



# **Starting School (Year R) Application Form**

# **2026**

**APPLY ONLINE at:  
[www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions)**

If you are a parent or carer with parental responsibility, live within the area covered by Bedford Borough Council, and you would like to apply for a place at any infant, lower or primary school, you must apply online or complete this application form.

**Please apply online or, if you use this form, return it to the School Admissions Service.**

**PLEASE COMPLETE ONE APPLICATION ONLY**

If you live in another Local Authority do not complete this form. You **must** fill in your home Local Authority's application form and return it to them.

Please do this as soon as possible, and no later than **15 January 2026**. If you do not apply by this date, we cannot guarantee to consider your request.

Before you apply please read carefully the Starting School booklet at  
[www.bedford.gov.uk/startingschool](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/startingschool)

If you need help in understanding or completing this form, or you need this information in another format, please contact the School Admissions Service (see page 4 for contact details).



If filling in this form electronically,  
please save the filled-in form and email  
to **admissions@bedford.gov.uk**  
as an attachment.

Or return the filled-in form by post to:  
**School Admissions Service,  
Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street,  
Bedford, MK42 9AP**

# Section A: Pupil's Details

*Please complete this form using  
BLOCK LETTERS, using BLACK INK*

Pupil's Surname:

First Name(s):

Pupil's Address at time of application:

Date of Birth (1/9/21 to 31/8/22):

Gender (please tick): Male:

Female:

Name of current school/nursery/pre-school and date admitted:

Name of Parent or Adult with parental responsibility:

Title (Mr/Mrs etc):

Initials:

Surname:

Relationship to Child:

Home Phone:

Email Address:

Mobile Phone:

**Please note that any offer made will be withdrawn if we find that the parents have given false information.**

## Section B: School Preferences

**This part of the form relates only to maintained schools.** You may nominate up to three preferred schools. One of these would normally be your catchment school (if applicable).

Places will be allocated strictly in accordance with each school's admissions criteria – you need to take this into consideration when nominating your preferred schools. If your child has an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) please refer to notes under the Local Authority Standard Admissions Criteria in the booklet and also refer to Other Information in the booklet.

Please read the admissions criteria for the schools you are interested in. Please also read the section in the booklet entitled 'How are places allocated?'.

**Naming only one school, or naming the same school more than once, will not increase your chance of being offered a place.**

**Order of Preference: Name of School:**

1 Preference:

2 Preference:

3 Preference:

\* **If a place cannot be offered for my child at any of the schools I have listed above, I wish my child to be considered for a place at my catchment area school.**

\* **If you do not want your child to be considered for a place at the catchment area school, please delete the sentence above. However, if you do this, a place may not be available at either your catchment area school or a school close to your home.**

## Section C: Other children

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If you have an older child who, at time of admission, will still be attending one of the schools you have nominated, please give details below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ School attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ School attending: \_\_\_\_\_

## Section D: Other Information

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(See booklet, Other Information i) to iv)

Please tick  
Yes      No

i. Does your child have an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP)?

ii. Is your child a “looked after” or previously “looked after” child?

(See booklet for definition)

Name of Authority: \_\_\_\_\_ Date the child became ‘Looked After’: \_\_\_\_\_

Name / Contact details of the Social Worker:

iii. Does your child have “exceptional” medical grounds why she/he should be given priority of admission to one of the schools in Section B?

(See booklet for definition)

iv. Does your child have a parent/carer who works at any of the schools in Section B? (If yes, please give details below)

## Additional Information

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Please use this box for the information required in Section D plus any additional information to support your application. If necessary, please continue on a separate sheet.

## Declaration

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I confirm that the information given on this form is correct and that I have read the admissions arrangements and understood the way in which places are allocated.

I agree to provide the School Admissions Service with information regarding my child’s address, upon request, as part of their verification process. (See Pupil’s Details in the booklet.)

Name of Parent or Adult with parental responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent or Adult with parental responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

**If you are applying for a place at a school on religious/faith grounds, please complete Section E and/or Section F.**

**If you have any questions about the admissions arrangements, please contact:**

School Admissions Service,  
Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street  
Bedford MK42 9AP

Telephone General Enquiries Line: 01234 718120

Fax: 01234 228846

Email: [admissions@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@bedford.gov.uk)



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#### **Data Protection**

Under new Data Protection regulations (GDPR) Bedford Borough Council needs to inform you of the reasons why we are capturing your data and what we will do with your data. Any personal data collected and/or processed under this policy/procedure will be dealt with in accordance with Data Protection Legislation and the Council's Data Protection Policy. Data is held securely and accessed by, and disclosed to individuals only where relevant to this policy/procedure. To find out more information on this follow the link below.

View the Council's current Privacy Notices at [www.bedford.gov.uk/gdprprivacy](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/gdprprivacy)

# Section E: Applications to Church of England Schools only

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If your application for a place at any of the following **Church of England Schools** is on **religious or faith grounds** you **must** make sure that your priest, minister or faith leader confirms, by signing the declaration below, that you meet the religious criterion for the school.

You **must** refer to the school's prospectus or website for details of the admissions criteria so that he/she can confirm that you meet any attendance requirements.

**This is particularly important as these schools may have a variation to their religious criterion as a result of places of worship being closed during the Coronavirus pandemic.**

- Christopher Reeves Primary School
- Great Barford Primary School
- Ravensden Primary School
- Riseley Primary School
- Roxton Primary School
- St. Lawrence Primary School
- Wilden Primary School

**If you do not supply the required evidence of faith affiliation we will not be able to process your application under the faith criteria.**

School(s) (see list above):

Pupil's Surname:

First Name(s):

Address:

Date of Birth:

## Declaration by Priest, Minister or Faith Leader

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I confirm that:

Name of Parent(s) or Adult(s) with parental responsibility:

**Is a member / practising member of this congregation / place of worship (please complete below) and meets the criteria for admission to the following school:**

Name of School:

Name of Congregation / Place of Worship:

Name and Address of Priest, Minister or Faith Leader:

Signature of Priest / Minister / Faith Leader:

Christian denomination or religious faith:

Date:

# Section F: Applications to Catholic Schools only

If you are applying for a place on religious grounds at the following **Catholic schools** because you are a practising Catholic family, your priest **must** confirm this, by signing a **Certificate of Catholic Practice**. This is a new requirement from the schools within the Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust. The blank Certificate can be obtained from the schools or downloaded from our website, [www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions).

If you are applying because although you are not a practising family, your child has been baptised Catholic, or enrolled in a catechumenate programme, you **must** provide their Baptismal Certificate or your priest **must** confirm enrollment in the programme by signing the declaration below.

If you are applying because you a practising member of another religion or faith you **must** make sure that your priest, minister or faith leader completes the declaration below to support your application.

Please refer to the relevant page of the starting school booklet for the admissions criteria for:

- St. John Rigby Primary School
- St. Joseph's & St. Gregory's Primary School

**If you do not supply the required evidence of faith affiliation we will not be able to process your application under the faith criteria.**

School(s) (see list above):

Pupil's Surname:

First Name(s):

Address:

Date of Birth:

Baptismal Certificate **MUST** be attached (please tick):      Yes:      No:

## Declaration by Priest, Minister or Faith Leader

I confirm that:

Please tick

- This child is not baptised but is enrolled in a catechumenate programme
- I support this application

Name and Address of Priest, Minister or Faith Leader:      Name of Congregation / Place of Worship:

Signature of Priest / Minister / Faith Leader:

Christian denomination or religious faith:

Date: