

Families and Wellbeing

Scheme for Co-ordinating Admission Intakes to Primary Schools

Academic Year 2025-2026

warrington.gov.uk/schools



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

1. Legal Background

- 1.1. The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations require all Local Authorities to prepare schemes for co-ordinating the normal admissions round for all maintained schools within their areas.
- 1.2. All admission authorities have a statutory duty to act in accordance with the relevant provisions of The School Admission Code which has been issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Code imposes mandatory requirements and provides guidelines setting out aims, objectives and other matters in relation to the discharge of functions relating to admissions by all maintained bodies including Schools Adjudicators and School Appeal Panels.

2. Preparation of the Scheme

- 2.1. The Local Authority is the admission authority for all the community schools in the Borough of Warrington. There are no voluntary controlled primary schools in Warrington.
- 2.2. If an admission authority proposes to make changes to their admission arrangements, they must consult on the arrangements that will apply to admission applications for the following academic year.
- 2.3. Where admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

3. The Scheme

Timetable for Primary School Co-ordinated Admissions

The timetable for first admission to reception class from **September 2025** is set out in Section 12.

4. The Composite Prospectus

- 4.1. The composite prospectus sets out the arrangements in relation to parents/carers making an application for children who will be starting in reception class from September 2025.
- 4.2. A copy of the local authority's composite prospectus is available to view or download online by visiting www.warrington.gov.uk/schools. Paper copies can also be provided upon request by contacting the school admissions team on 01925 446226 or by emailing schooladmissions@warrington.gov.uk. The prospectus will be available from **2 September 2024**. The closing date for applications for first admission to reception class for September 2025 is **15 January 2025**.
- 4.3. Parents/carers are strongly advised to read the composite prospectus before submitting their application. If, after reading the prospectus, parents/carers have any further questions or queries they are advised to contact the school admissions team and contact numbers are provided.

5. Stating Preferences for Schools

- 5.1. Parents/carers are encouraged to apply on-line for their child's reception class place. Parents/carers are asked to state up to three preferences and to rank them in order of priority. They also have the opportunity to give reasons for their preferences.
- 5.2. The admissions team will arrange telephone appointments in advance of the application closing date to support parents/carers who do not have access to the internet or who do not have an e-mail account to complete their on-line form.
- 5.3. All parents/carers must apply by completing their 'home' authority i.e. parents/carers living in Warrington must apply to Warrington local authority. They may express a preference for any state funded school in any area of the country but must do so via the Warrington form.
- 5.4. It is made clear on the on-line form and in the composite prospectus that where preferences are for faith schools parents/carers should also complete the school's own supplementary information form. This is required so that the school's oversubscription criteria can be applied. Supplementary forms are available online via the Council's website or from the school directly.
- 5.5. All admission authorities must rank all preferences strictly in oversubscription criteria order. The home local authority must co-ordinate the allocation of places for all state funded schools.
- 5.6. The local authority will maintain a database of all applications received and all preferences expressed.

6. Sharing information with own admission authority schools and other local authorities

- 6.1. By 5 February 2025, Warrington local authority (Warrington) will exchange relevant information with other local authorities where schools in their area have been listed as a first, second or third preference.
- 6.2. Warrington will forward copies of all applications to all own admission authority schools, where the school in question is listed as a first, second or third preference. Own admission authorities will receive this information by 12 February 2025.
- 6.3. All admission authorities must consider all applications and rank them strictly in oversubscription criteria order. They are informed that they must not have regard to the order of preference.
- 6.4. By 7 March 2025, own admission authority schools must return their ranked lists to the local authority.
- 6.5. The local authority will rank applications for places at community schools strictly in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.
- 6.6. Where a place is available for a child at more than one of the preferred schools, the local authority will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the child is offered a place at whichever of these schools is the highest preference.
- 6.7. Co-ordination with own admission authority schools and other local authorities will continue up to 2 April 2025 in order to ensure that children living in Warrington will receive a single offer of a state funded school place.

- 6.8. At the end of the process, if the local authority is unable to offer a place at one of the parents' preferred schools, it will offer a place at the next nearest appropriate school which has a place available.

7. Offers of places

- 7.1. Primary schools in Warrington will receive their allocation list on or just before 15 April 2025.
- 7.2. On 16 April 2025 emails and letters offering places in Warrington primary schools and schools in other local authorities will be sent by Warrington Local Authority to Warrington residents. Where a higher ranked preference has been refused the offer letter will also include advice about waiting lists and right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

8. Late applications

- 8.1. All applications received by the closing date will be dealt with at the same time. All applications received after the closing date, **15 January 2025**, will be processed after those which were received on time, unless the child has changed address or has recently been taken into care. Address changes with documentary proof will be treated as on time up until **2 April 2025**.
- 8.2. All applications submitted after **2 April 2025** will only be processed after the allocation date.
- 8.3. For the purposes of the local authority admission arrangements, documentary proof is defined as a copy of the exchanged of contracts for the new property which is to be the child's new home address. If the change of address is to a rented property, a copy of the tenancy agreement is required and the tenancy must be for at least 6 months.
- 8.4. Parents/carers are made aware that a late application could reduce the chance of gaining a place at the preferred school.

9. Late changes of preference

- 9.1. Applicants may change their application at any time up to 15 January 2025 the closing date for applications.
- 9.2. After this date any changes of preferences will be processed after those which were received on time, unless the child has changed address or has recently been taken into care. Address changes with documentary proof will be treated as on time up until 2 April 2025.
- 9.3. Changes of preference for other reasons or, changes of address with documentary proof which is submitted after this date can only be considered after the allocation date.
- 9.4. For the purposes of the local authority admission arrangements, documentary proof is defined as a copy of the exchanged of contracts for the new property which is to be the child's new home address. If the change of address is to a rented property, a copy of the tenancy agreement is required and the tenancy must be for at least 6 months.

10. Waiting lists

- 10.1. The local authority will maintain waiting lists for reception class on behalf of all oversubscribed primary and infant schools in Warrington. Parents/carers refused a reception class place for their child will be informed of their statutory right of appeal and their child will automatically be placed on a waiting list(s) for their preferred school(s). The waiting lists are held strictly in oversubscription criteria order. This means that any late applications must be ranked in accordance with the criteria which may result in applicants moving up or down the waiting list.
- 10.2. The waiting lists will operate until the end of the Autumn Term 2025.
- 10.3. If places become available between the allocation date and the end of the Autumn Term 2025, they will be allocated to the next child on the relevant waiting list.

11. Right of appeal

- 11.1. Parents/carers can submit an appeal in respect of each school for which admission has been refused. All appeals should be sent to the local authority maintaining the school where the admission has been refused. All appeals lodged by the 19 May 2025 should be heard within 40 school days of this date.

12. Timetable for primary school co-ordinated admissions for September 2024 for guidance only

Closing date for the receipt of applications.

15 January 2025

Applications for own admission authority schools in Warrington sent to those schools

By 5 February 2025

Decisions made by own admission authority Schools

By 10 March 2025

Other LAs to be informed of initial offers made to their residents

By 2 April 2025

Schools informed of allocation results

By 15 April 2025

Offers made to parents

16 April 2025

Appeals to be lodged with the LA

By 19 May 2025