



**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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# Starting School 2026

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A guide for parents/carers of children born  
between 01/09/21 and 31/08/22

You can apply online at - [www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions)

*Children's Services*

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**Any reference to school in this publication includes academies, community, foundation, foundation (trust), voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools within the same age range.**

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## A message from the Mayor of Bedford Borough

Welcome to Bedford Borough Council's Starting School Booklet. This booklet is for parents / carers of children who are due to start school in September 2026 or later during that academic year.

As Mayor of Bedford Borough, I know how important it is for you to access all the necessary information to enable you to make the right decisions regarding your child's education.

This booklet provides you with important information to help you through the process of applying for a school place. It contains information about the schools in the area and explains how and when places are allocated. It also explains the importance of applying for a school place by 15 January 2026.

You can apply for a school place using the online application system. Applying online is a quick, safe and efficient way of making your application and offers many benefits which are outlined in this booklet. Whilst the Council recommend that you apply online you may, if you prefer, complete a paper application form.

I hope that this booklet will provide you with all the information you need. If you require any further guidance, support or advice please contact the School Admissions general enquiries line telephone **(01234) 718120** or email [admissions@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@bedford.gov.uk).

For information on supporting your child to be ready for the transition to school, the link below has short videos and booklets which you might find helpful:

**Early Years Ready Family, Ready Child. | Bedford Local Offer.**

I truly believe there is no more important investment we can make, than in the future of the Borough's children and young people therefore may I take this opportunity to wish your child every success in their education.



# Tom Wootton

**Tom Wootton**  
*Mayor of Bedford Borough*

## Introduction

Legislation requires you to make an application to the local authority in which you live. Therefore, if your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 and you live in Bedford Borough you must list all of your preferred schools using the Bedford Borough application process even if the schools are outside Bedford Borough.

It is important, therefore, that you apply for a school place using the appropriate application form or online in accordance with the information contained in this booklet.

Don't forget that you can apply for a school place using the online application facility in accordance with the following directions:

**Residents of Bedford Borough** – you can apply online at [www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions).

Please make the time to visit the schools before you apply so that you have all the information you need. We hope you find the information in this booklet useful. Please let us have any views you might have about this booklet by writing to:

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

## Who to Contact

### The School Admissions Service

We are based at Borough Hall in Bedford. If you have any enquiries about the transfer process, please contact our School Admissions general enquiries line on:

**Tel: (01234) 718120**

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

If you would like details of schools in other authorities please contact that Local Authority directly.

### Contact details for school admission teams in neighbouring authorities

#### Cambridgeshire

Tel: 0345 045 1370

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

#### Central Bedfordshire

Tel: 0300 300 8037

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

#### Milton Keynes

Tel: (01908) 253338

Email: [secondaryadmissions@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:secondaryadmissions@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

#### Northamptonshire

Tel: 0300 126 3000 (North Northants)

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

Tel: 0300 126 7000 (West Northants)

[admissions@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@westnorthants.gov.uk)

## The Starting School Timetable

### September 2025

We will publish our booklet Starting School.

### September 2025 to 15 January 2026

You can apply online or you can complete and return a paper application form to your home local authority.

### 15 January 2026\*

Last day for applications.

### 16 April 2026

If you have applied online, you will receive an email to let you know the outcome of your application. If you have not applied online, we will post a letter to you on this day.

**\*It is very important to make your application by this date, so that we have time to deal properly with all the applications before we notify you of the outcome.**

**If you live outside the Bedford Borough Council area and are applying for a place at a Bedford Borough school, you must apply to your own Local Authority.**

## When will my child start school?

Many lower/primary schools admit children into a nursery unit or class at 3 or 4 years of age.

**If your child has been admitted to a nursery unit or class or been offered a place in one this does not guarantee them a place in the reception year.** You **must** apply for a reception year place in accordance with the arrangements set out in this booklet. You must **not** use this application process to apply for a place in a nursery unit or class. Individual schools will deal with applications for nursery places.

Children are normally admitted to school in the September following their fourth birthday, which is at the start of the reception year.

Children do not have to start school until they reach statutory school age. The dates when children reach statutory school age are as follows:

### **Birthday between: 1 September 2021 and 31 December 2021**

Term in which statutory school age: Spring 2027 (January)

### **Birthday between: 1 January 2022 and 31 March 2022**

Term in which statutory school age: Summer 2027 (April)

### **Birthday between: 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022**

Term in which statutory school age: Autumn 2027 (September)

You should apply for a place at the normal time of admission, although your child does not have to start school until statutory school age. If you wish, you can then ask for the place to be deferred until your child is of statutory school age, but you **must** take up that place by April 2027.

This means that, if your child is of statutory school age in September 2027, you **cannot** defer admission until September. If the place is not taken up by the Summer term you will have to re-apply for a place because the admission would be into a different year group. **You may then find that there is no place available.**

Recent advice from the Department for Education (DfE) has offered the prospect of the parents of summer born children being able to request that the admission authority of a school allows them to make an application for a place in the reception class when their child is age 5+ instead of age 4+.

The DfE advice gives general advice about the principles of parents being able to request that the admission authority of a school considers their request for delayed admission <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission> but it does not give enough practical advice about the application process and timescales. The information on our website ([www.bedford.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/admissions) - click on Delayed Entry) considers the issues not covered in the DfE advice and how to go about this in practical terms.

## When will my child attend school full-time?

Your child can attend full time from the start of the academic year if that is your wish, however, your child does not have to attend school full time until he or she is of statutory school age. You should discuss your child's individual needs with the school.

## Applying for a school place

### Which schools can I apply for?

Most parents will want their child to attend their local school but you have the right to express a preference for another school or schools. You may wish to apply for your catchment school (if applicable), as well. This will usually mean that, if a place is not available at your preferred school, you will still have priority for a place at your catchment area school, although it is not a guarantee of a place.

If you do not ask for a place at your nearest school (if applicable), it could result in your child attending a school some distance from your home. You would be responsible for transporting your child to that school.

You can find out which school serves your local area by logging onto the Bedford Borough Council website:

[www.bedford.gov.uk/catchmentareas](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/catchmentareas)

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact us.

## What you should consider when expressing a preference for a school

At the back of this booklet, you will find information about every school. The “key” explains the difference between the various types of school. For each school you will find:

- the address
- the name of the headteacher
- the telephone number
- the fax number (where applicable)
- the email address
- the website address
- the category of the school and the age range
- the number on roll for January 2025
- the admissions number (how many pupils the school can admit)

As well as this basic information you will also find

- the admissions criteria
- the designated measuring point used in the event of the school being oversubscribed
- the number of applications received and the number of places offered for admission in September 2025
- at which point on the list of admissions criteria the last place was offered for admission in September 2025

Schools must also publish information on their websites. This information will tell you what you need to know about the school, for example:

- the school’s aims and objectives
- details of the curriculum offered
- National Curriculum Assessment results
- inspection reports by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)

You may also find the following websites helpful:

Department for Education: [www.gov.uk/dfe](http://www.gov.uk/dfe)

OFSTED: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Bedford Borough Council website [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk) (click ‘Schools, Education and Childcare’ which has information about education in Bedford Borough).

## Applying for a Bedford Borough school if you live outside Bedford Borough

If you live outside the Bedford Borough area and you wish to apply for a place in a Bedford Borough school, you **must** apply to your own Local Authority. Your own Local Authority will inform us if you have put any Bedford Borough school on their application form. We will not be able to process any applications we receive on the Bedford Borough application form from out of area parents.

**Even if your Local Authority accepts more than three preferences, please note that we will only accept a maximum of three schools.**

## Oversubscription

The number of children choosing a particular school varies from year to year and different schools have different admission numbers.

In some cases the number of places offered could be more than the admission number. This does not mean that there will be a similar number of places in September 2026. Please refer to the admission limit for each school.

You may find this information helpful when you are considering which school to request as your preferred school. But be aware that subscription levels may vary from year to year.

**A school may be oversubscribed one year but be undersubscribed the next. Likewise, the fact that a school was undersubscribed last September does not mean that you will definitely get a place there next September.**

## Admission criteria

Admission criteria are the rules we apply when there are more applications for places than places available. They explain the order in which places are allocated. All schools have published admission criteria, you can check full details/definitions by visiting the individual school's websites.

We have standard criteria which some schools use. You will find our standard admission criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools below.

Some schools have additions to our standard criteria and you will find details of these later in this booklet. This will help you to judge whether you meet the criteria for admission to a particular school. It will also help you when you make your application.

## Local Authority standard admission criteria

The Local Authority will apply the following criteria (in the rank order shown) to decide the order in which places will be allocated when there are more requests from parents than the number of places available:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (see definitions);
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school (see definition of sibling);
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area;
4. Other siblings (see definition);
5. Any other children

## Notes

1. If applying these criteria results in there being more children with an equal right to admission to the school than the number of available places, the tie break will be the distance the pupil lives from the school, measured in a straight line, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The Local Authority will measure the distance from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site agreed with the governing body of the school (published in the 'Starting School' and 'School Transfer' admissions booklets). The Local Authority will not give priority within each criterion to children who meet other criteria.
2. If a pupil moves into the catchment area outside the normal admissions round (or after the allocation process has begun) it may be more difficult to offer a place at the catchment area school if this would mean exceeding the admission number at the school. In this case, a place will normally be offered at the next nearest school or academy which caters for pupils of the same age and has places available.
3. Pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are required to be admitted to the school which is named in the plan, even if the school is full. Pupils identified for admission through the Fair Access Protocol will also be admitted even if the school is full.

## Definitions

### **'Looked after' children**

A 'looked after' child is a child in the care of a local authority as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. In relation to school admissions legislation a 'looked after child' is a child in public care at the time of application to a school.

### **Previously 'looked after' children**

A previously 'looked after' child is a child who was 'looked after', but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or a Special Guardianship Order.

### **'Looked after' children from Outside of England**

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

### **Sibling**

A sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, foster brother or sister where foster care has been arranged by a Local Authority or the child of the parent's / carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living at the same address. The sibling must be in the school at the time of application and be likely to remain in the school at the proposed date of admission.

### **Home Address**

A pupil's home address will be regarded as the address of the parent / carer with parental responsibility with whom the child normally lives. This will not usually include grandparents, aunts or uncles. Where a child spends time with parents / carers at more than one address, the address used to allocate a school place will be the one at which the child spends the majority of the school week (Mondays to Fridays) including nights. If there is any query on the home address this will be checked against original official documentation e.g. council tax bill, a recent utility bill (gas, electricity or water), a rental agreement, child benefit annual statement or tax credit information.

## How to complete your application

The law says that every parent must have the opportunity to express a preference for the school or schools they want their child to go to. The application process gives you this opportunity. We would strongly recommend that you apply online at [www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions) (residents of Bedford Borough only).

You should complete only **one** application and list the schools you want your child to attend in order of preference. If you apply online please **do not** submit a paper application. If you do submit more than one application, we will process the most recent one.

The following notes and the notes on the form are designed to help you make an application. Please read them carefully and answer all the relevant questions, giving further details where the application asks for them. If you are not sure how to apply, please ring us.

### Pupil's Details

**Please complete your child's personal details in all the boxes in this section.**

You should provide your child's address at the time you apply, if this is different from parent/carer, you must explain why.

If you are moving to Bedford, do not use your new address unless you have exchanged contracts or have a tenancy agreement. You must apply via your current Local Authority.

If you move after submitting your application, you should notify us by email as soon as possible providing appropriate evidence, but please be aware that we cannot guarantee to take account of your new address if the allocation process has begun.

Although we are not asking all parent / carers to provide evidence that they have Parental Responsibility or to provide proof of address, we reserve the right to carry out checks and you may, therefore, be asked to provide this information at a later date. If you do not provide this information when asked it may not be possible to process your application.

**Please note: We will withdraw the offer of a place if we find that you have given fraudulent or misleading information that has effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim – for example if you claim to live in the catchment area when you don't.**

### Child living between two addresses (such as due to parents being separated/divorced or joint care arrangements)

An application can only be processed using one address. If a child lives at more than one address (e.g. due to a separation) the address used will be the one where the child lives for the majority of the school week (Mondays to Fridays) including nights. If a child lives at two addresses equally, parents/carers should make one joint application naming one address.

If the child's permanent residence is disputed, parents/carers should provide one of the following:

- Court documentation to evidence the address that should be used for admission allocation purposes;
- Child Benefit if applicable;
- The address being used for GP registration purposes.

## Conflicting Applications

We will only accept one application per child. Where parents disagree on school preferences for their child, they must settle their differences between each other and only submit one application. Where different applications are received or we are made aware of a dispute between two parents, all applications will be placed on hold and will not be processed until such time that:

- One joint application is made, signed by all parties; or
- Written agreement is provided from both parents; or
- A court order is obtained confirming which parents' application carries precedence

Conflicting applications that are not resolved by the closing date (15 January 2026) will be placed on hold until resolved and therefore will not be considered until the late allocation phase.

Whilst we appreciate differences between parents can be a difficult time for all involved, including possible court action, the School Admissions Service must remain neutral and treat both parties equally.

## School Preferences

**This section allows you to express a preference for the school or schools you want your child to go to even if this school is in another Local Authority area.**

Do **not** include Independent schools in this section.

**If you are applying for a school place and do not live within the Bedford Borough Council area, you must contact your own local authority to apply.**

Most parents will want their child to attend the catchment area school (if applicable), but you have the right to express a preference for another school or more than one school. We will consider your child for each of the schools you put on the application. If there is a place for your child at more than one of those schools, we will offer you a place at the school you have identified as your highest priority. This may not apply if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (see Other Information).

You may wish to put your catchment area school (if applicable) as one of your preferences. This will usually mean that you still have priority for a place at the catchment area school if there isn't a place for your child at your preferred school or schools. If you are not sure which is your catchment area school, please check our website: [www.bedford.gov.uk/catchmentareas](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/catchmentareas).

If you do not have access to the internet please contact us.

The school information sheets at the back of this booklet will tell you what type of school your catchment area school (if applicable) is and the "key" also gives definitions of the various types of school.

Some schools do not serve a local catchment area, admission to these schools is in accordance with the schools' own admission criteria.

**The law says that admission authorities must consider admitting children whose parents have expressed a preference for a school before they consider those whose parents have not expressed any preference. Because of this, if you do not make a request for your catchment area school (if applicable) according to the published admission arrangements it could result in a place not being available at that school.**

## Other children

In some cases your child may have a greater chance of being offered a place at a school if a sibling (see definition) already goes to that school, but this is not a guarantee of a place.

**If, at the time of admission you will have another child still going to one of the schools you have nominated, please put their name, date of birth and the school they attend, in the boxes provided.**

We will check this information with the school(s) concerned. If you do not provide this information or this section becomes relevant to you after the allocation process is completed, we cannot guarantee to take it into account as part of your application.

## Other Information

### i) Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan

It would be helpful if you could complete this section if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan or if your child is currently going through the EHC needs assessment process. The arrangements for admitting a child with an EHC plan are different to those for children who do not have an EHC plan. The Children and Families Act 2014 says that we must consult with the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school before we can name a particular school in an EHC plan. This process is co-ordinated by the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Team.

The local authority must name your nominated school in the EHC plan provided that:

- the school is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude and the Special Educational Needs as set out in Section B of the EHC Plan;
- the child's attendance is not incompatible with the efficient education of other children in the school, and
- the placement is an efficient use of the LA's resources

The SEND Team will let you know as soon as possible the name of the school which they propose to name on your child's Education, Health and Care Plan.

If you have any queries or concerns about the process, please contact the SEND Team, **(01234) 228375**, [sendteam@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:sendteam@bedford.gov.uk).

If your child's Special Educational Needs are supported at Additional Support level within the school, your preferences for their school place will be treated in the same way as all other applications.

If you have concerns about your child's Special Educational Needs when they transfer to a new school, you can talk in confidence with the Bedford Borough SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS), tel: **(01234) 276267**, [sendiass@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@bedford.gov.uk).

### ii) 'Looked After' children / Previously 'Looked After' children / 'Looked After' children from Outside of England (see definitions)

'Looked after' children / previously 'looked after' children / 'looked after' children from outside of England have a higher priority for admission. If your child is 'looked after' / previously 'looked after' / 'looked after' from outside of England you must provide evidence to support your application. We will check this information with the appropriate authority. If you do not provide this evidence your child may be refused a place.

### iii) Nearest School

Ravensden CofE Primary Academy gives a higher priority to applicants from outside the catchment area if Ravensden is the nearest school to their home. However, this does not guarantee a place.

If you have nominated Ravensden CofE Primary Academy and you meet the criterion, you must select 'Other' on the preference reasons of your online application and complete the additional information box to state that Ravensden is the nearest school, or tick the relevant box of the paper application form. Please note that applicants distance is assessed to determine if Ravensden is the nearest school.

### iv) Parent / Carer who works at the school

Some schools give a higher priority to children who have a parent who works at the school. But this does not guarantee a place. Please check the admissions criteria/definition for the school you wish to apply for.

If any of the schools which you have nominated have this as part of their admission criteria and you meet that criterion, you must include the details on your application. We will check this information with the school(s) concerned. If you do not provide this information, or this section becomes relevant to you after the allocation process is completed, there will be no guarantee of a place at the school(s) concerned.

### v) Exceptional Medical Grounds

Some schools have this as a criteria, therefore if your child has a genuine and longstanding medical condition this may give him or her a greater chance of a place at your preferred school(s). It is not, however, a guarantee of a place. We will consider your application on medical grounds where there are **exceptional** medical reasons which make it **essential** for your child to attend a particular school, where the preferred school is the **only** school locally that could meet your child's needs **and** has medical as one of its admissions criteria. In recent years very few applications have met this criterion. With the application, you must submit a medical report from your child's doctor or consultant, setting out valid medical reasons why admission to the school is essential and the difficulties that would be caused if your child had to attend another school. We reserve the right to seek further medical opinion, with parental consent, in order to determine whether it is essential for a child to be admitted to the preferred school on medical grounds. We cannot consider admission on medical grounds where grounds relate to the medical condition of a parent, brother or sister, other relative or childminder.

### Additional Information (e.g. Feeder schools)

Some schools give a higher priority to children from outside the catchment area who go to one of the feeder schools. If a school has a feeder school criterion, the individual admission criteria for that school will identify this (see school admission criteria). **But this does not guarantee a place**, even though out of catchment area children attending feeder schools may have been offered places in the past.

If any of the schools you nominate have feeder schools as part of their admission criteria, and your child attends one of these schools, you must provide the details so that we can take it into account when we consider your application. Please note that some schools impose a time limit for attendance at a feeder school.

If your child is admitted to a feeder school after the allocation process is completed there will be no guarantee of a place at the school(s) concerned.

## Declaration

**Please complete this part of the application.**

### Religious / Faith Grounds

Some schools provide religious education that follows the teaching of a particular faith. We have Church of England schools and Catholic schools, but there may be faith schools in other areas that you may wish to apply for. Being a practising member of the appropriate faith, or having been baptised into that faith, may give your child a greater chance of a place at that school according to the school's admission criteria. But it does not always guarantee your child a place. Being a practising member of another faith may also give your child a greater chance of a place at that school but, again, it is not a guarantee.

**If you are applying for a place at a school on religious or faith grounds, it is important to provide all the information the form asks for.**

#### Church of England Primary Schools

If you are applying for a place at the following schools on religious or faith grounds, you **must** also arrange for your priest, minister or faith leader to complete and sign the religious declaration form which is available on our website, [www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions).

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

#### Catholic Primary Schools

If you are applying for a place on religious grounds at the following schools because your child has been baptised Catholic, or enrolled in a catechumenate programme, you **must** provide their Baptismal Certificate or your priest **must** confirm enrolment in the programme. If you are a practising Catholic family, your priest **must** confirm this, by signing a Certificate of Catholic Practice. This is a 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).

- St. John Rigby Catholic Primary
- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

If you are a practising member of another religion or faith you **must** make sure that your priest, minister or faith leader completes the religious declaration which is available on our website. Without this information the governing body may not be able to consider your application on religious grounds.

**You can obtain the relevant form to confirm religious affiliation at [www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions).**

If you live in Bedford Borough and your preferred school is a religious school in another Local Authority you will need to ask them how to provide this information.

## 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).

## Who allocates places?

### Community and Voluntary Controlled schools

The Local Authority is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools. This means that we allocate places at these schools. The headteachers of these schools **are not** authorised to offer your child a place. If the headteacher of one of these schools indicates that he or she will offer your child a place, you **cannot** assume that this will be so. You must have an email/letter from **us** offering your child a place before your child can attend one of these schools. If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan please see Other Information.

### Academy, Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools

The admission authority for an academy, a foundation or a voluntary aided school is its Governing Body. This means that the school governors decide who to admit to these schools. However, we email/write to parents on the school governors' behalf to offer school places. You must have an email/letter from **us** offering your child a place before your child can start at one of these schools. An email/letter from the school is not a valid offer. If your child has an Education Health and Care Plan please see Other Information.

### Nursery Place

If you are applying for a place in a nursery unit or class, before admission into the reception year, the school or nursery concerned will deal with your application for the nursery place.

## How are places allocated?

All our schools operate an equal preference system for allocating places. This means that there are two stages in the allocation process.

### Stage 1

All first, second and third preference applications are considered equally against the schools' admission criteria. At this stage there is no distinction between first, second and third preference applications. For example, if the school has 130 places and there are 145 first, second and third preference applications, all applications are considered equally against the admission criteria.

### Stage 2

If we are able to offer a place at more than one school, the school ranked higher by the parent (i.e: first or second preference on the application form or on-line application) will be offered and any lower ranking offers will be withdrawn. For example, a parent's first and third preferences might both qualify for a place, in which case the parent would be offered their first preference, leaving the place at the third preference school available for another pupil.

### Offers

Occasionally the last child we offer a place to at a school is the first child from a family with multiple births. If this happens at a community or voluntary controlled school, we will offer a place to the subsequent child / children even if it takes the school over their admission number.

If this happens at an academy, foundation or voluntary aided school we would ask the school to admit the subsequent child / children.

Pupils living in the Bedford Borough Council area who have not been allocated a place at any of their preferred schools will be allocated a place at the nearest Bedford Borough school to their home address with vacancies.

### Fair Access Protocol

The Local Authority has a Fair Access Protocol which has been agreed with all schools. The protocol applies in exceptional cases where the circumstances of the child mean that the normal admission procedure cannot ensure that the child will be admitted to a suitable school as quickly as possible.

In most cases children will be admitted to school in accordance with the arrangements set out in this booklet or in accordance with the in year admission arrangements (see separate guidance notes for parents). However, for some children without a school place, for example children permanently excluded from a school, the normal admission process may not result in a suitable school placement for the child.

Children identified for a school place through the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over other children on a waiting list for admission and may be admitted to a school even if that school is full.

## Late applications

The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round is **15 January 2026**. As far as is reasonably practicable we will accept new applications for places and changes to existing applications in the normal admissions round that are received late for good reason. If we receive applications late with good reason after the allocation procedure has begun we will consider them if it is practicable to do so, but we cannot guarantee to do this.

If we receive applications late with good reason after the allocation process has started or after places have been offered we will prioritise the applications and any waiting list according to the admission criteria of the individual schools and we will offer a place at the highest preference school that has a place available during our late allocation rounds. If all preferred schools are full and the pupil lives in Bedford Borough, a place will generally be offered at the nearest school with places available. However, it may be necessary to make a priority placement available for Bedford Borough children whose application is late for good reason.

After the late application process if there are still children where parents/carers have not expressed a written preference, these children will be allocated a place at the nearest Bedford Borough school to their home address with vacancies.

## How you will hear the result of your application

When we have completed the allocation process, we will email or write to tell you the outcome of your application.

If you have applied online you will receive an email on National Offer Day to let you know the outcome of your application. You can also log back into your online account to see the result. If you have not applied online we will post a letter to you on this day. If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Team will write to you at the appropriate time to tell you the school where your child has a place.

If we are not able to offer you a place at your preferred school or schools, you have the formal right of appeal to an independent Admissions Appeals Panel. We will tell you about the procedure to follow if you want to appeal. Appeals are normally held during the summer term.

If we are not able to offer a place at any of your preferred schools and you live in the Bedford Borough Council area, we will offer your child a place at:

- **the catchment area school, if there are still places available; or**
- **the next nearest Bedford Borough Local Authority school to your child's home address which has places available.**

We will also tell you which other schools still have places available. You will be able to request a place at one of those schools.

However, we will not be able to consider another application for a place at the same school in the same academic year unless there has been a significant change of circumstances relevant to the application.

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan, the Admissions Appeals Panel cannot deal with your appeal. If you are unhappy about the school which has been named on the plan, you should contact the Special Educational Needs and Disability Team, **(01234) 228375** [sendteam@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:sendteam@bedford.gov.uk)

## Waiting lists

If we have not been able to offer you a place at your preferred school(s), we will place your child's name on a waiting list which has been prioritised according to the admission criteria for individual schools. If a place becomes available we will contact you, even if you have accepted a place at another school. Your child's position on the waiting list could change if other children are added or removed. We will maintain the waiting lists for community and voluntary controlled schools until the end of the Autumn term 2026 / 31 December 2026. If you wish to remain on the waiting list beyond that time you will need to email to us. If you have been turned down for a place at an academy, foundation or voluntary aided school, their arrangements for maintaining a waiting list may be different.

## Home to school transport

Parents and carers have a legal duty and a responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly and to make any necessary arrangements to ensure that they attend.

In certain circumstances Bedford Borough Council has a duty to provide free home to school transport, this is ordinarily where a child attends their nearest school and either distance or road safety criteria are met. The Council arranges school transport for children and young people in Bedford Borough who are assessed as eligible under the Children's Services transport policy.

**Please note that from September 2017, Bedford Borough Council introduced a new home to school transport policy.**

Before applying for a school place, you should read and understand the transport policy information on the Bedford Borough Council website and consider how you will transport your child to school, taking into account any potential transport costs. You should not assume that your child will be able to access transport services without checking if they will be eligible.

**For further information and full details of the transport policy, please visit our website [www.bedford.gov.uk/schooltransport](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/schooltransport).**

**Should you be unable to access information online, please contact Customer Services on (01234) 718004.**

## Admission to Other Year Groups

This composite prospectus is published to primarily allow parents to apply for places in schools that have a designated point of entry into Year R.

In addition to these transfer entry points schools can admit children to other year groups, we call these In Year admissions. Here is the link to the appropriate page on our website where you can find out how to apply [www.bedford.gov.uk/inyearadmissions](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/inyearadmissions).

## Schools Information Sheets - Key

The following pages contain detailed information about our schools to help you to consider which school(s) you would like your child to attend.

### Academy

Academies are all ability schools established by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and sponsors from business, faith and/or voluntary groups working in partnership with local education partners. The Governing Body is responsible for the admission arrangements. The Government has published proposals to increase the number of schools applying to become Academies. As a result the status of a school may subsequently change from that printed in this booklet.

### Community

The Local Authority is responsible for the admission arrangements. Religious Education in community schools follows the Agreed Religious Education Syllabus for the Authority.

### Foundation

The Governing Body is responsible for the admission arrangements in a Foundation School. Religious Education in Foundation schools follows the Agreed Religious Education Syllabus for the Authority.

### Foundation (Trust)

This is a Foundation school which is supported by a charitable trust. A Trust may include just one school or a group of schools working with external partners to share best practice and to support transition between phases. The Governing Body is responsible for the admission arrangements in a Trust School. Religious Education in Trust schools follows the Agreed Religious Education Syllabus for the Authority.

### VA

Voluntary Aided. The Governing Body is responsible for the admission arrangements in a VA school. Religious education follows the teaching of the Church of England (if C of E) or Catholic faith (if Catholic). The Local Authority maintains the school but the governors employ the staff and have wider responsibilities for the upkeep of the building than in a Community or Controlled School.

### VC

Voluntary Controlled. The Local Authority is responsible for the admission arrangements. Religious worship usually follows the teaching of the Church of England, under the direction of the school Governors. Religious education follows the Agreed Religious Education Syllabus for the Authority. The Governors have greater control over the use of the premises than in a Community School.

### Admission Number

This represents the number of pupils the school can admit in each year. Schools are expected to admit up to that limit during the course of the year, if there are requests for places. Where there are more requests for places than the number of places at that school, we allocate places in order of priority according to the school's admissions criteria.

### NOR 2025

Number on Roll. We have included the roll for January 2025 to show you the likely size of the school.

### **Designated Measuring point**

If applying the admissions criteria results in there being more children with an equal right to admission to the school than the number of available places, the tie break will be the distance the pupil lives from the school, measured in a straight line, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The Local Authority will measure the distance from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site, agreed with the governing body of the school. This point is the designated measuring point.

### **Admissions last September**

We have included this information as you may find it helpful when considering whether or not places are likely to be available at your preferred school. You should be aware, however, that numbers vary from year to year and the availability of places last September will not mean that places will be available next September. Likewise, over-subscription last September will not mean over-subscription next September.

### **# Variation to Admission Criteria**

The closure of churches as a result of Covid-19 has raised the issue of clergy being able to verify an applicant's level of attendance in order to meet Governors' admissions requirements. As a result, the Governing Body is seeking the following variation to its admissions policy; "In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these (admissions) arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship".

## Lower/Primary Schools Information Sheets

### Balliol Primary School

Balliol Road, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 7ER

Head: Mrs L Youngman

Tel: (01234) 300601

e-mail: [office@balliolschool.co.uk](mailto:office@balliolschool.co.uk)

website: [www.balliolschool.co.uk](http://www.balliolschool.co.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: Community / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 384

Admission Number 2026: 52

Designated measuring point: Underneath the watertower

#### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Any other children

#### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 52

Requests received: 27

Places offered: 27

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## Bedford Road Primary School

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Hillgrounds Road, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 8QH

Head: Mr A Holdsworth

Tel: (01234) 851011

e-mail: [office@bedfordroad-primary.org](mailto:office@bedfordroad-primary.org)

website: [www.bedfordroad-primary.org](http://www.bedfordroad-primary.org)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 373

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Admission Number 2026: 60

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Designated measuring point: Main school office

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. Other siblings
  5. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 52

Places offered: 52

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Brickhill Primary School

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Dove Road, Bedford, MK41 7AA

Head: Mr D Wiltshire

Tel: (01234) 401404

e-mail: [office@brickhillprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@brickhillprimary.co.uk)

website: [www.brickhillprimary.co.uk](http://www.brickhillprimary.co.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Community / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 208

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Admission Number 2026: 30

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Designated measuring point: Side gate opposite green, entrance to playground

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. Other siblings
  5. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 30

Requests received: 36

Places offered: 30

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 1645.12m

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## Broadmead Lower School

Park Crescent, Stewartby, Bedford, MK43 9NN

Head: Mrs S Horobin

Tel: (01234) 768318

e-mail: [office@broadmeadlowerschool.co.uk](mailto:office@broadmeadlowerschool.co.uk)

website: [www.broadmeadlower.beds.sch.uk](http://www.broadmeadlower.beds.sch.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: Community / Up to 9 years / Lower

NOR 2025: 243

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: School gate

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 44

Places offered: 44

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## Bromham C of E Primary School

Grange Lane, Bromham, Bedford, MK43 8NR

Head: Mrs C Matthews

Tel: (01234) 822784

e-mail: [office@bromhamprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@bromhamprimary.co.uk)

website: [www.bromhamprimary.co.uk](http://www.bromhamprimary.co.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: VC / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 478

Admission Number 2026: 90

Designated measuring point: Front door

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 90

Requests received: 74

Places offered: 74

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## Camestone School

Jowitt Avenue, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 8NW

Head: Mr N Hackett

Tel: (01234) 855587

e-mail: [office@camestoneschool.co.uk](mailto:office@camestoneschool.co.uk)

website: [www.camestoneschool.co.uk](http://www.camestoneschool.co.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: Community / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 415

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: Entrance gate

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 62

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 1274.65m

## Carlton VC C of E Primary School

The Moor, Carlton, Bedford, MK43 7JR

Head: Mrs J Bevis

Tel: (01234) 720281

e-mail: [admin@carltonvcprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@carltonvcprimary.co.uk)

website: [www.carltoncofeprimary.co.uk](http://www.carltoncofeprimary.co.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: VC / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 95

Admission Number 2026: 15

Designated measuring point: Main entrance

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 15

Requests received: 7

Places offered: 7

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## Castle Newnham Primary School

Goldington Road, Bedford, MK40 3EP

Head: Mrs K Edwards

Tel: (01234) 303403

e-mail: [cnprimary@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:cnprimary@bestacademies.org.uk)

website: [www.castlenewnham.school](http://www.castlenewnham.school)

Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 622

Admission Number 2026: 90

Designated measuring point: The centre of the school grounds (intersection point of two straight diagonal lines linking the corners of the school site).

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Children of staff
3. Siblings (South Site)
4. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 90

Requests received: 94

Places offered: 90

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 3545.85m

## Cauldwell School

Edward Road, Bedford, MK42 9DR

Head: Mrs J Apps

Tel: (01234) 301400

e-mail: [schooloffice@cauldwell.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@cauldwell.org.uk)

website: [www.cauldwellschool.com](http://www.cauldwellschool.com)

Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 419

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: Front door

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Children of staff
3. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
4. Other siblings
5. Other pupils living in the catchment area
6. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 63

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 1108.58m

## Christopher Reeves VA Primary School

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Hinwick Road, Podington, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN29 7HU

Head: Mrs S Bush

Tel: (01933) 353531

e-mail: admin@crls.org.uk

website: www.christopher-reeves-school.co.uk

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Category / Age Range / Phase: VA (C of E) / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 79

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Admission Number 2026: 15

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Designated measuring point: Main entrance

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) 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 at the time of entry are living in the catchment area of Hinwick, Podington and Farndish (ecclesiastical Parish) and will have a sibling attending the school at the time of admission
  3. Other children who at the time of entry are living in the catchment area of Hinwick, Podington and Farndish (ecclesiastical Parish)
  4. Other siblings
  5. Children living outside the area as defined in 2 above, one or more of whose parents/guardians, at the time of application, have attended an Anglican or other Christian Church at least once a month for the six months preceding the date of submission of application to the school **# please see information in 'key' on page 19.**
  6. Children of staff
  7. Any other children, children in receipt of pupil premium
  8. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 15

Requests received: 8

Places offered: 8

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Cotton End Forest School

High Road, Cotton End, Bedford, MK45 3AA  
 Head: Mrs K Headland  
 Tel: (01234) 740100  
 e-mail: office@cottonendforestschool.co.uk  
 website: www.cottonendforestschool.co.uk

Category / Age Range / Phase: Community / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 418

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: Main entrance

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 69

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'other siblings' at a distance of 10319.90m

## Edith Cavell Primary School

Manton Lane, Bedford, MK41 7NH  
 Head: Miss H Cooke  
 Tel: (01234) 345636  
 e-mail: office@ecls.org.uk  
 website: www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation (Trust) / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 287

Admission Number 2026: 45

Designated measuring point: Pedestrian entrance on Kneller Close

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 45

Requests received: 25

Places offered: 25

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## Eileen Wade Primary School

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High Street, Upper Dean, Huntingdon, PE28 0ND

Head: Mrs L Virnuls

Tel: (01234) 708260

e-mail: [office@ewps.org.uk](mailto:office@ewps.org.uk)

website: [www.ewmeschools.org.uk](http://www.ewmeschools.org.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 70

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Admission Number 2026: 10

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Designated measuring point: Main entrance

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  5. Other siblings
  6. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 10

Requests received: 14

Places offered: 14

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Elstow School

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Abbeyfields, Elstow, Bedford, MK42 9GP

Principal: Mrs S Ciantar

Tel: (01234) 302300

e-mail: [enquiries@elstowschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@elstowschool.co.uk)

website: [www.elstowschool.co.uk](http://www.elstowschool.co.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 418

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Admission Number 2026: 60

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Designated measuring point: Main gate

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Siblings
  3. Children of staff
  4. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 58

Places offered: 58

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Goldington Green Academy

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Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP

Head: Mrs C Skingsley

Tel: (01234) 326335

e-mail: [admin@goldingtongreenacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@goldingtongreenacademy.co.uk)

website: [www.goldingtongreenacademy.co.uk](http://www.goldingtongreenacademy.co.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 581

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Admission Number 2026: 90

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Designated measuring point: Headteacher's office

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Children with siblings attending the school
  3. Children in the nursery who are in receipt of pupil premium
  4. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 90

Requests received: 63

Places offered: 63

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Great Barford C of E Primary Academy

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Silver Street, Great Barford, Bedford, MK44 3JU

Head: Mrs S Evans

Tel: (01234) 870342

e-mail: [admin@gbpa.org.uk](mailto:admin@gbpa.org.uk)

website: [www.gbpa.org.uk](http://www.gbpa.org.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 203

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Admission Number 2026: 30

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Designated measuring point: School gate

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. Children eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium, Pupil Premium or Service Premium Funding who currently attend Great Barford Primary Academy nursery class
  5. Other siblings
  6. Other children whose home address is outside the catchment area, but one or more of whose parents/guardians have, at the time of application, shown commitment to the Church of England or another Christian Church by attending a service at least once a month for the year prior to an application being made. A clergy signature will be required to verify this level of attendance
  7. Children of staff
  8. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 30

Requests received: 26

Places offered: 26

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Great Denham Primary School

Greenkeepers Road, Great Denham, Bedford, MK40 4GG

Head: Mrs D Burgess

Tel: (01234) 266245

e-mail: enquiries@gdps.uk

website: www.greatdenhamprimary.org.uk

Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation (Trust) / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 677

Admission Number 2026: 90

Designated measuring point: The initial site entrance

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Children of staff
4. Other pupils living in the catchment area
5. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
6. Other siblings
7. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 90

Requests received: 122

Places offered: 90

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 1300.72m

## Great Ouse Primary Academy

Seaforth Gardens, Bedford, MK40 4TJ

Head: Mr C Payne

Tel: (01234) 907890

e-mail: admin@greatouse.academy

website: www.greatouse.beds.sch.uk

Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 444

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: The front gate of the Academy

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Children with siblings at the Academy
3. Children of staff at Great Ouse Primary Academy
4. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 68

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 1343.02m

## Harrold Primary Academy

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The Green, Harrold, Bedford, MK43 7DB

Head: Mr C Brown

Tel: (01234) 720346

e-mail: [administration@harrold.academy](mailto:administration@harrold.academy)

website: [www.harrold.beds.sch.uk](http://www.harrold.beds.sch.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 98

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Admission Number 2026: 30

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Designated measuring point: School office

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### Admission Criteria 2026

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  5. Other siblings
  6. Children of staff at Harrold Priory Academy
  7. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 30

Requests received: 16

Places offered: 16

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Hazeldene School

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Stancliffe Road, Bedford, MK41 9AT

Head: Mr M Wilson

Tel: (01234) 300100

e-mail: [office@hazeldeneschool.co.uk](mailto:office@hazeldeneschool.co.uk)

website: [www.hazeldeneschool.co.uk](http://www.hazeldeneschool.co.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 437

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Admission Number 2026: 60

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Designated measuring point: School office

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### Admission Criteria 2026

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Siblings
  3. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 73

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 1618.00m

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## Kempston Rural Primary School

Martell Drive, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 7FJ

Head: Ms E-J Kelly

Tel: (01234) 854286

e-mail: [office@kempstonrural.co.uk](mailto:office@kempstonrural.co.uk)

website: [www.kempstonrural.beds.sch.uk](http://www.kempstonrural.beds.sch.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: Community / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 440

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: Main school gate

### Admission Criteria 2026

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 76

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 1610.21m

## King's Oak Primary School

Oak Road, Bedford, MK42 0HH

Head: Mr R Morley-Smith

Tel: (01234) 220480

e-mail: [enquiries@kingsoakprimary.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kingsoakprimary.co.uk)

website: [www.kingsoakprimary.co.uk](http://www.kingsoakprimary.co.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: Community / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 868

Admission Number 2026: 120

Designated measuring point: Main entrance

### Admission Criteria 2026

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 120

Requests received: 93

Places offered: 93

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## Kymbrook Primary School

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Kimbolton Road, Keysoe, Bedford, MK44 2HH

Head: Ms D Brown

Tel: (01234) 376266

e-mail: [kymbrook@ktfederation.co.uk](mailto:kymbrook@ktfederation.co.uk)

website: [www.kymbrookprimary.uk](http://www.kymbrookprimary.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 71

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Admission Number 2026: 15

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Designated measuring point: Pedestrian gate

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school (Bolnhurst, Little Staughton and Keysoe)
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  5. Other siblings
  6. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 15

Requests received: 11

Places offered: 11

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Lakeview School

---

School Lane, Wixams, Bedford, MK42 6BH

Head: Mrs J Normanton

Tel: 01234 741653

e-mail: [school.office@lakeviewschool.co.uk](mailto:school.office@lakeviewschool.co.uk)

website: [www.lakeviewschool.co.uk](http://www.lakeviewschool.co.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 420

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Admission Number 2026: 60

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Designated measuring point: School gate

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. Other siblings
  5. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 49

Places offered: 49

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Livingstone Primary School

Clapham Road, Bedford, MK41 7LG

Head: Mr P Thornes

Tel: (01234) 352879

e-mail: [schooloffice@livingstoneprimary.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice@livingstoneprimary.co.uk)

website: [www.livingstoneprimary.co.uk](http://www.livingstoneprimary.co.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation (Trust) / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 459

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: Clapham Road school gate

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other siblings
4. Other pupils living in the catchment area
5. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
6. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 65

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 1073.10m

## Milton Ernest Primary School

Thurleigh Road, Milton Ernest, Bedford, MK44 1RF

Head: Mrs L Virnuls

Tel: (01234) 822079

e-mail: [office@miltonps.org.uk](mailto:office@miltonps.org.uk)

website: [www.ewmeschools.org.uk](http://www.ewmeschools.org.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: VC / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 63

Admission Number 2026: 12

Designated measuring point: Visitor's entrance

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 12

Requests received: 8

Places offered: 8

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## Oakley Primary Academy

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Station Road, Oakley, Bedford, MK43 7RE

Head: Mr C Brown

Tel: (01234) 822104

e-mail: [administration@oakleyprimary.academy](mailto:administration@oakleyprimary.academy)

website: [www.oakley.beds.sch.uk](http://www.oakley.beds.sch.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 224

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Admission Number 2026: 40

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Designated measuring point: Front door of main entrance

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  5. Other siblings
  6. Children of staff at Oakley Primary Academy
  7. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 40

Requests received: 29

Places offered: 29

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Pinchmill Primary School

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The Old Road, Felmersham, Bedford, MK43 7JD

Head: Mrs V Bailey

Tel: (01234) 781371

e-mail: [enquiries@pinchmillprimary.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@pinchmillprimary.co.uk)

website: [www.pinchmill.beds.sch.uk](http://www.pinchmill.beds.sch.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 84

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Admission Number 2026: 15

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Designated measuring point: Main entrance

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Children living within the parishes of Felmersham, Radwell and Pavenham with siblings at the school
  3. Other children living within the parishes of Felmersham, Radwell and Pavenham
  4. Other siblings
  5. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  6. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 15

Requests received: 6

Places offered: 6

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Priory Primary School

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Greyfriars, Bedford, MK40 1JD

Head: Mrs J Fraser

Tel: (01234) 261768

e-mail: [office@prioryprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@prioryprimary.co.uk)

website: [www.prioryprimary.co.uk](http://www.prioryprimary.co.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation (Trust) / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 202

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Admission Number 2026: 26

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Designated measuring point: Front door

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  5. Other siblings
  6. Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium
  7. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 26

Requests received: 46

Places offered: 26

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'catchment' at a distance of 425.40m

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## Putnoe Primary School

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Church Lane, Bedford, MK41 0DH

Head: Mr S Petch

Tel: (01234) 303400

e-mail: putnoeprimary@putnoeprimary.co.uk

website: www.putnoeprimary.com

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 501

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Admission Number 2026: 90

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Designated measuring point: Main double gate

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  5. Other siblings
  6. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 90

Requests received: 53

Places offered: 53

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Queens Park Academy

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Chestnut Avenue, Bedford, MK40 4HA

Head: Mrs E Bolton

Tel: (01234) 352901

e-mail: [qpa@queensparkacademy.co.uk](mailto:qpa@queensparkacademy.co.uk)

website: [www.queensparkacademy.co.uk](http://www.queensparkacademy.co.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 449

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Admission Number 2026: 60

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Designated measuring point: School office

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Children with siblings at the school
  3. Children of staff
  4. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 60

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Ravensden C of E Primary Academy

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Vicarage Close, Ravensden, Bedford, MK44 2RW

Head: Mrs A Spyropoulos

Tel: (01234) 771316

e-mail: [admin@ravensdenprimary.org](mailto:admin@ravensdenprimary.org)

website: [www.ravensdenprimary.org](http://www.ravensdenprimary.org)

---

Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 77

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Admission Number 2026: 15

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Designated measuring point: Main entrance – front door

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Children living within the ecclesiastical parish of Ravensden (excluding Glenrose Avenue, Wagstaffe Close, Cleat Hill and Woodlands Park) with siblings at the school
3. Other children living within the ecclesiastical parish of Ravensden (excluding Glenrose Avenue, Wagstaffe Close, Cleat Hill and Woodlands Park)
4. Other siblings of children already attending the school at time of admission
5. Children whose parents are regular members of Ravensden Parish Church or another Christian church \* (Christian Churches relates to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and/or the Evangelical Alliance). The signature of the priest or minister is required on the relevant section on the application form.
6. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
7. To children from outside of the parish, whose closest school is Ravensden CofE Primary Academy
8. Any other children

\* By regular members the Governors mean one or both parents have attended the church at least once per month for the year immediately prior to application

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### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 15

Requests received: 10

Places offered: 10

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Renhold VC Primary School

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Church End, Renhold, Bedford, MK41 0LU

Head: Miss L Larham

Tel: (01234) 771724

e-mail: [office@renhold.beds.sch.uk](mailto:office@renhold.beds.sch.uk)

website: [www.renhold.beds.sch.uk](http://www.renhold.beds.sch.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: VC / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 200

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Admission Number 2026: 30

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Designated measuring point: Front door

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. Other siblings
  5. Children of staff
  6. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 30

Requests received: 23

Places offered: 23

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Riseley C of E Primary School

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High Street, Riseley, Bedford, MK44 1DR

Head: Mr L Pointon

Tel: (01234) 708218

e-mail: office@riseley.school

website: www.riseleyschool.co.uk

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Category / Age Range / Phase: VA (C of E) / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 159

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Admission Number 2026: 28

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Designated measuring point: Front gate of school

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) 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 will have a sibling in the school at the time of entry and are living within that part of the area of the ecclesiastical parish of Riseley with Bletsoe and Stodden excluding the villages of Upper Dean, Lower Dean and Shelton
  3. Other children who at the time of entry are living within that part of the area of the ecclesiastical parish of Riseley with Bletsoe and Stodden excluding the villages of Upper Dean, Lower Dean and Shelton
  4. Children eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium, Pupil Premium or Service Premium Funding who currently attend Riseley Pre-School
  5. Other siblings
  6. Other children whose home address is outside the area as defined in 3 and 4 above, one or more of whose parents/guardians have, at the time of application, shown commitment to the Church of England or another Christian Church by attending a service at least once a month for the year prior to an application being made. Applicants in this category will need to ask their priest or minister to complete the relevant section of the application form, which should be signed by the priest or minister  
**# please see information in 'key' on page 19.**
  7. Children of staff
  8. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 28

Requests received: 19

Places offered: 19

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Roxton C of E Academy

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School Lane, Roxton, Bedford, MK44 3DR

Head: Mrs A Spyropoulos

Tel: (01234) 870230

e-mail: office@roxton.school

website: www.roxton.school

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy (C of E) / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 79

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Admission Number 2026: 15

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Designated measuring point: Main entrance

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) 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 at the date of entry are living within the catchment area of Roxton Primary School (Roxton, Tempsford, Little Barford, Chawston, Colesden and Wyboston) with siblings at the school
  3. Other children living in the catchment area
  4. Other siblings
  5. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  6. Children living outside the areas defined in 2 above, whose parents/guardians have, at the time of application and for a period of six months previously, attended public worship at a Church of England church at least once in every calendar month
  7. Children of staff
  8. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 15

Requests received: 6

Places offered: 6

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Scott Primary School

Hawk Drive, Bedford, MK41 7JA  
 Head: Mrs A Barker  
 Tel: (01234) 352630  
 e-mail: office@scottprimary.co.uk  
 website: www.scottprimary.co.uk

Category / Age Range / Phase: Community / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 478

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: Secretary's office

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. Other siblings
5. Children of staff
6. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 46

Places offered: 46

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## Shackleton Primary School

Pearcey Road, Bedford, MK42 9LZ  
 Head: Dr A BenBrahim  
 Tel: (01234) 352912  
 e-mail: office@shackletonprimary.co.uk  
 website: www.shackletonprimary.co.uk

Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 465

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: School gate

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Children of staff
3. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
4. Other pupils living in the catchment area
5. Other siblings
6. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 61

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 1556.44m

## Sharnbrook Primary School

---

High Street, Sharnbrook, Bedford, MK44 1PF

Head: Mrs H Bennett

Tel: (01234) 781328

e-mail: [admin@sharnbrookprimary.beds.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sharnbrookprimary.beds.sch.uk)

website: [www.sharnbrookprimary.beds.sch.uk](http://www.sharnbrookprimary.beds.sch.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 229

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Admission Number 2026: 30

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Designated measuring point: Front door of main entrance

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school (villages of Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Knotting)
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. Other siblings
  5. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 30

Requests received: 23

Places offered: 23

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Sheerhatch Primary School

---

Willington Road, Cople, Bedford, MK44 3TH

Head: Mrs C Williams

Tel: (01234) 838827

e-mail: [office@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk)

website: [www.sheerhatchprimary.org.uk](http://www.sheerhatchprimary.org.uk)

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**This is a school utilising the sites of the former Cople and Willington Lower Schools.**

**For details about year group arrangements, please contact the school direct.**

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Community / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 127

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Admission Number 2026: 30

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Designated measuring point: Front gate

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. Other siblings
  5. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 30

Requests received: 20

Places offered: 20

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Shortstown Primary School

Beauvais Square, Shortstown, Bedford, MK42 0GS

Head: Mrs D Cottam

Tel: (01234) 740881

e-mail: [office@shortstownprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@shortstownprimary.co.uk)

website: [www.shortstownprimary.co.uk](http://www.shortstownprimary.co.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 488

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: Gate from The Highway

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Children of staff
3. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
4. Other pupils living in the catchment area
5. Other siblings
6. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 66

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'other siblings' at a distance of 1641.73m

## Springfield Primary School

Orchard Street, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 7LJ

Head: Miss M Berry

Tel: (01234) 306000

e-mail: [office@springfieldprimaryschool.org.uk](mailto:office@springfieldprimaryschool.org.uk)

website: [www.springfieldprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.springfieldprimaryschool.org.uk)

Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 378

Admission Number 2026: 60

Designated measuring point: Front door

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Children of staff
3. Children with siblings at the school
4. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 44

Places offered: 44

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## St James' C of E Academy

---

Main Road, Biddenham, Bedford, MK40 4BD

Head: Mrs A Barden

Tel: (01234) 352721

e-mail: [office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk](mailto:office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk)

website: [www.stjamesprimary.org.uk](http://www.stjamesprimary.org.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy (C of E) / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 192

---

Admission Number 2026: 30

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Designated measuring point: Pedestrian gate

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) 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 will have siblings attending the school at the time of admission
  3. Children with known special medical needs for which only St James' CE VA Primary School can meet. Written supporting evidence should be provided at the time of application.
  4. Children of staff
  5. Children whose home address lies within the ecclesiastical parish of St James's Church, Biddenham.
  6. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 30

Requests received: 31

Places offered: 30

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 2485.61m

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## St John Rigby Catholic Primary School

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Polhill Avenue, Bedford, MK41 9DQ

Head: Mrs M McGettigan

Tel: (01234) 401900

e-mail: [office@sjr.beds.olicatschools.org](mailto:office@sjr.beds.olicatschools.org)

website: [www.stjohnrigby.org](http://www.stjohnrigby.org)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy (Catholic) / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 306

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Admission Number 2026: 30

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Designated measuring point: Front door

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic practice who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission
  3. Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic practice
  4. Catholic children who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission
  5. Catholic children for whom the school is the nearest Catholic school
  6. Other Catholic children
  7. Children of staff
  8. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission
  9. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister
  10. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidence by a minister of religion or other religious leader
  11. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 19

Places offered: 19

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School and Pre-School

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Biddenham Turn, Biddenham, Bedford, MK40 4AT

Head: Mrs G Otter

Tel: (01234) 352062

e-mail: [office@sfoa.beds.olicatschools.org](mailto:office@sfoa.beds.olicatschools.org)

website: [www.stfrancisofassisiprimarybedford.co.uk](http://www.stfrancisofassisiprimarybedford.co.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy (Catholic) / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 328

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Admission Number 2026: 60

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Designated measuring point: Front door - Biddenham Turn site

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic practice who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission
  3. Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic practice
  4. Catholic children who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission
  5. Catholic children for whom the school is the nearest Catholic school
  6. Other Catholic children
  7. Children attending St Francis of Assisi's Nursery who will be of reception age
  8. Children of staff
  9. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission
  10. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister
  11. Children from other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader
  12. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 26

Places offered: 26

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## St Lawrence C of E Primary School

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Manor Lane, Wymington, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 9LL

Head: Mrs S Bush

Tel: (01933) 353530

e-mail: [admin@st-lawrenceschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@st-lawrenceschool.co.uk)

website: [www.st-lawrenceschool.co.uk](http://www.st-lawrenceschool.co.uk)

---

Category / Age Range / Phase: VA (C of E) / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 126

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Admission Number 2026: 30

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Designated measuring point: Children's entrance on Church Lane

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) 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 live within the ecclesiastical Parish of St Lawrence Wymington who will have a sibling in the school at the time of admission
  3. Other children who live within the ecclesiastical Parish of St Lawrence Wymington
  4. Other children who have siblings in the school at the time of admission
  5. Children living outside the area as defined in 2 and 3 above, one or more of whose parents/guardians, at the time of application, have attended a Christian Church at least once a month for the six months preceding the date of the submission of application to the school. Christian Churches relates to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and/or the Evangelical Alliance. The signature of the priest or minister is required on the relevant section on the Local Authority application form # **please see information in 'key' on page 19.**
  6. Children of staff
  7. Children in receipt of pupil premium
  8. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 30

Requests received: 10

Places offered: 10

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## The Hills Academy

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Stancliffe Road, Bedford, MK41 9AT

Head: Mrs M Whitehead

Tel: (01234) 266498

e-mail: [office@thehillsacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@thehillsacademy.co.uk)

website: [www.thehillsacademy.co.uk](http://www.thehillsacademy.co.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 440

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Admission Number 2026: 60

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Designated measuring point: Headteacher's office

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Children of staff
  4. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  5. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  6. Other siblings
  7. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 68

Places offered: 60

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'any other children' at a distance of 1855.76m

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## Thurleigh Primary School

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High Street, Thurleigh, Bedford, MK44 2DB

Head: Ms D Brown

Tel: (01234) 771252

e-mail: [thurleigh@ktfederation.co.uk](mailto:thurleigh@ktfederation.co.uk)

website: [www.thurleighprimary.uk](http://www.thurleighprimary.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 89

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Admission Number 2026: 15

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Designated measuring point: Main front gate at main entrance

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  5. Other siblings
  6. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 15

Requests received: 13

Places offered: 13

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Turvey Primary School

---

May Road, Turvey, Bedford, MK43 8DY

Head: Mrs S Coles

Tel: (01234) 881259

e-mail: [office@turveyprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@turveyprimary.co.uk)

website: [www.turveyprimary.co.uk](http://www.turveyprimary.co.uk)

---

Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 92

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Admission Number 2026: 15

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Designated measuring point: Main entrance of school

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### **Admission Criteria 2026:**

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  5. Other siblings
  6. Any other children
- 

### **Admissions in September 2025:**

Admission number: 15

Requests received: 8

Places offered: 8

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Ursula Taylor C of E Primary School

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High Street, Clapham, Bedford, MK41 6EG

Head: Ms K Hall

Tel: (01234) 359128

e-mail: [office@ursulataylor.bedssch.co.uk](mailto:office@ursulataylor.bedssch.co.uk)

website: [www.ursulataylorschool.co.uk](http://www.ursulataylorschool.co.uk)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 361

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Admission Number 2026: 60

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Designated measuring point: Pupil's entrance door

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds
  5. Other siblings
  6. Children of staff
  7. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 34

Places offered: 34

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Westfield Primary School

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Chester Road, Bedford MK40 4HW

Head: Mrs K Watts

Tel: (01234) 267353

e-mail: [office@westfieldschool.net](mailto:office@westfieldschool.net)

website: [www.westfieldschool.net](http://www.westfieldschool.net)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Community / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 244

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Admission Number 2026: 60

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Designated measuring point: Headteacher's office

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### **Admission Criteria 2026:**

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. Other siblings
  5. Any other children
- 

### **Admissions in September 2025:**

Admission number: 60

Requests received: 39

Places offered: 39

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Wilden VA Primary School

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High Street, Wilden, Bedford, MK44 2PB

Head: Mr L Pointon

Tel: (01234) 771313

e-mail: [office@wildenschool.org.uk](mailto:office@wildenschool.org.uk)

website: [www.wildenschool.org.uk](http://www.wildenschool.org.uk)

---

Category / Age Range / Phase: VA (C of E) / Up to 11 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 44

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Admission Number 2026: 12

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Designated measuring point: Front school gate

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. Children eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium, Pupil Premium or Service Premium Funding who currently attend Wilden Preschool
  5. Other siblings
  6. Children whose home address is outside the catchment area, but one or more of whose parents/guardians have, at the time of application shown commitment to the Church of England or another Christian Church by attending a service at least once a month for the year prior to an application being made. A clergy signature will be required to verify this level of attendance **# please see information in 'key' on page 19.**
  7. Children of staff members
  8. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 12

Requests received: 5

Places offered: 5

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Willow Grove Primary School

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Fisherswood Road, Wixams, Bedford, MK45 3TE

Head: Mrs L Kennedy

Tel: (01234) 581150

e-mail: [admin@willowgrove.school](mailto:admin@willowgrove.school)

website: [www.willowgrove.school](http://www.willowgrove.school)

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Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / 4+ / Primary

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NOR 2025: 53

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Admission Number 2026: 30

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Designated measuring point: Main school entrance (office)

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the school's designated area with siblings at the school
  3. Children of Staff
  4. Other pupils living in the school's designated area
  5. Other siblings
  6. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 25

Requests received: 41

Places offered: 30

At the time of the initial allocation the last place offered was under 'catchment' at a distance of 901.24m

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## Wilstead Primary School

Cotton End Road, Wilstead, Bedford, MK45 3BX

Head: Miss C Brown

Tel: (01234) 302303

e-mail: office@wilstead.school

website: www.wilsteadschool.co.uk

Category / Age Range / Phase: Foundation (Trust) / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 191

Admission Number 2026: 30

Designated measuring point: Main school entrance

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Children with siblings at the school
3. Children of staff
4. Children who live in the catchment area
5. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 30

Requests received: 22

Places offered: 22

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## Wixams Tree Primary Academy

Green Lane, Wixams, Bedford, MK42 6BA

Head: Mrs J Peel

Tel: (01234) 608960

e-mail: info@wixamstreeprimary.co.uk

website: www.wixamstreeprimary.co.uk

Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 11 years / Primary

NOR 2025: 529

Admission Number 2026: 90

Designated measuring point: The front gate of the Academy

### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Children with siblings in the Academy
3. Children of staff
4. Any other children

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 90

Requests received: 54

Places offered: 54

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

## Wootton Primary School

---

Bedford Road, Wootton, Bedford, MK43 9JT

Co Heads: Mr C Tavener and Mrs E Maguire

Tel: (01234) 768239

e-mail: [office@woottonprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@woottonprimary.co.uk)

website: [www.woottonprimary.co.uk](http://www.woottonprimary.co.uk)

---

Category / Age Range / Phase: Academy / Up to 10 years / Primary

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NOR 2025: 626

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Admission Number 2026: 120

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Designated measuring point:

The distance to the front gate of either Bedford Road site or Harris Way site, whichever is closer

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### Admission Criteria 2026:

1. All 'looked after' children and all previously 'looked after' children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
  2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
  3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
  4. Other siblings
  5. Any other children
- 

### Admissions in September 2025:

Admission number: 120

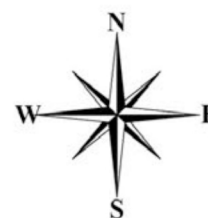
Requests received: 106

Places offered: 106

At the time of the initial allocation all applicants were offered a place

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## Map of Bedford Borough



## Notes

## Notes

## Finding out more

If you would like further information about us and our services, please telephone, email or write to us at our address below.

Për Informacion

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للمعلومات

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Informacja

برای اطلاع

Za Informacije

Per Informazione

তথ্যের জন্য



**01234 718120**



**School Admissions Service**

Bedford Borough Council

Borough Hall

Cauldwell Street

Bedford

MK42 9AP



**admissions@bedford.gov.uk**



**www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions**