



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Information Sheet Starting School 2026

This leaflet for parents/carers of children starting school (Year R) for the first time in September 2026 explains how to apply for a lower/primary school place for a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022.

All the information you need to apply for a school place is available on our website www.bedford.gov.uk/startingschool. It gives details of all the schools in the area and a PDF copy of the admissions booklet, Starting School 2026, which explains how we process your application for a school place. Please read this carefully before you apply.

The website also allows residents of Bedford Borough Council to apply for a place online at www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions

You may apply using a paper application form if you prefer. An application form can be requested from your local Bedford Borough lower/primary school or by contacting the School Admissions Service: email: admissions@bedford.gov.uk tel: 01234 718120

If you live in another Local Authority you must complete your home Local Authority's application form and return it to them. Contact information is overleaf.

Application deadline 15 January 2026

Starting School Admissions Timetable

September 2025

We will publish information about the Starting School process.



26 September 2025 – 15 January 2026

You can **apply online** or you can complete and return a paper application form to the School Admissions Service. Do not do both.



15 January 2026

Closing date 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.

Contact Us

School Admissions Service General Enquiries - 01234 718120

Email: admissions@bedford.gov.uk

Contact details for school admission teams in neighbouring authorities

Cambridgeshire

Tel: 0345 045 1370

admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire

Tel: 0300 300 8037

admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Milton Keynes

Tel: (01908) 253338

primaryadmissions@milton-keynes.gov.uk

North Northamptonshire

Tel: 0300 126 3000

admissions.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk

West Northamptonshire

Tel: 0300 126 7000 (West Northants)

admissions@westnorthants.gov.uk