

Starting School

in Buckinghamshire

For children born between
01/09/2022 and 31/08/2023



This leaflet gives you some information on starting school and explains how to apply for a primary school place for your child.

You must make your application for a school place to the Council or Local Authority (LA) in whose area you live. If you live in Buckinghamshire, you will be able to list up to six schools located in any area on your application. If you do not live in Buckinghamshire, you must make your application to your home council even if you want a school in another area. All councils share information with each other where necessary.

What should you be doing now?

Visit our website for information about starting school
buckinghamshire.gov.uk

The 'Find my child a school place' service on the website has additional information about our schools Find my child a school place

Check the website of the schools you are interested in to see whether they offer an open event or other options to learn more about the school. Check to see which is your nearest or catchment school to see if they could meet your child's needs.

How are places allocated

Sometimes schools have more applications than there are places available. If this happens, we use admission rules to decide which children should be offered a place. Information about admission rules is available on our website. You should check the admission rules as different schools can have different rules. If you want to apply for a school in another area you should check their rules.

Some schools have a supplementary form for you to fill in.
You must check the School Directory for more information
buckinghamshire.gov.uk

We use distance to help us work out who can be offered a place. Most but not all Buckinghamshire schools use straight line distance, you need to check this. Danesfield School and St Pauls CE School use routed distance.

Buckinghamshire LA operates an Equal preference scheme.
This means that the preference number you have given each school (1st - 6th) does not affect how likely it is that your child will get a place. If, during the allocation process, we can offer your child more than one school, we offer the place at the school you listed highest on your application.

You should list the schools in the order you would like them.
Once the closing date has passed you will not be able to change your preferences until much later in the process, so please think carefully about the school you list and the order you have put them.

How to apply – Buckinghamshire residents only

Please read the timeline in this leaflet.

You can apply online, using a laptop, desktop, smart phone or tablet. Our system is safe and easy to use. Set up a username (your email address) and password. You can then fill in your details and your child's details and list up to six preferences for primary schools. Your home address and your child's should be the same.

Apply online from 11 am on 05 November 2026 at buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Once we have received your preferences, we will send an automatic email confirming which schools you have applied for.

You can log back in to change your application at any time before the deadline. Please remember to re-submit your application if you make any changes.

It is important that you use the same email address and remember your password. We will use your email address to contact you throughout the process, so it is important that you let us know if you change it.

Make sure you apply by the deadline of 15 January 2027.

We ask you to send in your council tax reference number as evidence of where you live, when you complete your application. If you can't provide this, please see the website for a list of documents that you can choose from.

If you apply online, you will know which school we have offered your child a day early. You can log onto your account on 16 April to accept the school offer. You will also get this information in an email.

If you apply with a paper form, you will not know the outcome of your application until 17 April.



Home to School Transport

If home to school transport is important to you, make sure you read and understand the rules about free home to school transport. We provide free transport to eligible children. To be eligible for free school transport your child must:

1. Attend their nearest suitable school. The nearest suitable school is determined at the point places are allocated.

2. The nearest suitable school must be over the statutory walking distance of 2 miles for children under the age of eight.

3. Your child must be statutory (compulsory) school age, i.e. the term following their fifth birthday.

For your child to be considered for free transport you must include your child's nearest school as a preference on your application.
It does not have to be the highest preference. If your child's nearest school is not listed as a preference on your application, then we will not consider providing free transport to a school further away.

What you can find on our website

Information about Starting School for the first time including making an application.

You can search for your nearest school using the 'Find my child a school place' service – enter your child's date of birth and postcode Find my child a school place

The 'School Directory' gives you details for the schools in Buckinghamshire.

Allocation statistics will help you understand what has happened in previous years. You can view the statistics Check school place allocation statistics | Buckinghamshire Council.

More important information

Our website not only covers all the topics in this leaflet in more detail but also includes –

- What evidence we need to see if you are moving house
- How to apply for a school place and things to think about before you do this
- How to respond to the offer of a school place
- What you can do if we cannot offer the school, you would like
- Information about Transition Day in July 2027, when children usually spend the day at their new school

Visit our website buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Timeline - What happens when?

You need to know these important dates if you live in Buckinghamshire

Autumn Term 2026

Learn about schools in Buckinghamshire using the School Directory in the 'Find my child a school place' service on our website. Visit schools' websites too. Attend any open days.

5 November 2026

Make your application online buckinghamshire.gov.uk

15 January 2027

Application Deadline - do not leave it until the last minute to submit your child's application

16 April 2027

We offer school places. Parents who applied online will receive an email and can log on to accept the school offered.



How to contact us

If you have a question that is not answered on our website, please fill in the Contact Us form at Contact school admissions | Buckinghamshire Council

You can write to us at the address below, but our preferred method of contact at this time is via the contact us form using the link above.

Admissions & Transport Team,
Children's Services,
Buckinghamshire Council,
Walton Street Offices, Walton Street,
Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

Office Hours:
9am – 5.30pm Monday to Thursday
9am – 5pm Friday