

School Admissions 2025 - 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What changes are being proposed?

It is being proposed that waiting lists for in year admissions (children changing school during the year) are only held for one term at a time rather than for the whole academic year. It is also proposed that parents will need to request their child be added to a waiting list rather than automatically being placed on the waiting list.

2) When are these changes proposed for?

If agreed, these changes will be with effect from September 2024 onwards.

3) Why are these changes being proposed?

When waiting lists are held for the entire year they become quite long and the reality for many children is that they will not gain a place at their preferred school from the waiting list. This gives parents unrealistic expectations and false hope.

The majority of children who are offered places from waiting lists do already have a school place in Bolton. When they are offered a place from a waiting list, that place is held for them whilst starting arrangements are made, during which time they continue to attend their original school. During this intervening period, they are taking up two school places. This pattern is then repeated when we try to fill the place they have vacated. This makes it difficult to offer places to children without a school place.

Many children move school only a short distance due to being on multiple waiting lists. This 'school-hopping' is de-stabilising for schools, impacting on class teachers and school funding, as well as impacting both the child concerned and the class of children they are leaving or arriving to.

Reducing the number of children on waiting lists and the time they are held for will mean that places can be offered quicker to pupils that are unplaced, and will mean more stability for schools and children.

4) Are all schools affected by this change?

No. Some schools have chosen to continue with the current waiting list policy. A full list of schools who are affected by these changes is available at the end of this document.

5) Does this change affect waiting lists for children moving from nursery to primary school, or from year 6 to year 7?

No, this change only affects in year admissions. This is those children that are wanting to change schools during the school year, or children who are moving into Bolton and require a place in a Bolton school.

6) How will parents be able to request their child be placed on a waiting list?

An online response form will be provided for parents to indicate that they wish their child to be placed on a waiting list for a school. Details of this will be provided to parents when their child is refused a place at a school.

7) How will waiting lists be prioritised?

Waiting lists will continue to be prioritised by the individual admission criteria for each school.

8) Will parents be reminded that the waiting list is ending at the end of term?

In the initial response to their application, parents will be informed that they can request their child's name to be placed on a waiting list until the end of that term, and they will be given the date that applies for that term. No other reminders will be sent.

9) How do I keep my child's name on a waiting list after the end of a term?

If after a waiting list ends, you still wish for your child to be on the waiting list for a school, you would need to submit a new application for that term. No reminders will be sent, it will be the parents responsibility to do this.

The proposed changes, if agreed, would apply to the following schools (some of these schools may be undertaking consultation individually -please check school websites for further details):

All Saints CE Primary School
Beacon Primary School
Beaumont Primary School
Bishop Bridgeman CE Primary School
Blackrod Anglican Methodist Primary School

Blackrod Primary School
Blackshaw Primary School
Bowness Primary School
Brandwood Primary School
Brownlow Fold Primary School

Castle Hill Primary School
Cherry Tree Primary School
Chorley New Road Primary Academy
Church Road Primary School
Clarendon Primary School
Claypool Primary School
Devonshire Road Primary School
Eagley Infant School
Eagley Junior School
Eatock Primary School
Egerton Primary School
Gaskell Primary School
Gilnow Primary School
Hardy Mill Primary School
Harwood Meadows Primary School
Haslam Park Primary School
Heathfield Primary School
High Lawn Primary School
Highfield Primary School
Holy Infant and St Anthony RC Primary School
Johnson Fold Primary School
Kearsley West Primary School
Ladybridge Primary School
Lever Edge Primary Academy
Leverhulme Community Primary School
Lostock Primary School
Markland Hill Primary School
Moorgate Primary School
Mytham Primary School
Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School
Oxford Grove Primary School
Pikes Lane Primary School
Prestolee Primary School
Queensbridge Primary School

Sharples Primary School
Spindle Point Primary School
SS Peter and Paul RC Primary School
St Andrew's CE Primary School
St Bartholomew's CE Primary
St Bernard's RC Primary School
St Brendan's RC Primary School
St Catherine's CE Primary School
St Columba's RC Primary School
St Ethelbert's RC Primary School
St Gregory's RC Primary School
St James (Daisy Hill) CE School
St James CE Primary School
St Joseph RC Primary School
St Mary's (Deane) CE Primary School
St Mary's RC Primary School
St Matthew's (Bolton) CE Primary School
St Matthew's CE Primary School (Little Lever)
St Paul's CE Primary School
St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School
St Stephen and All Martyrs CE Primary School
St Thomas CE Primary School (Halliwell)
St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School
St William of York RC Primary School
Sunning Hill Primary School
The Gates Primary School
The Oaks Primary School
The Olive Tree Primary School
The Valley Primary School
Walmsley CE Primary School
Washacre Primary School