one application is received with different preferences, the local authority (or local authorities if parents submit applications to more than one) will contact both applicants to advise that more than one application has been received and request they complete one application with one set of preferences for their child.

We will not mediate between parents where there is a dispute or when two applications are submitted. Only one application will be accepted, and the final decision will rest with the local authority after all submitted evidence has been considered.



All evidence must be received by the application closing date of 31 October 2026. A decision will then be made about which application will be processed. The local authorities concerned may contact the education settings noted in the application, or other professionals working with the child where applicable, to assist in their decision making. Any evidence provided after the closing date which affects the content or processing of the application, may render the application late, and delay an offer of a school place.

Applications from abroad (excluding service personnel)

It is the responsibility of parents to check that their children have a right, under their visa entry conditions, to study at a school.

Applicants are reminded that they should (where applicable):

- Check that they have the “right of abode” (www.gov.uk/right-of-abode)
- Ensure the conditions of their immigration status permit them to access a state-funded school.

By making an application, applicants are declaring they have checked their eligibility.

Having the “right of abode” means you are permitted to live or work in the UK without any immigration restrictions, as follows:

- You will not need a visa to come to the UK
- There is no limit on the length of time you can spend in the country.

All British citizens automatically have “right of abode” in the UK. Some Commonwealth citizens may also have “right of abode”.

You can prove you have “right of abode” if you have a UK passport describing you as a British citizen or British subject with right of abode. Otherwise, you need to apply for a ‘certificate of entitlement’.

Children may be breaching their UK entry conditions by entering the country in order to attend a state-funded school if they do not have an immigration status that permits such study.

Families of Crown servants, returning from overseas to live in Reading, should also provide an official letter confirming the UK posting and their expected relocation date.



How an overseas application will be considered

Upon receipt of the required evidence (see previous section), the School Admissions Team will consider any application from an overseas applicant received by the closing date for on-time applications.

Applications cannot be ranked using a Reading address until evidence is provided to confirm that the child is resident at that address. Until this evidence is received, the application will be processed using the overseas address provided and a distance of 999.99 miles will be applied for ranking purposes.

As soon as the child becomes resident at the Reading address, the parent or carer should notify the School Admissions Team and provide the required evidence of address. Please refer to the Evidence of 'home' address section. Once the evidence has been received and verified, the Reading address will be applied to the application, and the relevant distance and catchment information will be used when ranking the application.



How the offers are decided

Admissions to state-funded secondary schools in England are coordinated across local authority boundaries.

If you live in Reading, you must apply through the Reading School Admissions Team, even if you wish to apply for schools in another local authority. We will share your application with the relevant authorities and schools on your behalf and will notify you of the outcome on National Offer Day.

The Equal Preference System

All applications are processed using the Equal Preference System, in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

This means that:

- Each school you list on your application is treated as a separate application
- Schools consider applications using their published admission criteria
- Schools are not informed of the order in which you ranked them

No priority is given to applications based on whether a school is listed as a first, second, third or fourth preference.

How preferences are considered

Once all schools have ranked applications according to their admission criteria, the local authority coordinates the offers.

- If more than one of your preferred schools can offer your child a place, you will be offered the school you ranked highest on your application
- If we cannot offer any of your preferred schools, we will offer a place at the closest co-educational school in Reading with an available place.

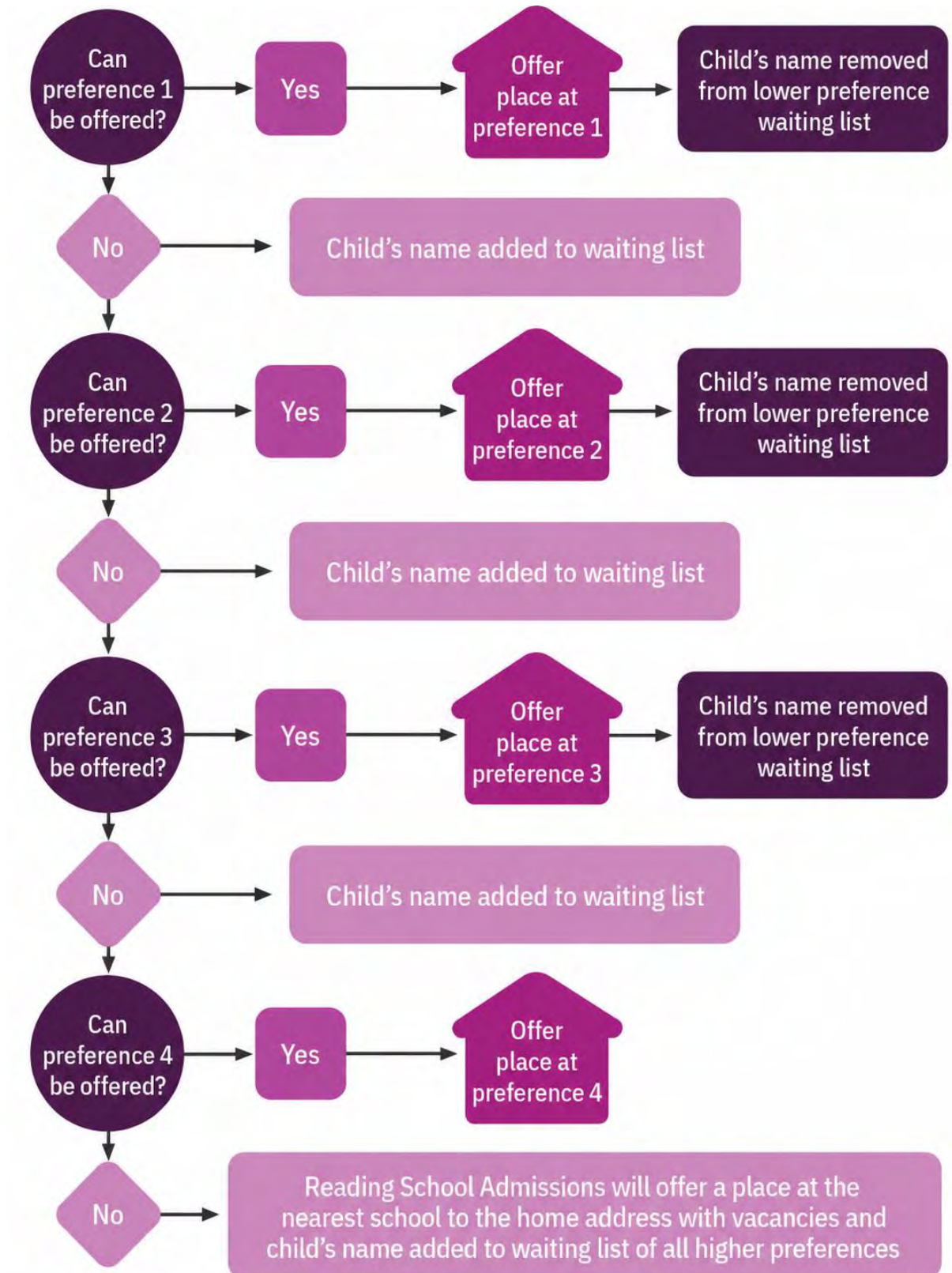
The following website gives a very helpful explanation of how the Equal Preference System works in practice: <https://www.elevenplusexams.co.uk/schools/the-equal-preference-system>

Offer of a place

If you submit your application on time, you will receive one offer of a school place on National Offer Day.

The School Admissions Team will issue your school offer on National Offer Day. This may be for one of your preferred schools, or, if none of your preferred schools can be offered, for the closest co-educational school in Reading with an available place.

The flow-chart diagram below shows the process which results in each child being offered a school place:





Applications received after the deadline

An application received after the closing date for applications (31 October 2026) will be treated as a “late” application and be considered after all on-time applications have been allocated.

However, applications received late for a good reason will be treated as on time if received before 31 December 2026. Such good reasons might include illness preventing a single parent/carer from returning the form on time or the family moving into Reading after the closing date. **The reason for lateness must be supported with documentary evidence.** If no evidence is provided, the application will be considered as “late” and not processed until after 22 March 2027 (*subject to change*).

Late applications received after **31 October 2026** and before **20 August 2027** will be considered in line with the published admission criteria. Where possible, a place will be offered at a preferred school. If the preferred school is oversubscribed, the child’s name will be added to the waiting list in accordance with oversubscription criteria.

You will need to check the admission policies of other LAs for information regarding their treatment of late applications.

Change of preference

Changes of preference made in writing and received between 1 November 2026 and 31 December 2026 may be accepted as on time where there is a good reason, such as a family moving area or illness preventing a single parent from making an on-time application. Supporting evidence will be required. Any changes received from 1 January 2027 will be treated as late, even if supporting evidence is provided, and will be considered after National Offer Day.

An application with new preferences will replace any previous application, therefore it is important to list all the preferred schools (up to a max of four) for which your child is to be considered. After National Offer Day, if you do not list a school that you have listed on a previous application, your child will be removed from the waiting list of that school.

Waiting list

It is not always possible to offer a place at your first preference school or, in some cases, any of your preferred schools. This is because some schools receive more applications than there are places available. Where this occurs, applications are ranked in accordance with the school’s oversubscription criteria and places are offered to those with the highest priority.

For example, if a school has 200 places and receives 300 applications, all applicants are ranked from 1 to 300. The top 200 applicants are offered places, and the remaining applicants may be added to the waiting list.

Your child’s name will automatically be added to the waiting list for any school(s) you listed as a higher preference than the school offered. This applies to schools in Reading and to



those in neighbouring local authorities listed on your application. You will need to check the arrangements for waiting lists for schools in other local authority areas. Waiting list information will not be available until after 22 March 2027 (subject to change).

Waiting lists are always ranked in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria of the relevant school and not by the length of time a child has been on the list. This means that your child's position on a waiting list may go up or down as new applications are received or places become available.

If you accept the place offered, this will not affect your child's position on any waiting lists. When you receive your offer, you will be asked to confirm whether you wish your child to remain on any waiting lists for higher preference schools. Your child's name will remain on these waiting lists unless you request for it to be removed.

If a place becomes available, it will be offered to the child at the top of the waiting list. The School Admissions Team reviews waiting lists regularly and offers places when vacancies become available. If your child is offered a place from a waiting list, this will replace the place previously offered.

Submitting an appeal for a school place will not affect your child's position on any waiting list.

If you wish to have your child's name removed from a waiting list, you must confirm this in writing to the School Admissions Team.

Some schools maintain their own waiting lists. For these schools, you should contact the school directly for details of your child's position. In Reading, this applies to Reading School, Kendrick School and Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School. UTCs also maintain their own waiting lists and you should follow the school's instructions.

From 1 September 2027, all waiting lists will change to in-year waiting lists. Some schools coordinate their own In-Year admissions and will hold their own waiting lists from this date. Waiting lists for Reading schools are held until at least **31 December 2027**. Some schools may choose to keep waiting lists beyond this date.

Please refer to our In-Year page for further details: <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/in-year/>



School appeals

Appealing the decision not to offer a place at your preferred school

If your child is not offered a place at your preferred school(s) you can appeal against the decision.

Information on how to submit an appeal will be sent out with offer notifications and is available on the website www.reading.gov.uk/schoolappeals

All appeals are considered by a panel independent from the school and its decisions are legally binding on the school. The panel must weigh the impact of admitting an additional child to the school against the specific circumstances of the child and their family. Appeals lodged on time will be heard in the summer term from May - July 2027.

How many parts are there to an appeal hearing?

There are two stages to the decision-making process. For grammar school appeals, the Appeal Panel must also be satisfied that your child is of the appropriate academic ability.

- **First stage** – examining the decision to refuse admission. Sometimes, when there are multiple appeals for the same school and year group, stage 1 will be heard as a group stage meaning all the parents are invited to attend together.
- **Second stage** – balancing the arguments - this is done on an individual appeal basis.

What happens at an appeal hearing?

Appeal hearings are as informal as possible. The panel wants to make sure everyone has a fair opportunity to explain their views and ask questions.

At the hearing:

- The school's representative will explain why a place could not be offered.
- You will have the opportunity to ask questions about the school's case.
- You will then be invited to explain why you believe your child should be offered a place.
- The panel and the school's representative may ask questions about the information you have provided.
- Both you and the school's representative will be given the opportunity to briefly summarise your case.
- Once all information has been heard, you and the school's representative will leave the hearing while the appeal panel considers its decision in private.

If there are several appeals for the same school on the same day, the panel may consider all appeals before making its decisions.

The panel's decision will usually be sent to you in writing after the hearing.



Does it cost me to attend an appeal?

No. There is no charge for submitting or attending an appeal. Appeals are normally held online.

How many times can I appeal?

Parents and carers may only appeal once for the same child, for the same school, in the same school year. A further appeal may be submitted in a subsequent school year.

The only exception is where there has been a significant and material change in the circumstances of the child or parent/carer. The change must be relevant to the application and be of a nature that could affect the original admission decision.

For which schools may I lodge an appeal?

You can only appeal for a school that was listed as a higher preference than the school offered to your child. For example, if your child is offered their second preference school, you may appeal for your first preference school, but not for your third or fourth preference schools.

How likely is it that I will win an appeal?

Each appeal is considered independently by an appeal panel, based on the information and evidence provided by both the admission authority and the appellant.

For an appeal to be successful, the panel must decide that the reasons for your child to attend the school outweigh the difficulties that admitting an additional pupil would cause to the school and the education of other pupils.

Parents and carers should explain why they believe the school is particularly suitable for their child and provide any relevant supporting evidence for the panel to consider.

You should be aware that in most cases the admission authority's decision is upheld and only a small proportion of appeals are successful.

Will lodging an appeal affect the place at my allocated school?

No, appealing will not affect the place at the allocated school. Neither does accepting the allocated place. You still have the right to appeal the decision not to be offered a place at your preferred school.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This section may help you with any questions that have arisen while reading this guide. If you have any other questions, please contact the School Admissions Team on 0118 937 3777.

Do I have a choice regarding which school my child attends?

While you do not have the right to choose which school your child will attend, you do have the right to express a preference. Where your preferred school has available places, your child will receive an offer. However, each school has a limited number of places and, where there are more applications than places, not every child will be offered a place. Places will be allocated according to a school's published oversubscription criteria found later in this guide.

Allocation tables for previous years, showing places offered for each school (by categories and tiebreakers), can be found later in this guide. The tables show the lowest category at which a place was offered for each of the schools in Reading on National Offer Day. For schools in other boroughs, please visit the appropriate local authority's website. Please note that this information should be used as a guide only – allocation numbers vary year-on-year, and this affects the lowest category at which offers are made.

I live in Reading. How do I apply for schools in other areas?

You must apply through Reading for any school, even those schools situated in other local authorities. You must include them on your application which should be submitted to Reading School Admissions Team.

You will need to find out about the admission arrangements for any preferred school(s) in other areas. To do this, you may contact the local authority with responsibility for the school to obtain a copy of their admission guide. Contact details for neighbouring local authorities can be found at the back of this guide. If, as a Reading resident, you apply directly to another local authority, the application will not be accepted.

Does living in a catchment area guarantee I will get a place for my child at that school?

Children living in the catchment area of a school are given priority for admission but are not guaranteed a place. Any offer will depend on the number of applicants from within the catchment area. Where there are more applicants from the catchment area than places available at the school, a place will only be offered if your child ranks higher in the oversubscription criteria than other applicants.

Some schools have been unable to admit all applicants from their catchment area for several years and places have been allocated using the distance tiebreaker.

Do I have to put my catchment area school as a preference?

No, you are not required to list your catchment or nearest school as a preference, and living in a school's catchment area does not guarantee a place. However, please consider the following before deciding not to include your catchment or nearest school:



- Your child will not be considered for a place at that school.
- If your catchment or nearest school is oversubscribed and we cannot offer any of your preferred schools, your child may be allocated a place at another school with available places. This school may be some distance from your home.
- Choosing not to include your catchment or nearest suitable school may also affect your child's eligibility for home to school transport assistance. Eligibility is assessed in accordance with Reading's Home to School Transport Policy and is often based on whether the allocated school is the nearest suitable school to your home.

Please give careful consideration to including your catchment and/or nearest suitable school as one of your preferences.

Will my child get a place at the same school as their sibling(s)?

Most children can attend the same school as their sibling(s). However, there have been cases (in previous years) where out-of-catchment children have not gained entry to the same school as their sibling(s). Please refer to the “past allocation tables” (found later in this guide) to see whether this applied to your preferred school.

You must declare any sibling(s) in the relevant section on the application form

Can you guarantee we will get one of the preferred schools we name?

No. The law does not guarantee a place at a preferred school. This would lead to overcrowding and pressure on facilities and resources. Although we expect to offer most applicants a place at one of their preferred schools, the likelihood of an offer depends on the schools you list and whether they are oversubscribed. Where a school is oversubscribed, the published oversubscription criteria for that school will apply. If we cannot offer any of your preferred schools, we will offer a place at the closest co-educational school in Reading with an available place. You will also have the right of appeal.

I'm not sure if I should include a grammar school as one of my preferences?

If you wish to apply for a grammar, it is important that you list the school as a preference on your local authority application form. Failure to do this will result in your child not being considered for admission at the school, regardless of their score in the entrance test.

Parents must register directly with the schools to sit their entrance tests on the dates specified. Please see dates in the information about the schools later in this guide.

If you decide to include a grammar school as a higher preference, it will not jeopardise your application for other preference schools. All the preferences you list will be considered equally. The School Admissions Team only consider your preference ranking where it is possible to offer a place at more than one preference.

What happens if I move?

Applications can only be processed based on the child's current home address. Please refer to the home address section for the definition. Places at oversubscribed schools cannot be reserved for children moving into the area.



If you have submitted an on-time application and relocate on (or before) the 31 December 2026 (bar Kendrick School and Reading School which have their own dates), you must inform us of your change of address. You will need to submit the details to schooladmissions@reading.gov.uk along with evidence that your move has taken place. The evidence we require is either proof that the house sale has completed, such as completion documents, or a fully signed tenancy agreement. These documents must show that your child will live at the address beyond their entry into secondary school. If you move within 20 miles, we will also need evidence that you have disposed of your previous property, such as a copy of the end of tenancy arrangements or completion document.



What if I do not apply by the deadline because I was not living in the area?

If you move into Reading before 31 December 2026, your application will be treated as an “on time” application. However, you must make it clear to the School Admissions Team that this is the reason for your late application. If you move after this date, your application will be considered late and will not be processed until 22 March 2027 (subject to change). Where places are available, your child will be offered a place. However, if your preferred school is oversubscribed, your child’s name will be added to the waiting list according to the oversubscription criteria and a place offered at an alternative school.

What happens if I move between local authorities?

If you are moving into the Reading Borough Council area from another local authority, please provide relevant supporting evidence (as outlined previously in this guide). Reading will only become responsible for processing your child’s application once the required evidence has been received. If you are moving from the Reading area to another local authority, please check your new authority’s deadlines and evidence requirements.

If your move takes place after 31 December 2026, the new address will only be considered after National Offer Day (even where you provide evidence to support the move).

If you are due to move out of Reading during this time, you must notify the admissions teams at Reading and your new local authority as soon as possible. Failure to provide updated address information may affect the processing of your application and the allocation of a school place.

It is vital that you check with the local authority you are moving into to confirm what evidence they require to take over the application. Evidence requirements can vary between local authorities.

My child has an education, health and care plan (EHCP). How do I apply?

This will be done through the SEND team at Reading Borough Council, and you should contact them to find out the process.



My child doesn't have an EHCP but has special educational needs, how will my application be treated?

If your child has special educational needs but does not have an (EHCP), their application will be considered in the same way as all other applications and in accordance with the school's published admission arrangements.

Schools cannot generally give priority for admission solely because a child has special educational needs. However, some schools include a **medical or social need** criterion within their oversubscription criteria. Where this applies, parents and carers may be able to request consideration under that criterion by providing supporting professional evidence.

If you believe your child should be considered under a medical or social need criterion, you should carefully read the admission arrangements for each school you are applying for and provide any supporting evidence required by the admission authority.

How will I know if the School Admissions Team has received my form?

If you apply online, you will receive an automated email to confirm that you have submitted your form.

If you submit a paper form, the School Admissions Team will write to confirm that it has been received. We aim to acknowledge all on-time paper applications within 15 school days of receipt. However, this may take longer during busy periods. If you have not received a response by 30 November 2026, please contact the School Admissions Team.

Are places allocated on a "first come, first served" basis?

No. However, parents should be aware that the first round of allocations only considers those applications received by the closing date.

What can I do if I am not offered a place at my preferred school(s)?

If you are not offered a place at your preferred school(s) you may:

- appeal to an independent appeal panel against the decision to refuse a place; and accept the alternative place offered
- ask about the availability of places at other schools
- keep your child's name on the waiting list.

How can I change the preferences on the application after national offer day?

You can send an email to the School Admissions Team with a revised list of preferred schools (four maximum). Changes submitted after National Offer Day will be considered after waiting lists become available from 22 March 2027 (subject to change). The revised list will replace your previous preference list, so please include any schools from your original application that you still want your child to attend.

The parent portal accepts only one application per child. If you have already applied via the portal, please do not try to submit a new application using this method.



I don't want to accept the place my child has been allocated. What should I do?

In most cases, you should accept the place offered to your child. Accepting the place will not affect your child's position on any waiting lists or your right to appeal for a higher preference school.

It is expected that your child will take up the offered school place in September. Your child must not be kept out of school while waiting for a place at a preferred school, as all children are entitled to full-time education.

There are limited circumstances where it may be appropriate to decline the place offered. These include:

- you are moving out of the borough or leaving the UK
- you have made alternative arrangements, for example your child will attend an independent school
- you intend to electively home educate your child

In all cases, you must inform the School Admissions Team in writing and provide full details. This should include, where applicable, your new address and moving date, the name of the independent school, or confirmation of your intention to electively home educate your child.

Can I home educate my child?

If you wish to electively home educate your child once they are of statutory school age, you are entitled to do so. However, by choosing to electively home educate, you take full responsibility for providing your child's education.

This includes planning and delivering a suitable full-time education that meets your child's age, aptitude and ability, as required by law. There is no funding available for elective home education and you will be responsible for all associated costs, including educational materials and any examination fees.

Home education usually takes place during the school day. You should therefore carefully consider the practical arrangements, including who will be available to support your child's learning, how learning will be structured, and how you will provide consistent supervision and guidance. Families should consider whether they are able to provide the necessary time, resources and support on an ongoing basis.

You should also be aware that elective home education is a significant long-term decision. Most oversubscribed schools experience very little movement in available places, and children on waiting lists may remain there for several months or longer without being offered a place. Electively home educating your child should not be seen as a short-term solution or a way to secure a place at a preferred school more quickly.

It is important to note that extended periods out of school may affect your child's education and progress. For this reason, where possible, we recommend that you accept any school place offered while waiting for a preferred school.



If you decide to electively home educate your child, you should seek advice from Reading Borough Council's Elective Home Education Service. Further information is available at: <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/elective-home-education/> or by telephone on **0118 937 3343** (Monday to Friday during school terms).

Can my child move to secondary school outside their normal year group?

In exceptional circumstances applications may be received for children who are being taught in a school year group outside that suggested by their age (i.e. offset). Where this arises, the preferred school(s) will consider the individual circumstances of each case. Applications for these children will be processed with all other applications and, subject to approval, these children will be permitted to enter their allocated secondary school.

Applicants should submit their common application form by 31 October 2026.

One admission authority is not required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission outside the normal age group. Therefore, you may be required to submit supporting evidence. In these circumstances, parents/carers must outline the reasons for their request and provide any supporting documents (e.g. information from their child's education setting or medical evidence) to the School Admissions Team when request. The application will then be forwarded to the listed school(s) for consideration.

A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday of June in the school year they become 16. This means a child educated outside their normal age group (i.e. offset) throughout their school years, may no longer be of compulsory school age during the school year in which most children take their GCSE examinations and will not be obliged to attend.

Can a place be withdrawn?

Yes – a place can be withdrawn for the following reasons:

- a) School places are offered on the basis that the information provided on the application form is correct and up to date on National Offer Day. Where incorrect or intentionally misleading information is given, the School Admissions Team may withdraw the offer of a place. The address you give **MUST** be your child's single permanent home address. If you give an incorrect address or do not update us with any change of address, the offer may be withdrawn.
- b) Where a place has been offered in error, that place may be withdrawn.
- c) If a parent/carer has not responded to the offer of a place after receiving a reminder, the place offered may be withdrawn.

In all cases, a child would not be without a school. The School Admissions Team will allocate a place based upon a corrected application, which may not include any of the preference schools.



In-Year admissions

In-Year admission is the term used for applications for children who are requiring admission into a year group during the academic year. In secondary school these are Years 7 to 11.

Parents/carers who are seeking admission to a Reading Borough school because they have moved to Reading, are new to the UK or simply wish to move their child to another school, must apply to the School Admissions Team by completing an 'In-Year application form'. This form can be completed online. Alternatively, a paper form is available from the School Admissions Team upon request.

If you are a Reading resident, moving into the borough or live outside the borough, you may apply for a school in Reading by completing an In-Year application form.

If you live in Reading and wish to apply for schools in neighbouring authorities, you should apply directly to the appropriate local authority. If you are Reading residents and your child is unplaced and they gain admission at a school outside of Reading, you must inform us of the allocation in writing.

Some schools in Reading coordinate their own In-Year admissions. If you are interested in your child attending Kendrick School, King's Academy Prospect or Reading School, please apply directly to the school. UTC Reading also coordinates its own In-Year admission into Year 10.

If your child is unplaced and you are eligible to apply, an In-Year application should be completed as soon as possible.

More information on In-Year admission can be found at:

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

Post 16 and sixth form admissions

Applications for places in the sixth form must be made to the school. Places will be offered according to the school's published admission arrangements for sixth form admissions. Please contact the relevant school for further information.

The schools with sixth forms in Reading are:

- Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School
- Hartland High School
- Highdown School
- Kendrick School
- King's Academy Prospect
- Reading Girls School
- Reading School
- The Wren School
- UTC Reading

More information can be found on each school's website.



School transport

Reading Borough Council recognises the importance of encouraging sustainable travel to school to improve the safety and health of our children, as well as reducing the levels of traffic on the roads. Individual schools have travel plans setting out how each school intends to encourage children to travel sustainably.

When choosing a school place, it is important to think about how your child will travel to and from school each day. Most families in Reading organise their own home to school journey. They may walk, cycle, use public transport, lift-share with other families or take their child to school in their family car.

If there is a school with places available that could meet the needs of your child and is closer to your home than the school or schools listed in your application and/or which offer your child a place, the placement will be classed as Parental Preference, and you are unlikely to qualify for travel assistance.

Please note, parental working commitments will not be considered as part of the decision to award transport support.

Eligible mainstream pupils will receive a free bus pass as their form of school travel assistance.

Eligibility for free school transport

It is the local authority where a pupil or student lives, the 'home LA', that is responsible for any financial help with transport, and not the LA where they attend school or college. This means we can only provide free school transport to eligible Reading borough residents. We cannot provide free school transport to pupils who attend a Reading borough school but live outside the borough. Eligibility for free home to school transport is assessed in accordance with Reading's Home to School Transport Policy. For full details of the eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit: <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/transport/>

You are not eligible for help with transport if you did not list your nearest appropriate school and your nearest appropriate school became over-subscribed, which meant that your child was allocated a place at a different school.

Walking distance

Walking distance is defined by law for a child who is eight years old, or older, as three miles or 4.828 km, measured by the nearest available safe walking route. This three-mile safe walking route may not be the same as the route driven by a vehicle.

Availability of free school transport if a child does not attend the catchment area school

If you do not send your child to your nearest appropriate school your child will not be eligible for free school transport unless it is not possible to offer a place at your nearest appropriate school and the school allocated is more than three miles from your home.



Free school transport for faith schools

There is no provision of transport for faith schools unless meeting the criteria under the low-income policy.

Free school transport for children with an EHCP

Some children with finalised Education, Health and Care Plans may also be entitled to assistance, based on their additional needs. Your child/young person will not be eligible for SEND School Travel Assistance if they do not have a finalised EHCP – even if they receive SEND support in school. Please note that help with transport costs may not be provided for children if appropriate provision is available at a school that is nearer to their home address.

Pupils eligible based on their SEND needs will usually be offered a Personal Transport Budget (see further information below), mileage reimbursement, or a bus pass in the first instance. A seat on a minibus service may be offered if deemed suitable. Small group or solo taxi transport will only be offered in exceptional circumstances.

Personal transport budgets (PTB)

A PTB is a payment made to families to enable you to make your own travel arrangements. Payment amounts are based on the mileage from your home to the young person's school. PTB's provide greater flexibility, independence, and control, allowing you to choose the most suitable travel option each day for your child or young person and your family.

More information on SEND transport, including entitlement for post-16 education, can be found at <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/transport/>

Availability of school transport if a child attends a grammar school or a partially selective school

Children who attend Kendrick School, Reading School or have a selective stream place at Reading Girls' School are not eligible to receive help with transport unless qualifying under section (a).

Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge

Free school transport is no longer available to pupil attending Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge. All new applications will be assessed under the school transport policy as described above. Please click the link below for more information about the policy.

www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/transport/.

UTC

Transport applications for UTC Reading are assessed under the mainstream secondary school transport policy. As UTC Reading will not be the nearest available secondary school, unless under the three-mile distance criteria, pupils will only qualify for transport if qualifying under section (a).



Post-16 transport

Reading Borough Council does not provide free post-16 transport.

Reading Buses

A Boost card allows travel at a cheaper rate on Reading and Newbury Buses for pupils up to age 19. Applications can be made online at: www.reading-buses.co.uk or from the Travel Centre in the Broad Street Mall. Please contact Reading Buses on 0118 959 4000 for more travel information.

Contact details

If you believe you are entitled to transport when a place has been allocated to your child, you should apply online: <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/transport/>

For further information regarding the “School Transport Service”, please contact School Transport:

Email: School.Transport@reading.gov.uk

Address: School Transport Service
Reading Borough Council
Civic Centre
Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU



Financial assistance, charging and general information

Charging for school activities

No charge may be made for school activities by schools or the school governors unless it is already provided for in a statement of policy on charging and the remission of charges. Such statements will also usually cover arrangements for the financing of school activities by means of voluntary contributions.

Charging for public examinations

No charge will generally be made for public examinations for which pupils are prepared by the school. However, the fee may be recovered if the pupil fails, without good reason, to complete the examination requirements, or if the pupil is required to re-sit an examination.

Where a child is electively home educated, parents/carers are responsible for arranging and funding any public examinations. This includes covering the full cost of entry fees and any associated administrative charges.

Free school meals

All schools within the borough of Reading deal with the administration of free school meals for pupils in attendance. For more information, please refer to the School Meals page on the website: <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/school-meals/> or contact your child's school.

Are free places available at independent schools, or is there help with independent school fees?

There are no free places available at independent schools. Reading has no schemes to help parents/ carers wishing to educate children at independent schools.

School leaving age

A child ceases to be compulsory school age on the last Friday of June in the school year they reach 16 years of age. As such, where a child is educated in the year below their "normal" age group throughout their school life, they will not be of compulsory school age in the school year during which most children take their GCSE examinations (and cannot be obliged to attend). Therefore, if a child is offset, they can choose not to attend year 11 at all should they wish. Should they elect to leave or move to a new house there is no requirement for schools to offer a place to children over statutory school age. The potential impact of leaving education without having sat GCSE's may be a consideration when dealing with these requests. The focus is on the best interest of the child concerned. www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school



When can my child leave school?

The Education and Skills Act 2008 increased the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning. In England, children can leave school on the last Friday in June if they will be 16 by the end of the summer holidays. They must do one of the following until they are 18:

- Stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- Start an apprenticeship
- Spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering while in part-time education or training.

Can I get help with school uniform?

There is no support currently provided. Please contact your child's current school as they may be aware of support in this area. The Family Information Service (FIS) also has a list of charities that provide grants towards school uniforms (dependent on need and parent carer situation). They can be contacted as below:

Reading Services Guide

The Family Information Service provides free individually tailored information, advice and guidance on any family matter. The service is available to any family member taking care of children or young people aged 0-19 years of age inclusive (up to 25 years for children and young people with special needs, known as the SEND Local Offer) as well as professionals working with families in Reading.

Email: fis@reading.gov.uk

Tel: 0118 937 3777, option 2.

Website: www.readingfis.org





Special educational needs and disabilities

What are special educational needs (SEND)?

A child has special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) if they have greater difficulty in learning than most other children of about the same age. A child's SEND might relate to difficulties with communication and interaction, cognition and learning, social, emotional and mental health difficulties; or sensory and/or physical needs. Many children experience barriers to learning at some time in their education. These are often short term and support will be put in place by the school, using resources already available to schools.

What support can be put in place?

Most children and young people with SEND can be supported in a mainstream school through its usual SEND offer, called Ordinarily Available Provision. This includes inclusive teaching, reasonable adjustments, targeted help, pastoral support and regular reviews of progress.

Schools should follow the SEND Code of Practice available here:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>. They should listen to children and families, identify needs early and work with education, health and care services. Reading's SEND Good Practice Guidelines explain this approach, this is available here [Reading-SEND-Services-Good-Practice-Guidelines.pdf](#).

Reading's SEND Local Offer (<http://www.readingsendlocaloffer.org/>) explains the support schools should usually provide. Schools use this with the Graduated Response guidance to plan consistent, evidence-based support.

Schools use an Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle. They identify your child's needs, plan and provide support, then check whether it is helping. If needed, they should adjust or increase support and seek specialist advice.

Schools can seek support from services including RISE, Educational Psychology, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, the School Effectiveness Team and Mental Health Support Teams. From September 2026, the Experts at Hand team will provide an additional route to early advice and support.

Schools are also offered early intervention meetings with a RISE SEND Consultant and Educational Psychologist. These meetings help identify concerns early, agree support and reduce the risk of problems such as poor attendance or suspension becoming more serious.

A small number of children need support beyond what a mainstream school can usually provide. An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) may then be needed to specify and secure this extra support. An EHCP is usually required for a specialist school, Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) or a Resource Base. In rare cases, when no setting can meet a child's needs, Education Otherwise Than at School may be considered under Reading's EOTAS policy.



School applications when a child has an EHCP and you are seeking mainstream

If your child is moving from primary to secondary school, parents will be asked to complete a preference form in September of Year 6. This enables the SEND team to discuss with all relevant settings what funding is required to deliver the content of the EHCP within a secondary context. In most cases, it will be possible to meet the parental preference for a named school. However, if you do not agree with the school being suggested you can discuss further with your case officer.

School applications when a child has an EHCP and specialist provision could be/is required

If your child is moving from primary school (specialist or mainstream) and you feel a specialist secondary school is most appropriate, the process is similar and can run alongside considering a mainstream school. Parents will be asked to complete a preference form in September of Year 6. This enables the SEND team to consult and discuss with all relevant settings what funding is required to deliver the content of the EHCP within a secondary context (you can consult both mainstream and specialist simultaneously and make your decision following consultations).

Parents and carers may request that the local authority consults with a school or specialist setting of their preference, and these views will be carefully considered. The local authority must comply with its legal duties under the Children and Families Act 2014, which requires it to name the parent's preferred school if the school have offered a place, unless this would be incompatible with the efficient education of others or the efficient use of resources. Where more than one setting can meet a child's needs, the local authority may therefore name a placement that is not the parents first choice, if it can provide the required provision more efficiently from a resourcing perspective. Parents and carers will be involved throughout the process and retain the right to appeal to the SEND tribunal if they disagree with the placement named in the EHCP.

Independent support

If you would like to learn more about what is available for children with SEND in Reading, please contact Reading's SEND Local Offer on www.readingsendlocaloffer.org or for more information and independent support and advocacy, contact Reading IASS (Information Advice & Support Service) on 0118 937 3421 or at www.readingiass.org.



How school places were allocated in 2026

Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School - Admission number 180		
Category	Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day: 186	
	Children with a statement of special needs or Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school	12
1	Baptised Catholic looked after children or previously looked after children	0
2	Baptised Catholic children	49
3	Other looked after or previously looked after children	0
4	Children who are members of the Eastern Orthodox churches	6
5	Children of families who are members of other Christian denominations	35
6	Children who are members of other faiths	17
7	Any other children. The last place offered was to a child whose home is 3.315 miles from the school data point.	67

Hartland High School - Admission number 180	
The school did not receive more applications than the published admissions number and therefore no over subscription criteria was used	
Places available on National Offer Day	78

Highdown School - Admission number 250		
Category	Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day: 250	
	Children with a statement of special needs or education, health and care plan naming the school	8
2	Services children	0
3	Children who have strong medical or social grounds for admission	1
4	Children of staff at Highdown	2
5	Children whose permanent home address is in the designated area with a sibling at the school in Years 7 – 11 in September 2026	56
6	Children whose permanent home address is in the designated area	176
7	Children not in the designated area of the school with a sibling at the school in years 7-11 in September 2026. The last place offered in this category was to a child whose home is 3.733 miles from the school data point.	4
8	Other children <i>It was not possible to offer a place to 41 children from category 8</i>	0



Kendrick School - Admission number 128

Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day: 128

It was not possible to offer places to all applicants in 'category 4' of the oversubscription criteria. Places within this category have been offered based on performance in the tests.

King's Academy Prospect - Admission number 240

The school did not receive more applications than the published admissions number and therefore no over subscription criteria was used

<i>Places available on National Offer Day</i>	82
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Maiden Erlegh in Reading - Admission number 180

Category	<i>Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day: 180</i>	
	Children with a statement of special needs naming the school and looked after children or previously looked after children	12
2	Children who are eligible for Pupil Premium at the time of application	17
3	Children of staff at Maiden Erlegh in Reading	0
4	Children with siblings at the school	36
5	Children attending feeder primary schools	82
6	Other children - the tie breaker of straight-line distance from home to school was used as it was not possible to offer every child a place in this category. The last child offered a place, lives 1.433 miles from the school's data point.	33
	<i>It was not possible to offer a place to 39 children from category 6</i>	

Reading Girls School - Admission number 180, including 42 selective places

The school did not receive more applications than the published admissions number and therefore no over subscription criteria was used

<i>Places available on National Offer Day</i>	23
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Reading School - Admission number 138 (Day Places) 12 (Boarding)

Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day: 150.

It was not possible to offer places to all day applicants in 'category 4' of the oversubscription criteria. Places within this category have been offered based on performance in the tests.



River Academy - Admission number 180		
Category	Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day	
	Children with a statement of special needs naming the school and looked after children or previously looked after children	18
2	Children who are eligible for Pupil Premium at the time of application	13
3	Children of staff who have been recruited to fill a skill-shortage area.	0
4	Children with siblings at the school.	20
5	Other children - the tie breaker of straight-line distance from home to school was used as it was not possible to offer every child a place in this category. The last child offered a place lives 0.996 miles from the school's data point.	129
<i>It was not possible to offer a place to 120 children from category 5</i>		

The Wren School - Admission number 168	
The school did not receive more applications than the published admissions number and therefore no over subscription criteria was used	
<i>Places available on National Offer Day</i>	38

How school places were allocated in 2025

Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School - Admission number 180		
Category	Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day: 186	
	Children with a statement of special needs or education, health and care plan naming the school	7
1	Baptised Catholic looked after children or previously looked after children	0
2	Baptised Catholic children	65
3	Other looked after or previously looked after children	1
4	Children who are members of the Eastern Orthodox churches	7
5	Children of families who are members of other Christian denominations	38
6	Children who are members of other faiths	23
7	Any other children The last place offered was to a child whose home is 1.000 miles from the school data point.	45

Hartland High School - Admission number 180	
The school did not receive more applications than the published admissions number and therefore no over subscription criteria was used	
<i>Places available on National Offer Day</i>	90



Highdown School - Admission number 250

The school did not receive more applications than the published admissions number and therefore no over subscription criteria was used

<i>Places available on National Offer Day</i>	2
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Kendrick School - Admission number 128

Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day: 128

It was not possible to offer places to all applicants in 'category 4' of the oversubscription criteria. Places within this category have been offered based on performance in the tests.

King's Academy Prospect - Admission number 240

The school did not receive more applications than the published admissions number and therefore no over subscription criteria was used

<i>Places available on National Offer Day</i>	104
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Maiden Erlegh in Reading - Admission number 180

Category	<i>Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day: 180</i>	
	Children with a statement of special needs naming the school and looked after children or previously looked after children	1
2	Children who are eligible for Pupil Premium at the time of application	13
3	Children of staff at Maiden Erlegh in Reading	1
4	Children with siblings at the school	28
5	Children attending feeder primary schools	88
6	Other children - the tie breaker of straight-line distance from home to school was used as it was not possible to offer every child a place in this category. The last child offered a place, lives 1.701 miles from the school's data point.	49
<i>It was not possible to offer a place to 35 children from category 6</i>		

Reading Girls School - Admission number 180, including 42 selective places

The school did not receive more applications than the published admissions number and therefore no over subscription criteria was used

<i>Places available on National Offer Day</i>	3
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Reading School - Admission number 138 (day places) 12 (boarding)

Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day: 150.

It was not possible to offer places to all day applicants in 'category 4' of the oversubscription criteria. Places within this category have been offered based on performance in the tests.

River Academy - Admission number 180

Category	Total number of children offered a place on National Offer Day	
	Children with a statement of special needs naming the school and Looked After Children or previously Looked After Children	10
2	Children who are eligible for Pupil Premium at the time of application	22
3	Children of Staff who have been recruited to fill a skill-shortage area.	0
4	Children with siblings at the school.	4
5	Other children - the tie breaker of straight-line distance from home to school was used as it was not possible to offer every child a place in this category. The last child offered a place lives 1.237 miles from the school's data point.	144
<i>It was not possible to offer a place to 63 children from category 5</i>		

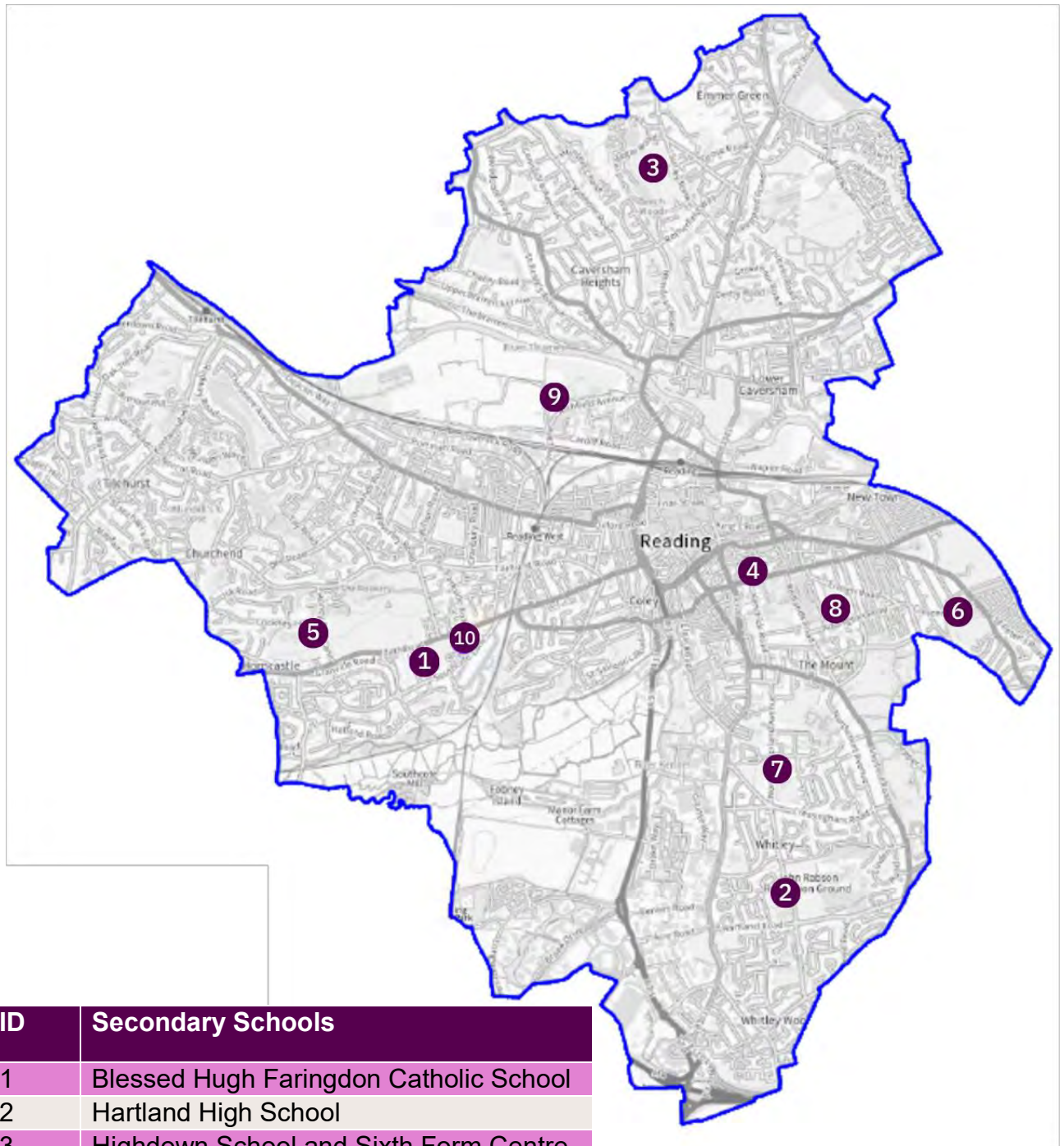
The Wren School - Admission number 168

The school did not receive more applications than the published admissions number and therefore no over subscription criteria was used

<i>Places available on National Offer Day</i>	27
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Map of Reading secondary schools' locations



ID	Secondary Schools
1	Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School
2	Hartland High School
3	Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre
4	Kendrick School
5	King's Academy Prospect School
6	Maiden Erlegh School in Reading
7	Reading Girls' School
8	Reading School
9	River Academy
10	The Wren School



Schools

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Reading Girls' School	63
Reading School	65-65
River Academy	66
The Wren School	67



Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School

ADDRESS:	Fawley Road, Reading, RG30 3EP.
TEL:	0118 957 4730
EMAIL:	admin@hughfaringdon.org
WEBSITE:	www.hughfaringdon.org
HEADTEACHER:	Simon Uttley
SCHOOL TYPE:	Voluntary-Aided, Co-Educational, Comprehensive
AGE RANGE:	11-18 (includes Sixth Form)
DfE NUMBER:	870 5411
ADMISSIONS NUMBER (YEAR 7):	180

This school also has a supplementary information form, if applicable, this should be completed as well as the main Common application form this can be obtained here <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/secondary-admissions/>

Oversubscription criteria summary

Students with an education health and care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following oversubscription criteria will then apply:

Category	
1	Catholic looked after children or Catholic previously looked after children. Evidence of Baptism and adoption (if applicable) will be required
2	Catholic children. Evidence of Baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of a Catholic Church will be required.
3	Other looked after children and previously looked after children. Evidence of adoption (if applicable) will be required
4	Children who are members of Eastern Christian Churches. Evidence of membership of the church provided by a priest of a designated place of worship will be required
5	Children of other Christian denominations. whose membership is evidenced by a Minister of Religion
6	Children of other faiths. whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader
7	Any other children.

The information above is a summary only. Full details are set out in the school's admissions policy on its website.



Hartland High School

ADDRESS:	125 Hartland Road, Reading, RG2 8AF
TEL:	0118 937 0200
EMAIL:	contact@johnmadejskiacademy.co.uk
WEBSITE:	www.johnmadejskiacademy.co.uk
HEADTEACHER:	Emily Davey
SCHOOL TYPE:	Academy, Co-Educational, Comprehensive
AGE RANGE:	11-18 (includes sixth form)
DfE NUMBER:	870 4005
ADMISSIONS NUMBER (YEAR 7):	180

Oversubscription criteria summary

Students with an education health care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following oversubscription criteria will then apply:

Category	
1	Looked after children
2	Exceptional medical/social needs
3	Children of permanent members of staff
4	Siblings at the school at the time of admission.
5	Pupils living within the designated area for the school.
6	Distance (outside of the designated area)

The information above is a summary only. Full details, including designated area, are set out in the school's admissions policy on its website.



Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

ADDRESS:	Surley Row, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8LR
TEL:	0118 901 5800
EMAIL:	office@highdown.reading.sch.uk
WEBSITE:	www.highdown.reading.sch.uk
HEADTEACHER:	Laura Matthews
SCHOOL TYPE:	Academy
AGE RANGE:	11-18 (includes sixth form)
DfE NUMBER:	870 4020
ADMISSIONS NUMBER (YEAR 7):	250

Oversubscription criteria summary

Students with an education health care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following oversubscription criteria will then apply:

Category	
1	Looked after children or previously looked after children.
2	Services children
3	Children who have strong medical or social grounds for admission
4	Children off staff
5	Children whose permanent home address is in the designated area of the school who has an older sibling(s) who will still be attending the school in Years 8-11 in September 2027
6	Children whose permanent home address is in the designated area of the academy
7	Children who do not live in the designated area who will have an older sibling(s) who will still be attending the academy in Years 8-11 in September 2027
8	Other applicants.

The information above is a summary only. Full details, including designated area, are set out in the school's admissions policy on its website.



Kendrick School

ADDRESS:	London Road, Reading, RG1 5BN
TEL:	0118 901 5859
EMAIL:	admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk
WEBSITE:	www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk
HEADTEACHER:	Nick Simmonds
SCHOOL TYPE:	Academy Grammar School (selective) Single Sex Girls School
AGE RANGE:	11-18 (includes sixth form)
DfE NUMBER:	870 5413
ADMISSIONS NUMBER (YEAR 7):	128

Applicants must take and pass an entrance test to be considered. Achieving the required score does not guarantee a place, as the school is often oversubscribed.

Oversubscription criteria summary

Students with an education health care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following oversubscription criteria will then apply:

Category	
1	The applicant is a looked after child or previously looked after child.
2	The applicant is in receipt of Pupil Premium or Service Premium on 31st August 2026. The applicant's permanent home address must also be within Priority Area 1 or 2 of the designated area of the school
Offers will then be made from the ranked list, according to the ranked order until up to 75% (96) of places have been offered:	
3	The permanent home address of the applicant is within priority area 1 or 2 of the designated area of the school
The remaining 25% (32) places will be offered in the following order, according to the ranked order until all places in total have been offered:	
4	The permanent home address of the applicant is within priority area 1 of the designated area
5	The permanent home address of the applicant is within the priority area 2 of the designated area
6	Applicants whose permanent home address is NOT in the designated area of the school.

The information above is a summary only. Full details, including priority areas, are set out in the school's admissions policy on its website.



King's Academy Prospect

ADDRESS:	Cockney Hill, Reading, RG30 4EX
TEL:	0118 959 0466
EMAIL:	enquires@kgaprospect.uk
WEBSITE:	www.kgaprospect.uk
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER:	David Littlemore
HEAD OF SCHOOL	Mary Morris
SCHOOL TYPE:	Academy, Co-Educational Comprehensive
AGE RANGE:	11-18 (includes Sixth Form)
DfE NUMBER:	870 5410
ADMISSIONS NUMBER (YEAR 7):	240

Oversubscription criteria summary

Students with an education health care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following oversubscription criteria will then apply:

Category	
1	Children with an education, health and care plan will be allocated a place above all other applicants
2	Children in the care of a local authority where the corporate parent names King's Academy Prospect. Children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residency order) immediately after they had been looked after providing appropriate evidence is submitted.
3	Children who have strong medical or social grounds for admission
4	Children whose permanent home address is in the designated area of the school who have a sibling at the school at the time of application
5	Children whose permanent home address is in the designated area of the school
6	Children whose permanent home address is NOT in the designated area of the school who have a sibling at the school at the time of application
7	Other children.

The information above is a summary only. Full details, including designated area, are set out in the school's admissions policy on its website.



Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

ADDRESS:	81 Crescent Road, Reading, RG1 5SL
TEL:	0118 966 8065
EMAIL:	MERoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org
WEBSITE:	www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk
HEADTEACHER:	Sarah Gibbs
SCHOOL TYPE:	Academy, Part of Maiden Erlegh Trust, Co- Educational Comprehensive
AGE RANGE:	11-16
DfE NUMBER:	870 4001
ADMISSIONS NUMBER (YEAR 7):	180

When applying for **Maiden Erlegh School in Reading**, please use the full school name on your application. If you enter only “**Maiden Erlegh School**”, it will be taken to mean **Maiden Erlegh School, Wokingham**.

If required, you must complete the school's supplementary information form (SIF) as well as the common application form, available here:

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

Oversubscription criteria summary

Students with an education health care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following criteria will then apply:

Category	
1	Looked after children or children who were looked after
2	Children who are eligible for the Pupil Premium at the time of the closing date for applications (31 October 2026).
3	The children of staff at Maiden Erlegh Trust whose main place of work is Maiden Erlegh School in Reading
4	Children who have a sibling at the school at the time of application, who is expected to be attending the school when the child will enter the school
5	Children who attend the following primary schools – Alfred Sutton, Earley St Peter's, Katesgrove, New Christ Church, New Town, Redlands, St John's
6	Any other children.

The information above is a summary only. Full details are set out in the school's admissions policy on its website.



Reading Girls' School

ADDRESS:	Northumberland Avenue, Reading, RG2 7PY
TEL:	0118 986 1336
EMAIL:	admin@readinggirlsschool.net
WEBSITE:	www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk
HEADTEACHER:	Marika Farrugia
SCHOOL TYPE:	Academy, (with partial selection) Single Sex Girls School
AGE RANGE:	11-18
DfE NUMBER:	870 4003
ADMISSIONS NUMBER (YEAR 7):	180 including 42 selective places

Oversubscription criteria summary

Students with an education health care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following oversubscription criteria will then apply:

Category	
1	Children looked after and all children previously looked after
2	Up to 42 places may be selected by ability assessed by means of selection tests and ranked according to the results of the tests.
Then the remaining places up to 180 will be allocated according to the following criteria:	
3	Priority will next be given to children on the basis of social or medical need.
4	Priority will next be given to children with siblings at the school.
5	Priority will next be given to children of staff at the school, in either of the following circumstances: a) The member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
6	Priority will next be given to children who attend named feeder schools, Battle Primary Academy.
7	Girls living nearest the school being accorded priority.

The information above is a summary only. Full details are set out in the school's admissions policy on its website.



Reading School

ADDRESS:	Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW
TEL:	0118 901 5600
EMAIL:	admissions@reading-school.co.uk
WEBSITE:	www.reading-school.co.uk
HEADTEACHER:	Chris Evans
SCHOOL TYPE:	State Boys Grammar (selective) with small additional boarding provision
AGE RANGE:	11-18 (includes sixth form)
DfE NUMBER:	870 5401
ADMISSIONS NUMBER (YEAR 7):	150 (138 day places and 12 boarding places)

Applicants must take and pass an entrance test to be considered. Achieving the required score does not guarantee a place, as the school is often oversubscribed.

Oversubscription criteria summary - day applications

Students with an education health care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following oversubscription criteria will then apply:

Category	
1.1	Looked-after, previously looked-after children and internationally adopted. Previously looked after children
1.2	Pupil Premium or Service Premium: who live in the catchment area
1.3	Social or welfare need: who live in the catchment area
1.4	Children of school staff
2	Sporting aptitude (up to 15 places across day and boarding)
3	Reading feeder schools (up to 50% of remaining places)
4	Reading priority postcodes (up to 80% of remaining places)
5	Catchment area (remaining places)
6	All other eligible candidates



Oversubscription criteria summary - Boarding Applications

Students with an education health care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following oversubscription criteria will then apply:

Category	
1.1	Looked-After, Previously Looked-After Children and Internationally Adopted. Previously Looked After Children
1.2	Pupil Premium or Service Premium: who live in the catchment area
1.3	Boarding need
1.4	Children of school staff
2	Sporting aptitude (up to 15 places across day and boarding)
3	All other eligible candidates

The information above is a summary only. Full details, including catchment area, are set out in the school's admissions policy on its website.



River Academy

ADDRESS:	7 Richfield Avenue, Reading, RG1 8EQ
TEL:	0118 216 0400
EMAIL:	river@maidenerleghtrust.org
WEBSITE:	www.river-academy.co.uk
HEADTEACHER:	Andy Hartley
SCHOOL TYPE:	Academy, Part of Maiden Erlegh Trust, Co- Educational Comprehensive
AGE RANGE:	11-18 (Sept 25 Year 7 & 8 only)
DfE NUMBER:	870 4004
ADMISSIONS NUMBER (YEAR 7):	180

Oversubscription criteria summary

Students with an education health care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following oversubscription criteria will then apply:

Category	
1	Children looked after and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order as well as children who appeal (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.
2	Children eligible for the Pupil Premium. Evidence of eligibility will need to be submitted with the application. See notes on the school's policy on eligibility
3	Children of staff who have been recruited to fill a skill-shortage area.
4	Siblings of pupils attending the school at the time the application is received (where an older sibling is in Year 11, siblings will not be prioritised under this criterion).
5	Other children.

The information above is a summary only. Full details are set out in the school's admissions policy on its website.



The Wren School

ADDRESS:	61-63 Bath Road, Reading, RG30 2BB
TEL:	0118 214 3888
EMAIL:	admin@wren.excalibur.org.uk
WEBSITE:	https://wren.excalibur.org.uk/
HEADTEACHER:	Mr John Salberg
SCHOOL TYPE:	Academy Free School Co – Educational Comprehensive
AGE RANGE:	11-18 (includes Sixth Form)
DfE NUMBER:	870 4002
ADMISSIONS NUMBER (YEAR 7):	168

Oversubscription criteria summary

Students with an education health care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. The following criteria will then apply:

Category	
1	Looked after children or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order, including those 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.
2	Children who have exceptional social or medical needs
3	The Founders of The Wren School
4	Children of Excalibur employees employed at the academy on a permanent, minimum 40% Full-Time Equivalent contract with the trust for 2 or more years
5	Students living in the catchment area, with a sibling attending the Wren school at the time of application.
6	Students living outside of the catchment area, with a sibling attending the Wren school at the time of application.
7	Students living in the catchment area.
8	Students living outside of catchment area.

The data point (or Nodal point) for The Wren School is Yeomanry House, Castle Hill, NOT the school.

The information above is a summary only. Full details, including catchment area, are set out in the school's admissions policy on its website.



Schools in other local authorities

If you live in the borough of Reading you can apply for any state schools in any local authority (LA), on the Reading application form. You should not submit an additional form to other local authorities as applications need only be made to a child's home local authority, regardless of which local authority the preferred school is located in. Information on the admissions arrangements and open days/evenings for all schools is available from the relevant LA.

Listed below are details of some state funded secondary schools in neighbouring local authorities where Reading residents have applied for places previously. This list is not exhaustive, and more information will be available from / on the relevant local authority's website.

Wokingham Borough Council

Web: <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/starting-and-applying-secondary-school-age-11>

Bohunt School	Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, RG2 9GB. (Co-Educational)
Maiden Erlegh School - (Wokingham)	Off Silverdale Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 7HS (Co-Educational)
Oakbank School	Hyde End Lane, Spencers Wood, Reading, RG7 1ER (Co-Educational)
St Crispin's School	London Road, Wokingham, RG40 1SS (Co-Educational)
The Bulmershe School	Woodlands Avenue, Woodley, Reading, RG5 3EU (Co-Educational)
The Emmbrook School	Emmbrook Road, Wokingham, RG41 1JP (Co-Educational)
The Emmbrook School	Emmbrook Rd, Wokingham RG41 1JP (Co-Educational)
The Forest School	Winnersh, Wokingham, RG41 5NE (Co-Educational)
The Holt School	Holt Lane, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 1EE (Girls School) Has a Co-Educational sixth form
The Piggott School	Twyford Road, Wargrave, Reading, RG10 8DS (Church of England, Co-Educational)
Waingels College	Waingels Road, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4RF (Co-Educational)



West Berkshire Council

Web: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/secondary-school-admissions>

Denefield School	Long Lane, Tilehurst, RG31 6XY (Co-Educational)
Little Heath School	Little Heath Road, Tilehurst, RG31 5TY (Co-Educational)
Theale Green School	Church Street, Theale, RG7 5DA (Co-Educational)
The Willink School	School Lane, Burghfield Common, Reading, RG7 3XJ (Co-Educational)

Oxfordshire County Council

Web: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/year-7-applications>

Gillotts School	Gillotts Lane, Henley on Thames, RG9 1PS (Co-Educational)
Langtree School	Woodcote, Reading, RG8 0RA (Co-Educational)
Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School	Reade's Lane, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9LN (Co-Educational)



UTC and Studio Schools

University Technical Colleges (UTCs) and Studio Schools are state-funded schools for students in Years 10 to 13, offering a more technical, vocational and employer-focused curriculum.

Reading School Admissions does not coordinate applications for UTCs or Studio Schools. If you are interested in applying, please visit the relevant school's website for information about admissions and how to apply.

UTC Reading

ADDRESS:	Crescent Road, Reading, RG1 5RQ
TEL:	0118 938 1020
WEBSITE:	www.utcreading.co.uk
SCHOOL TYPE:	University Technical College, Academy, Co – Educational,
AGE RANGE:	14-19
SPECIALISM:	Computer Science and Engineering
DfE NUMBER:	870 4000

UTC Oxfordshire

ADDRESS	Greenwood Way, Harwell, Didcot OX11 6BZ
TEL:	01235 391587
WEBSITE:	www.utcoxfordshire.org.uk
SCHOOL TYPE:	University Technical College, Academy, Co – Educational,
AGE RANGE:	14-19
SPECIALISM:	Science/Engineering
DfE NUMBER:	931 4008

Futures Institute Banbury

ADDRESS	Ruskin Road, Banbury, OX16 9HY
TEL:	01295 257942
WEBSITE:	www.futuresbanbury.org
SCHOOL TYPE:	Co-educational, non-selective
AGE RANGE:	14-19
DfE NUMBER:	931 4006



Useful numbers and contacts

School Admissions Team	0118 937 3777 (option 1) schooladmissions@reading.gov.uk
Reading Family Information Service	0118 937 3777 (option 2) fis@reading.gov.uk
Complaints Helpline (Customer Relations team)	0118 937 3787 Socialcare.Complaints@reading.gov.uk
Special Educational Needs Helpline	0118 937 2674 sen@reading.gov.uk
School Transport Service	0118 937 2542 School.Transport@reading.gov.uk
Reading Information, Advice & Support Service for SEND	0118 937 3421 iass@reading.gov.uk

Other local authorities contact information

Local authority	Email address
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	School.admissions@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
Buckinghamshire County Council	admissions@buckscc.gov.uk
Hampshire County Council	Admissions.team@hants.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Council (South Division)	Admissions.school@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council	Rbwm.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Slough Borough Council	admissionshelpline@slough.gov.uk
West Berkshire Council	admissions@westberks.gov.uk
Wokingham Borough Council	schooladmissions@wokingham.gov.uk



Useful websites

Brighter Futures for Children	www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org
Reading Borough Council	www.reading.gov.uk
DfE (Department for Education)	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education
Ofsted (The Office for Standards in Education)	www.ofsted.gov.uk
National Curriculum Information	www.gov.uk/national-curriculum/overview
GOV.UK	www.gov.uk

Every effort has been taken to ensure the information in this guide is correct at the time of going to press, but some details may be subject to change.

School Admissions Team,
Reading Borough Council
Civic Centre
Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU

Tel: 0118 937 3777

Email: schooladmissions@reading.gov.uk



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you



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