

Admissions: Applying for a Reception school place for September 2027

If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 and lives in Waltham Forest you will need to apply to Waltham Forest School Admissions Service for a reception place for them for September 2027.

You can apply between **1 September** and **15 January** if you would like your child to start school in the September after their 4th birthday.

You must still apply even if your child:

- goes to the nursery class of your chosen school
- has a brother or sister attending the school

Before you apply to a primary school, you can find out more by:

- reading the school's admission arrangements
- going to school open days
- looking at the school's website
- reading the latest Ofsted report

The Starting [Primary School 2027 brochure \(PDF\)](#) has all the information you need to know about making your application.

You can make your application by applying now through the [eAdmissions website](#). The [eAdmissions guide \(PDF\)](#) explains how to apply for your child's school place online.

When completing your application form please ensure that you tick the relevant box against your chosen schools to indicate any additional priority your child may have for being allocated a place at the school (such as a sibling attends, there is a medical or social reason or your child is a looked after or previously looked after child).

It is your responsibility to provide evidence to support your priority claim and this must be submitted with your application by the closing date. If you submit the evidence after the closing date, it may not be possible for school admissions to consider it before places are allocated on national offer day. If you tick the box on the application form but you do not provide any supporting evidence, your application will not be considered under this priority, and you will not be reminded to submit your evidence.

If your child attends a school nursery or has an older brother or sister at your chosen school, you must still apply. Children who go to a school nursery will not automatically receive a reception place at the school.

If you live in Waltham Forest, you must apply through us. If you live outside Waltham Forest, you must apply through your home local authority, even if you are applying for schools elsewhere.

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) you must contact the Waltham Forest SEND Service on 020 8496 6503 or 020 8496 6505. They consider these applications separately from the process outlined in this information.

You can choose up to six preferences and we encourage you to put as many preferences as possible. If you only put one or two preferences and your child is not offered a place at either school, we will have to offer your child an alternative school. The alternative school will be the nearest school with a vacancy and may not be close to your home address.

Every year when places are allocated to schools, there are schools which are full and therefore have cut-off distances. This can change every year based on how many applications are received for each school. Be realistic when choosing your six preferences and always read the school's admission arrangements.

Timeline for your application

Deadline	Activity
1 September 2026	Applications open
15 January 2027	Closing date for applications
16 April 2027	Offer letters will be posted to applicants making paper application
16 April 2027	Online applicants will be sent an email with the outcome during the evening
17 April 2027	Offer letters should be received by applicants making paper application
30 April 2027	Deadline to accept or decline offer
16 May 2027	Deadline for appeal requests to be submitted

If you applied online by 15 January, you will be sent an email on 16 April with the outcome of your application on National Offer Day.

If you made a paper application, offer letters will be sent by first-class post on 16 April.

Applications made after 15 January will not be responded to until after 16 April.

Accepting the offer

You will need to confirm whether you want to accept the offer or not by 30 April 2027. If you applied online you should respond within 14 days. There are 2 ways to do this:

1. Use the reply button in the email that you will receive during the evening. It will take you to the eAdmissions website, log in and respond.

2. Return to eadmissions.org.uk, log in and select view outcome and respond.

If you have received an offer letter, please complete the reply slip and send it back to the School Admissions Service.

If you have not been offered your preferred school, you are strongly advised to accept the school place you have been offered to ensure that your child has a school place for September 2027. Accepting the place offered will not affect your chances of being offered a place at a school you prefer more, either through the waiting list or through the appeal process.

Failure to respond may result in losing the school place offered.

If you do not want the place offered you can decline it online (if you applied online) or by filling in the reply slip on your offer letter. You are legally responsible for ensuring that your child receives full-time education from the term following their fifth birthday, so you must tell us what alternative arrangements you have made for their education e.g. home education. To ensure your child has a school place for September 2027, you are advised to accept the offer and then contact admissions to discuss your options.

Please ensure your application is genuine as each year some parents try to get a school place by cheating. For example, using a friend or relative's address, a business address or temporarily renting a property near a popular school. This is unfair and could mean another child misses out and could lead to a child losing their place.