

Frequently asked questions – Junior 2027

When does the online portal open and application window close?

- The online portal opens for applications on Tuesday 1 September 2026 and closes on Friday 15th January 2027.

[Apply for a school place \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://southampton.gov.uk)

How many schools can I apply for?

- It is the advice of the Local Authority, that applicants use all three of their preferences to increase their chance of being offered a school of preference.
- Not using all preferences may mean that children are allocated places at schools further than the applicant would like, if closer schools that are not given as preferences, oversubscribe from applicants.
- Only stating one preference will NOT increase your chances of being offered that school.
- Please note you can only apply for Junior Schools on the application, with exception of Weston Park Primary School who has intake into Year 3.

How are applications processed?

- If a school is oversubscribed (i.e. has more applicants than spaces available), then each applicant is ranked according to the school's oversubscription criteria that is published in their admissions policy. Places are then offered according to that ranked list.
- If a child is eligible for a place at more than one school through this process, they are offered the highest preference eligible, and the lower preference space is given to the next eligible applicant.
- Matters such as childcare arrangements, transport arrangements or other social considerations cannot be taken into account when allocating school places as these are very subjective. The oversubscription criteria for a school are the only factors we can take into account.
- When processing applications, all preferences are treated as equal applications for the chosen schools. All preferences are considered together in line with the oversubscription criteria of the school, rather than processing first preferences first before moving onto second and so on.

Am I guaranteed a place at my linked Junior school?

- No there is no guarantee of being offered your linked Junior school if it is oversubscribed by applications that meet a higher criteria within the School's Admission policy.

What do I do if I am due to move house after the application submission deadline?

- You can still make an application for a school place, but this will be through your current home local authority using the address your child is residing at the closing date.

- We will accept new addresses until Friday 29 January 2027. Any address changes after this date will not be considered until after the National Offer Day in April.

What address should I use as my child lives at two addresses?

- If your child spends part of their week with one parent and part with the other, only one address can be used. This must be the address where they spend the majority of the school week (Monday-Friday).

Can I apply for Hampshire, or any other Local Authority schools if I live in Southampton?

- Yes, you will be able to select Hampshire Schools, or any other Local Authority school in England on your application if you live in Southampton. If you are unsure which Local Authority you reside in, you can check via <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Applying for a school for a significant medical or psychological reason

- You will need to provide written evidence from a medical professional (GP or consultant) or psychologist giving details of the condition and why the school you are applying for is best suited to meet the child's medical or psychological needs. E.g. X needs to attend Y School due to Z condition which means only Y school is suitable for them for the following reasons....
- **Evidence simply giving a diagnosis is unlikely to be sufficient** nor is providing a letter from the GP/Doctor stating that the parent/carer is of the opinion, reports...that the child has a particular condition does not constitute a medical opinion.
- You can provide the evidence either by:
 - Uploading it to your online application
 - Scanning and sending it to the School Admissions team
- Please ensure that you give your child's name, date of birth, and school applied for with the evidence.
- Remember: Not all schools give priority to a child's medical or psychological condition. You are strongly advised to read the **admission policies** [School admissions policies \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/school-admissions-policies) for each school you are applying for before making your application.

Post offer day information:

What happens if I am not offered a place at any of my preferences?

- If through the process of oversubscription, a child is not eligible for a place at any of their preferred schools, they will be offered a place at the nearest school to their home address with a space available.

- It should be noted that while applicants have the right to express preferences, and these will be met, if possible, through the process of oversubscription, this is not the same as having 'choice'.
- It is the duty of the Local Authority to provide a state-funded school place to every child who requires one, but it is not bound to provide a school of preference if this cannot be offered due to oversubscription, and it is not suitable for applicants to refuse a school offered on the basis of it not being a preferred school.
- Local Authorities cannot be compelled to provide a school of preference when another school place is available, or to provide home tuition in lieu of a school place.

Can I appeal for any of the schools I have not been offered?

- Yes, you can appeal any any/all of the schools you have not been offered. For all Southampton schools information can be found here: [Making an admissions appeal \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/finding-a-school/apply-school/late-applications/)
- For other local authority schools please check on that local authority website for more information on how to submit an appeal for schools outside of Southampton.
- **Please do not ask your child's current school to write a letter of support for your appeal should you not be offered one of your preferred schools on National Offer Day.** Schools are not expected to write these letters. It can be difficult for a school to support one child and not another. A letter from the school will not make your appeal stronger.

How do waiting lists work?

- Waiting lists are kept in the order of a school's oversubscription criteria, rather than the length of time a child has been on that list. Because of this, waiting lists are re-ranked with each new applicant and an applicant can move down, as well as up, a waiting list.

General information:

- Deadline for on time applications is 15th January 2027 at 23.59. If the application is not submitted by this date then you will need to submit a late application via <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/finding-a-school/apply-school/late-applications/>