



# **Infant/Primary School Admissions Policy 2026 – 2027 Dorset Partnerships**



## **Section 1: Introduction**

The Hamwic Education Trust (HET) is the Admission Authority for the schools listed in the table below. The Trust Board is responsible for determining the admissions policy and arrangements in line with the requirements of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998 and School Admissions Code. HET has delegated the processing of admissions to the individual school's governing committee. This policy will be used to prioritise applications for admission starting in September 2026 and for in-year admissions for the 2026 – 2027 academic year for the schools listed below.

In Dorset, HET has a Service Level Agreement with the Local Authority who provide an administrative service for all admissions.

Parents may express up to three (3) preferences, listing them in the order in which they would accept them. All preferences will be considered and where more than one school could be offered, the parents will be offered a place for their child at the highest ranked of the schools that could be offered.

### **Published Admission Number**

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for each school is shown in the table below. Each school will admit up to the PAN into the year group indicated in September 2026.

<b>School Name</b>	<b>PAN</b>	<b>Entry Year</b>
Hampreston CE First School	30	Reception
Henbury View First School	30	Reception
Lytchett Matravers Primary School	60	Reception
Pimperne C of E Primary School	30	Reception
Upton Infant School	90	Reception
Wimborne First School & Nursery	60	Reception
Upton Junior School	96	Year 3

The oversubscription criteria for Hampreston CE First School, Henbury First School, Lytchett Matravers Primary School, Pimperne C of E Primary School, Upton Infant School and Wimborne First School and Nursery can be found in Section 2 of this policy. The oversubscription criteria for Upton Junior School can be found in Section 3 of this policy.

### **Children with Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that name the school**

Children with EHCPs that name a school must be admitted to that school under the Education Act 1996 and with regard to the SEN Code of Practice. These children will be admitted to the named school, even if it is full, and are therefore outside the normal admission arrangements. As required by the Code these children will count as part of the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school.

## **Section 2: Oversubscription Criteria – First, Infant & Primary Schools**

All explanatory notes are in Section 4 on page 5.

Applications submitted by 15 January 2026 will be dealt with first. If the number of applications submitted by 15 January 2026 is greater than the PAN for a school, admissions to the school will be decided according to the following priorities:

1. Children in public care (looked after children) and previously looked after children as defined by section 1.7 of the School Admissions Code 2021.
2. Children who have an exceptional medical or social need and where there is a need for a place at one specific school – see Explanatory Note 1.
3. Children living within the school’s designated catchment area who, at the time of application, have a sibling already on roll at the school and who will still be attending the school in the following academic year – see Explanatory Note 2 for catchment definition and Explanatory Note 3 for Sibling definition.
4. Other children living within the school’s designated catchment area.
5. **Lytchett Matravers Primary School & Wimborne First School & Nursery only:** Children who are eligible for early years pupil premium who are in the school’s pre-school/nursery class at the time of application – see Explanatory Note 5.
6. Children living outside the school’s designated catchment area who, at the time of application, have a sibling already on roll at the school and who will still be attending the school in the following academic year.
7. **Hampreston CE First School & Pimperne CE Primary School only:** Children who live outside the school’s designated catchment area who regularly attend worship at a recognised Christian Church, and whose parents request admission on religious grounds – see Explanatory Note 4.
8. Children of staff employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill.
9. Other children living outside the school’s designated catchment area.

If the school is oversubscribed from within any of the criteria, then distance, as defined in Explanatory Note 6 will be used to prioritise applications. Should there be two or more identical distances requiring prioritisation, this will be done by drawing lots.

### **Section 3: Oversubscription Criteria – Upton Junior School**

All explanatory notes are in Section 4 on page 5.

Applications submitted by 15 January 2026 will be dealt with first. If the number of applications submitted by 15 January 2026 is greater than the PAN for a school, admissions to the school will be decided according to the following priorities:

1. Children in public care (looked after children) and previously looked after children as defined by section 1.7 of the School Admissions Code 2021.
2. Children who have an exceptional medical or social need and where there is a need for a place at one specific school– see Explanatory Note 1.
3. Children living within the school’s designated catchment area who, at the time of application, have a sibling already on roll at the school and who will still be attending the school in the following academic year – see Explanatory Note 2 for catchment definition and Explanatory Note 3 for Sibling definition.
4. Children living within the school’s designated catchment area who are attending Upton Infant School at the time of application.
5. Other children living within the school’s designated catchment area.
6. Children living outside the school’s designated catchment area who, at the time of application, have a sibling already on roll at the school and who will still be attending the school in the following academic year.
7. Children living outside the school’s designated catchment area who are attending Upton Infant School at the time of application.
8. Children of staff employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill.
9. Other children living outside the school’s designated catchment area.

If the school is oversubscribed from within any of the criteria, then distance, as defined in Explanatory Note 6 will be used to prioritise applications. Should there be two or more identical distances requiring prioritisation, this will be done by drawing lots.

## **Section 4: Oversubscription Criteria Explanatory Notes**

1. **Medical or social need:** Applications will only be considered under this category if there is evidence provided such as a Child Protection Order, Children in Need document or a written statement from a doctor, social worker or other relevant independent professional. The information must confirm the exceptional medical or social need and demonstrate how the specified school is the only school that can meet the defined needs of the child.
2. **Catchment area:** Each school has a geographical catchment area. Catchment areas give some priority to children living in the local area of the school. Living in the school's catchment area does not guarantee a place at the school. Catchment areas are determined by home address (the child's permanent address). Further details of the school's catchment area can be found on the Dorset County Council website.
3. **Sibling:** A sibling is defined as a brother or sister (living in the same household) already on roll and attending the school applied for and who will still be attending the school the following academic year. This includes half, step, or foster or adoptive brother or sister, living within the same family unit at the same address. Twins, triplets and other children of multiple birth will be admitted above the admission limit if the limit has been reached by admitting one of the multiple birth children. A sibling link at the school does not guarantee admission to the school.
4. **Faith criteria:** Regular practising Christian means a child who attends a Recognised Church or Religious Group regularly prior to application. Regularly means at least monthly, for a minimum of 6 months prior to application. In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the Recognised Church or Religious Group has been closed for public worship the requirements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the Recognised Church or Religious Group has been available for public worship. Where the Recognised Church or Religious Group has made available alternative premises for public worship, the requirements in relation to attendance shall apply to that period as well. Recognised Church or Religious Group means a church that is the same denomination as (or is in fellowship with or partnership with) a member of: Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (see [ctbi.org.uk](http://ctbi.org.uk)); the Evangelical Alliance (see [www.eauk.org.uk](http://www.eauk.org.uk)); the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (see [www.fiec.org.uk](http://www.fiec.org.uk)); Affinity fellowship of Churches (see [www.affinity.org.uk](http://www.affinity.org.uk)). Applications on denominational grounds must be supported by the Hamwic Supplementary Information Form, signed by a Parish Priest/Minister of Religion of a recognised Christian Church confirming attendance at worship at least once a month for at least the one year prior to the date of application. The Hamwic Supplementary Information Form is available on the relevant school website and Hamwic website.
5. **Early Years Pupil Premium:** The Early Years Pupil Premium is additional funding paid to support disadvantaged three and four year olds in government-funded early years settings. Eligibility criteria for early years pupil premium is outlined at [www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding](http://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding).

6. **Distance:** Distances are measured in a straight line ‘as the crow flies’. Distances are measured using the Council’s Geographical Information System (GIS) which identifies an Easting and Northing for the home address and the school and calculates the distance between the two locations. Only distances measured by GIS will be taken into account for the purposes of the distance criterion. Should there be two or more identical distances the prioritisation will be done by casting lots.

## **Section 5: General admission arrangements**

### **Late Applications**

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2026. Applications received after that date will be late applications. If the school has places available after admitting all on-time applications, late applications will be considered in accordance with the priorities set out above.

### **Waiting Lists**

All parents who have been refused a place at the school will have the option to indicate their wish to remain on the waiting list – via a tick box on the allocation response form on-line or on a paper reply slip. Children will be held on the waiting list by order of the criteria in the admissions policy. No account can be taken of the length of time a pupil is on the list. A pupil’s position can change on the list as new applicants join or other applicants come off the waiting list. Children will remain on the waiting list only until the end of the academic year in August 2027, if parents/carers want their children to be on the waiting list for the following academic year they must re-apply. The waiting list will be administered by the LA’s Admission Team on behalf of the school.

### **Entry into Reception Year**

The offer made to parents for reception class on the initial offer date is of a full-time place from the start of term in September. Schools normally stagger entry into school from that date and arrange for some initial part-time attendance to ensure a smooth transition from pre-school or home into school. Flexibilities exist for those parents who do not feel that their child is ready to start school in the September following their fourth birthday. It is possible for them to:

- Request part-time admission to the allocated school from the September following their child’s fourth birthday. This should be negotiated with the headteacher of the school.
- Request to defer their child’s entry until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach Compulsory school age, and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Parents of summer-born children, that is children born between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> August, may, in addition, choose to send their child to school in the September following their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and may request that their child is admitted out of their normal age group to reception year rather than Year 1. Any parent wishing to apply for their summer-born child to start school outside their normal age group should read [Dorset Council - Guidance on placement outside chronological age group](#) available on line, which explains the procedures that need to be followed, and complete the relevant application form.

### **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted or talented or has experienced problems such as ill health, or they are summer born and parents would like them to start Year R when they reach statutory school age.

Details of how to apply for admission outside the normal age group can be found in the policy document [Dorset Council - Guidance on placement outside chronological age group](#). All requests will be considered on their merits by the governing committee taking account of the parent's view and the views of the headteacher.

For all requests it is vital to understand that at each transition (starting reception, moving from infant to junior, primary to secondary, secondary to college, in-year admissions) the decision whether to maintain the placement in a younger or older year group must be made by the admission authority for the school. As such, there is no guarantee that it will continue throughout the child's education and a new parental request must be made before each transition. As a general rule, requests should only be made once per phase transfer, unless there has been a significant change in circumstances. One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on education out of normal age group.

### **In Year Admissions (applying for a school place *during* an academic year)**

This admissions policy will also be used to prioritise applications for in-year admissions for the 2026/27 academic year. Parents wishing to make an in-year application should apply through the Admissions Team at Dorset County Council: [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/apply-for-a-school-place](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/apply-for-a-school-place)

### **In Year Fair Access**

HET schools fully partake in the relevant LA's In-Year Fair Access Protocol. This protocol relates to admission applications throughout the year (but not the transfer of Year 6 pupils from primary/junior to secondary schools in September 2026). The protocol takes priority above a school's admissions policy for those on a waiting list and the LA may require the school to admit above their published admission number.

### **Appeals**

If the school is unable to offer a place, parents have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. The decision of the Panel is binding on all parties.

### **Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme**

All HET schools fully participate in the LA published co-ordinated admissions scheme. The governors have delegated the management of the waiting list to the LA Admissions Team during the normal admission round. The waiting list will be passed to the school on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026.