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Introduction



Starting primary or infant school is an important time for your child and Oxfordshire County Council wants to make sure that this first step is as smooth as possible.

We would also like to ensure that your child is offered a place at one of the schools that you prefer. Fortunately, we were able to do this for 99% of Oxfordshire children starting the Reception year group in the 2023/24 academic year – a total of 7,073 children.

Only 71 children, 1% of the cohort, whose parents had applied on time and who live in Oxfordshire were offered an alternative school that had not been requested.

For some schools, we may have more applications than there are places and we have to have a process that will enable admission authorities to decide which children can be offered a place and which children will need to go to other schools. This process must be fair and unbiased and follow the procedures laid down nationally as well as locally.

Most applications are now made online. Applying in this way offers the benefits of being able to start, save, change and complete your application at any time right up to the closing date of 15 January 2025. Those who apply online will also be able to respond online to the offer made on 16 April 2025.

It is a good idea to list four preferences. This does not make it less likely that your child will be offered the school you most want (your first preference) but it does make it less likely that a place will be offered at a school you do not want. In order to decide which school you would like your child to attend, I would also advise you to read the school prospectuses and admissions arrangements as well as our Home to School Transport Policy. It may also be possible to visit schools.

Please remember that living in the catchment area for a particular school does not mean that your child will receive free transport to that school. Please refer to the information about home to school transport in this booklet or online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schooltransport

Most importantly, I would advise you to apply on time. Applying on time is likely to maximise your chance of your child being offered a place at one of your preferred schools. This means you need to submit your application by 15 January 2025.

You can apply online at:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Lisa Lyons
Director of Children's Services

Key Dates

September 2024	"Starting School" booklet published online. Printed copies available on request from the Local Authority (LA).
4 November 2024	Online and paper applications accepted from this date.
15 January 2025	National closing date for on-time applications
29 January 2025	Last date for confirmation of change of address and for late applications or changes of preference with extenuating circumstances to be considered as on-time
16 April 2025	Offer letters sent by second-class post where needed and emails sent to those who applied online
30 April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last date for responding to an offer and for placing a child's name on a Waiting List in response to offers made on 16 April • Last date for late applications and changes of preference to be considered in the second round of the allocation process
6 June 2025	Second Allocation Day: Offer letters sent by email or second-class post (where necessary) for offers or reoffers
20 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline to respond to offers made on 6 June • Deadline to apply to join Waiting List
September 2025	Start of academic year for the Reception year group – most children will start school.
30 June 2026	Waiting List will be discontinued for all schools that are part of the in-year admissions scheme (unless otherwise stated in a school's admission arrangements)

Section 1 – Application Process

Parents of children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 (inclusive) need to apply for a place at a primary or infant school place for their children.

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2025.

Parents must apply for a school place for their child even if the child attends a nursery class at the school listed as a preference.

Applying

There are two ways to apply:

- **Online**

Parents can apply online for a school place for their child at:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Most applications are made online. Over 95% of applications for starting school in the 2024/25 academic year were made online.

- **Paper**

If parents are unable or do not wish to apply online they can apply on paper using the [Common Application Form](#). A copy of this form is available online as well as from all state-funded mainstream primary and infant schools and County Hall.

When applying for a school place, a parent needs to use one method only. Please do not apply both online and on paper as this may delay the processing of the application especially if different preferences are listed on each application.

Applying on time

It is very important to apply on time. This maximises the chances of being offered a place at a preferred school. This means the online or paper application needs to be received by the Admissions Team by 15 January 2025.

Preferences

A parent can list up to 4 schools on the application. These schools should be listed in order of preference and, in order to maximise the chance of obtaining one of the preferred schools, it is very important to apply on time, i.e. by 15 January 2025.

Before deciding which schools to list parents are advised to read through the information given in the [“Starting School”](#) section of the website and check school websites and prospectuses. It may also be possible to visit schools.

Apply online at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

It is important to understand the admission rules for a particular school in order to assess the likelihood of being able to obtain a place for a child. If a place is not offered at one of the schools listed on the application it will be because there were other children who had a higher priority for a place under the school's admission rules. The admission rules for every state funded school in Oxfordshire can be found on our [schools search results](#) webpage:

Applying for a place at a school in England but outside Oxfordshire

Admissions to state-funded primary and infant schools in England are coordinated across Local Authority boundaries. This means that, if a child lives in Oxfordshire and the parent wants to apply for a place at a school that is in a different Local Authority, the parent must apply via Oxfordshire County Council. As with applications made for schools within Oxfordshire it is best to apply online. Oxfordshire County Council will liaise with the English Local Authority where the school is situated on behalf of the parent and child and will be responsible for sending notification of the outcome on behalf of the school / Local Authority on National Offer Day.

Applying for a place at a school in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales

Admissions to state-funded primary and infant schools in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are not coordinated. If the parent wants to apply for a place at a school that is in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales, they should contact the school direct to find out how an application should be made.

Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs)

Some schools request extra information in addition to the information gathered for the online application or on the paper form. It is important to remember that submitting a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) does not amount to an application – a parent must still apply listing a preference for the school (either online or on paper). However, if a school uses a SIF, it is in the parent's and child's interest to complete and return it by the date required in order to maximise the possibility of an offer at that school.

Applying late

If an application is received after 15 January 2025, it will be classed as a late application unless there are genuine extenuating reasons.

If a parent does not apply online or on paper by the above date, they should submit an application as soon as possible after this date. It will be possible to submit an application online by going to our Reception web page at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. A [paper application form](#) can be submitted in the applicant cannot apply online.

If the parent provides one or more genuine extenuating reasons by 29 January 2025, Oxfordshire County Council will consider these reasons to decide whether the application should be considered as an on-time application.

Apply online at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Letters will be sent for all late applications received between 16 January and 29 January 2025. The letter will explain whether the application will be considered as a late or on-time application.

Applications received after 29 January 2025 will, as a matter of course, be considered as late applications regardless of whether genuine extenuating reasons have been provided.

Examples of extenuating reasons are:

- an administrative error by a maintained school in Oxfordshire is responsible for the application being received late;
- an administrative error by Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for the application being late;
- a sudden illness of a close family member which prevented a parent from submitting the application on time;
- the death of a close family member (child's sibling, parent, grandparent) which prevented the parent/carer from submitting the application on time.

The above list is not exhaustive.

Late applicants are likely to be less successful in obtaining a place at a preferred school because, for many schools, all available places will be offered on National Offer Day and there will be only a limited number of places available to re-offer in the Second Allocation Round (see below) when late applications will be considered. Therefore, any parent submitting an application between 16 January and 29 January 2025 is strongly advised to write to the Admissions Team setting out the reasons why the application could not be made on-time.

The Allocation Process

The Equal Preference System

All state funded mainstream schools in England have to follow the "Equal Preference System". This is a requirement of the Department for Education's School Admission Code 2021. This prevents admission authorities giving higher priority to parents who make a particular school their first preference.

Every school that a parent lists on the Common Application Form (CAF) is treated as a separate application and the highest possible preference will be offered. The Admission Authority for a school must not discriminate against any application because a parent did not express a first preference for that school on the CAF. Offering places on the basis of "first preferences first" would be unlawful.

Schools are not told which order their school has been ranked in by parents.

The priority for admission is established using the admission rules for the relevant school. Once this information is available the preferences are then considered by the Local Authority acting as the "clearing house". If, at this stage, it was theoretically possible to offer a place at all of the schools listed, the school offered would be the one listed as the highest preference. If a place cannot be offered at any of the schools listed as a preference, the Local Authority

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will offer a place at the nearest school with an available place. If the Local Authority is not the Admissions Authority the offer of a place will be made on behalf of the Governors/Directors of that school.

The Admission Rules

Places are offered according to the priority of each individual school's admission rules. These are all available online via links on the individual school pages of the Oxfordshire County Council website (see Section 2).

What happens on National Offer Day – 16 April?

For all applications made online, an email is sent between 2am and 11.59pm on 16 April 2025 confirming the outcome of the application. It will also be possible for those who applied online to log in to their online application to view the result and respond.

Where an applicant has secured a place at their first preference school and their child is not eligible for free home to school transport, only an email will be sent and this will not be followed with a letter.

Letters will only be sent where an applicant has applied on paper; or where an applicant applied online and was not offered a place at their first preference school; or where the first preference has been offered with the offer of free home to school transport included. These letters will be sent by second-class post on 16 April 2025.

The Leaflet - “What to do next”

Every letter sent on 16 April 2025 will include a leaflet called “What to do next?”. This leaflet explains how to:

- respond to the offer a place;
- place a child's name on one or more Waiting Lists (where relevant);
- respond to the offer of school transport or request school transport as appropriate (See Section 4);
- make a school admissions appeal.

Responding to an Offer

If the application has been made online, parents can respond online.

Where an applicant is sent a letter (see above) a response form will be sent with the letter offering a place. The form should be completed and then returned to the Admissions Team by 30 April 2025.

If a paper response form needs to be completed because it cannot be done online, the form can be scanned or photographed and emailed to: schoolofferresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Apply online at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

If a response is not received by the Admissions Team, or a parent rejects the offer of a place and does not provide a reason, Oxfordshire County Council reserves the right to re-offer the place to another applicant in the Second Allocation Round or later.

If this were to happen, this could mean that the child will not have a school offer for the 2025/26 academic year. Therefore, it is very important to accept the place at the offered school even if it is not a preferred school.

The Second Allocation Round process begins on 7 May 2025 and ends on 6 June 2025.

If a preference cannot be offered

It is not always possible to offer a child a place at one or more of the schools listed as a preference. If this happens, parents will have the option to add their child's name to the Waiting List and/or request a change of preference and/or appeal for a school place.

Waiting Lists

Parents are able to place their child's name on the Waiting List for schools where a requested place could not be offered.

Children living in Oxfordshire are not automatically placed on the Waiting List for any school. Parents must complete a Waiting List request form if they want their child's name added to a list. This can be done online if the application was submitted online.

If a paper Continued Interest form needs to be completed because it cannot be submitted online, the completed form can be scanned or photographed and emailed to: schoolofferresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Parents are also advised to read Oxfordshire County Council's arrangements for Waiting Lists before completing and returning their request, www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/continuedinterest so that they understand that an alternative offer may be withdrawn without notice where a place can later be offered at a preferred school where the child was added to the Waiting List.

In addition, in these circumstances, parents are strongly advised to accept the place offered for their child. This ensures that a child will have a school place for the 2023/24 academic year. However, they may also wish to submit a change of preference (see below).

Changes of preference

It is possible to request a change of preference to list new schools on an application or change the order of schools already listed in order to try to achieve an offer of a place at a different school at a later date. Parents should read Oxfordshire County Council's arrangements for how changes of preference will be handled: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissionschange

Admission appeals

Parents have a statutory right to appeal for a place at any school where a place was not offered. For notifications sent on 16 April 2025, the deadline for returning the appeal form is 14 May 2025 (20 school days after National Offer Day).

Anyone who has an application for a place at a school turned down (for the years Reception to Year 13) has the right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. For most but not all schools, appeals are organised by the Clerk based at County Hall, who can be contacted on 01865 328215 or at schoolappeals@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The majority of appeals for places in Reception are called Infant Class Size Reviews. This is because the law states that no more than 30 children age 5 to 7 can be taught by one teacher in one classroom, unless a particular child is considered an exception under section 2.16 of the 2021 School Admissions Code.

These appeals can only be successful if:

1. The admission of additional children would not breach the infant class-size limit of 30 children to one teacher, either during Reception or as they progress through Year 1 and Year 2;
2. The co-ordinated admission arrangements did not comply with the admissions law
3. the decision to refuse admission was not one which a reasonable Admission Authority would have made in the circumstances of the case, as defined by the narrow legal meaning of the word "reasonable".

Currently, the following state-funded primary and infant schools in Oxfordshire do not use the Council's Schools Appeals Service:

- Abbey Woods Academy, Berinsfield;
- All Saints CE Primary School, Didcot;
- Appleton CE Primary School;
- Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE Primary School;
- Bampton CE Primary School;
- The Batt CE Primary School, Witney;
- The Blake CE Primary School, Witney;
- Burford Primary School;
- Checkendon CE Primary School;
- Chesterton CE Primary School;
- Christopher Rawlins CE Primary School, Adderbury;
- Dashwood Banbury Academy;
- Deddington CE Primary School;
- Dr Radcliffe's CE Primary School, Steeple Aston;
- Dr South's CE Primary School, Islip;
- Ewelme CE Primary School;
- Goring CE Primary School;
- Great Rollright CE Primary School;
- Grove CE Primary School;

- Harriers Banbury Academy;
- The Hendreds CE Primary School;
- John Henry Newman Academy, Littlemore, Oxford;
- Kidmore End CE Primary School;
- Kirtlington CE Primary School;
- Leaffield CE Primary School;
- Little Milton CE Primary School;
- North Hinksey CE Primary School;
- North Leigh CE Primary School;
- Northbourne CE Primary School, Didcot;
- Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Cowley, Oxford;
- St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School, Oxford;
- St Amand's Catholic Primary School, East Hendred;
- St Barnabas' CE Primary School, Oxford;
- St Christopher's CE Primary School, Cowley, Oxford;
- St Christopher's CE Primary School, Langford;
- St Ebbe's CE Primary School, Oxford;
- St Edburg's CE Primary School, Bicester;
- St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Abingdon;
- St Frideswide Church of England Primary School, Oxford;
- St John's Catholic Primary School, Banbury;
- St John the Evangelist CE Primary School, Carterton;
- St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, Littlemore, Oxford;
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury;
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford;
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame;
- St Laurence's CE Primary School, Warborough;
- St Mary & St John CE Primary School, Oxford;
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bicester;
- St Mary's CE Primary School, Banbury;
- St Mary's CE Primary School, Chipping Norton;
- St Mary's CE Infant School, Witney;
- St Michael's CE Primary School, Oxford;
- St Peter's CE Primary School, Alvescot;
- St Peter's CE Primary School, Cassington;
- St Philip & St James CE Primary School, Oxford;
- St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Kidlington;
- Shellingford CE Primary School;
- Shenington CE Primary School;
- Shiplake CE Primary School;
- South Moreton School;
- Stoke Row CE Primary School;
- Tackley CE Primary School;
- Wheatley CE Primary School Academy;
- Wootton St Peter's CE Primary School;
- Wroxton CE Primary School

Apply online at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

The above list is subject to change and a current list will be available online on the [School Appeal page](#).

Appeals are heard by an Independent Panel. A decision by an appeal panel whether or not to offer a school place is binding on the relevant Admissions Authority.

Acceptance of a place at a school does not affect a parent's right to appeal for a place for their child at another school. However, if a parent decides to appeal for any of the listed preferences, it is wise to secure a place for a child at an alternative school in case the appeal is unsuccessful. This is because appeals are normally heard during the second half of the summer term.

A parent's statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied will not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group. In addition, if the request to be admitted to a different year group has not been accepted and a parent then appeals for a place for their child, any appeal that is heard would relate to the child's normal age group, i.e. the appeal would not be for admission to the requested year group.

Further information about the appeals process can be found at:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals

What happens between 17 April and 30 April 2025?

No offers will be made at any school between these dates. During this time, responses to school offers, requests for children to be added to Waiting Lists and requests for changes of preference will be collected and collated.

What happens between 7 May and 6 June 2025?

After all information has been collated, any places that have arisen are available to re-offer on 6 June 2025 (Second Allocation Round).

The following groups of children are all considered together in the Second Allocation Round:

- late applicants whose applications were submitted after 15 January but by 30 April 2025; and
- children added to the Waiting List who could not be offered a place on 16 April 2025 whose parents want them to be re-considered for a place, should one become available (form to be received no later than 30 April 2025); and
- applicants classed as "change of preference", where a place was offered at a school on 16 April 2025 but the parent has changed their preference(s) or added a new preference or preferences by 30 April 2025.

All of the above application types are considered together and are prioritised according to each school's admissions rules. No category of 'late' application takes precedence over another category and applications are not prioritised according to the date when the request was made.

Second Allocation Round on 6 June 2025

For all late applications or changes of preference made online, an email is sent between 2am and 11.59pm on 6 June 2025 confirming the outcome of the application. It will also be possible for those who applied online to login to their online application to view the result and respond.

Where an applicant has secured a place at their first preference school and their child is not eligible for free home to school transport, only an email will be sent and this will not be followed with a letter.

Letters will only be sent where an applicant has applied on paper; or where an applicant applied online and was not offered a place at their first preference school; or where the first preference has been offered with the offer of free home to school transport included. These letters will be sent by second-class post on 6 June 2025.

Please note that we do not contact applicants where they have added their child's name to a Waiting List if no place can be offered from the Waiting List and there has been no change to the application.

A leaflet - "What to do next" is sent with every letter and this contains the same information as that communicated in letters sent on 16 April 2025 ([see above](#)).

When do children start school?

Most children starting the Reception year group for the first time will start at school at the beginning of September 2025 (Autumn Term). Parents can decide if they want to request a part-time or full-time place for their child. Schools will comply with any reasonable request. However, a part-time place is usually morning sessions (child goes home at lunch-time) or afternoon sessions (child arrives at lunch-time) only. Schools are unlikely to offer bespoke provision with some full days and some half days each week. Many children will have spent time in a nursery setting or pre-school provision before they are due to start their Reception year and some families will have made use of the extended 30-hour entitlement. Therefore, it is expected that children will start in the Reception year group with a full-time or part-time place (as requested by their parent) from the beginning of the Autumn Term and will not have a gradual or staggered start into their Reception year.

However, legally children do not have to start full-time education until the term after their fifth birthday, and some parents decide to defer their children's start date at primary or infant school. If a parent wishes to defer their child's admission to school, they should discuss the implications with the school concerned.

The table below shows dates by when children must start full-time education.

Children born...	Can start school...	Must start school...

1 September 2020 to 31 December 2020	September 2025 (part-time or full-time)	January 2026 (full time)
1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021	September 2025 (part-time or full time); or January 2026 (part-time or full-time)	April 2026 full-time)
1 April 2021 to 31 August 2021	September 2025 (part-time or full time); or January 2026 (part-time or full-time); or April 2026 (part-time or full-time)	September 2026 (full-time) Unless otherwise agreed, if a child of this age starts school in September 2026, it will be in Year 1 and not the Reception year (please see the section below about summer-born children). The offer of a place will lapse if the child does not start school by April 2026. In cases of this kind the parent would need to reapply in June 2026 for a place in Year 1 in September 2026.

Delayed entry to school – Admission of summer-born children outside their normal age group

Summer-born children are defined as those born from the beginning of April to the end of August and who will reach compulsory school age on 31 August 2026.

There is some statistical evidence that summer-born children tend to perform less well in school tests but it is important to remember that teachers are skilled at differentiating the curriculum to meet a diverse range of needs, including those of summer-born children. It would not be accurate to assume that all children born in the summer term will struggle at school.

However, if a parent would like to delay entry to school for their summer-born child until the September after their fifth birthday (September 2026) and request that they enter the Reception group (rather than the Year 1 class), the Admission Authority for that school will need to consider this request on the basis of the circumstances of the case. It would be unlawful for an Admission Authority to have a blanket policy which says that summer-born children who start school in the September after their fifth birthday will always be admitted to Year 1.

Applicants who wish to delay their summer-born child's entry to Reception group may complete a [application to delay form](#), which is available from Oxfordshire County Council's website, and the decision will be made by the Admissions Authority for each of the schools requested.

Factors that may be considered by an Admission Authority are:

- a. the views of the parent; and/or

- b. the needs of the child and the possible impact of entering Year 1 without having first attended the Reception class; and/or
- c. if a child has been born prematurely, the fact that they may have naturally fallen into the lower age group if they had been born on their expected arrival date; and/or
- d. the extent to which a child's delayed social, emotional or physical development is adversely affecting their readiness for school; and/or
- e. any relevant research into the outcomes of summer-born and premature children; and/or
- f. where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional.

In all cases the Admissions Authority must take in to account the views of the Headteacher of the school concerned.

The parent of a child who is eligible for admission to school in the 2025/26 academic year but whose child does not have to start full-time education until September 2026, and who wants them to start Reception group in the 2026/27 academic year rather than Year 1, should make their request as early as possible in the 2024/25 academic year.

Requests should be made to Oxfordshire County Council's Admissions Team using the form "[Request for the admission of summer born children outside their normal age group](#)" and attaching any evidence that they believe will be helpful. This form is available on Oxfordshire County Council's public website.

Once the relevant form has been received by the Admissions Team, the Admissions Authorities of the schools listed will be contacted to ask whether they are willing to accept an out of year group application in the next academic year. The parent will then be informed of the outcome of their request with the reasons for it.

Where it is agreed that an application can be processed for entry to the Reception group for the September following a child's fifth birthday, no weight will be added to the application owing to the application being delayed. Similarly, no Admissions Authority will give a lower priority for admission on the basis that the child is not of the correct age.

If an Admission Authority refuses a parent's request for a child to be considered for admission to the Reception group a year later than is usual, it is open to the parent to make a complaint using the Admission Authority's formal complaints procedure. All schools have a duty to consider complaints about the school and must have a published complaints procedure in place. Oxfordshire County Council also has a complaints procedure which can be used if the school concerned is a Community or Voluntary Controlled school.

If a child is already of statutory school age and the child's parent requests that the child is admitted to Reception group rather than Year 1, there is no right of appeal if a place has been offered in Year 1. If a place is not available in either year group there would be a right of appeal. However, the appeal would be for the year group that the Admissions Authority had decided was the appropriate year group for the child.

Future implications of admitting a child to Reception group when the child is of Year 1 age

If a child is educated outside of the normal age group while in primary school, the Admission Authority of the secondary school will need to reach a new decision whether to admit the child outside of their normal age group. When making this decision the Admission Authority for the secondary school must make the decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case.

A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June in the school year in which they have their 16th birthday. If a child is educated outside of their normal age group (i.e. is in Year 10 when this date is reached) the school will continue to receive funding for that child but the child will no longer be of compulsory school age during the school year in which most children take their GCSE examinations. This means that a child educated in Year 10 but who is of Year 11 age could leave school at the end of Year 10. However, the child concerned would need to remain in education in an alternative setting (e.g. college) or undergo training (e.g. an apprenticeship) until the end of the school year in which they have their 18th birthday.

Remaining in nursery provision

Nursery education is no longer age appropriate once a child reaches statutory school age. Therefore, children who have their fifth birthday between September and December 2025 may only stay in nursery provision until the end of December 2025. They need to be in receipt of full-time age-appropriate education from January 2026. No state funding is available for nursery places for these children after December 2025.

Children who have their fifth birthday between January and March 2026 may only stay in nursery provision until the end of March 2026. They need to be in receipt of full-time age-appropriate education from April 2026. No state funding is available for nursery places for these children after March 2026.

Children who have their fifth birthday between April and August 2026 may stay in nursery provision until the end of the 2025/26 academic year. They need to be in receipt of full-time age-appropriate education from September 2026. No state funding is available for nursery places for these children after July 2026.

Once a child is too old for nursery provision the only alternative to placing a child at school is age-appropriate home education.

Apply online at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Section 2 – Oxfordshire Primary and Infant Schools and Admission Arrangements

New primary schools in Oxfordshire

No new primary schools are opening in Oxfordshire for 2025/26.

Existing Schools in Oxfordshire

Details for every state-funded Oxfordshire school can be found on our [schools search results](#) page. On this webpage you can find each school's location, contact details, catchment area (where it has one), admissions rules and information about how places have been offered in previous years.

Standard Oversubscription Criteria for Reception year group at Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools in Oxfordshire

Community and Voluntary Controlled primary schools listed in the table below use the standard oversubscription criteria shown in this section.

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3120	25
Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3180	15
Barley Hill Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2463	60
Bladon Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3146	15
Brookside Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2202	45
Bure Park Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2610	60
Caldecott Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2605	60
Carswell Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2595	30
Chadlington Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3043	15
Charlton-on-Otmoor Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3081	15
Chilton Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2555	45
Church Cowley St James Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3210	60

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Clanfield Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3100	15
Clifton Hampden Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3183	15
Combe Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3142	15
Crowmarsh Gifford Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3200	30
Cumnor Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3223	30
Dorchester St Birinus Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3186	15
Drayton Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2560	30
Dry Sandford Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2565	20
Ducklington Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3122	30
Dunmore Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3861	60
East Oxford Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2525	45
Edward Feild Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2590	45
Enstone Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2103	15

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Five Acres Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2200	60
Fringford Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3083	15
The Gateway Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2254	45
The Grange Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2058	45
Great Milton Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3187	30
Great Tew Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2104	15
Hailey Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3123	15
Harwell Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2563	30
Hook Norton Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3044	45
John Hampden Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2591	60
Kingham Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2106	30
King's Meadow Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2210	60
Langford Village Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2608	60
Launton Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3085	20

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Lewknor Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3184	15
Long Furlong Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2602	30
Longfields Primary School and Nursery	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2207	45
Longworth Undenominational Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3234	15
Marcham Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3235	30
Marsh Baldon Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3188	12
Mill Lane Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2465	30
Nettlebed Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2504	20
New Hinksey Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3213	15
North Kidlington Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2357	45
Orchard Fields Community School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2055	60
Peppard Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3205	15
Queensway School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2057	60
Radley Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3238	30
The Ridgeway Church of England Primary School, Childrey	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3231	14

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Royal Air Force Benson Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2450	45
Sonning Common Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2506	60
South Stoke Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2507	7
St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Chinnor	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3182	60
St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Oxford	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3211	30
St Blaise Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3260	30
St Kenelm's Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3125	20
St Leonard's Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3262	45
St Michael's Church of England Primary School, Steventon	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3241	30
St Nicholas' Primary School, Oxford	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2352	60
St Nicolas' Church of England Primary School, Abingdon	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3247	60
St Swithun's Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3258	60
Stanford-in-the-Vale Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3240	30
Stephen Freeman Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2594	60

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Stockham Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2583	30
Stonesfield Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2353	20
Sunningwell Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3242	15
Tetsworth Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2456	8
Thomas Reade Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2587	30
Trinity Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3254	45
Uffington Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3251	15
Valley Road School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2512	30
West Witney Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2601	60

Whitchurch Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2208	20
William Fletcher Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2354	30
Windmill Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2527	90
Wood Farm Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2589	60
Woodcote Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2510	30
Woodstock Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3145	60
Wychwood Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3257	45

Over-subscription Criteria for entry to the Reception year group in Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

In accordance with legal requirements children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school will be admitted to that school.

1. Children who are “looked after” (LAC) by a Local Authority within the meaning of Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of their application, and all “previously looked after” children (PLAC), including those who appear to this Admissions Authority to have been in state care outside England (IAPLAC) and ceased to be in state care having been adopted. Evidence of the previously looked after status and/or the adoption will be requested.

2. Children who live in the catchment area and have a brother or sister on roll at the time of application who will still be attending at the time of entry.

3. Children who live in the catchment area.

4. Children who have a brother or sister on roll at the time of application who will still be attending at the time of entry but live outside the catchment) area.

5. All other children who do not live in the catchment area and also do not have a brother or sister on roll at the time of application who will still be attending at the time of entry.

In categories 2 to 5 above, priority will be given to children who are eligible for Service Pupil Premium and then to children who live closest to the school by the straight-line distance as calculated by Oxfordshire County Council.

Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

Looked After Children

A 'looked after child' is a child who is:

- (a) in the care of a Local Authority; or
- (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions at the time of making an application to a school (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Previously looked after children

The School Admissions Code 2012 introduced a requirement for all admission authorities to broaden the existing priority for 'looked after children' or children in care (defined in section 22 of the Children Act 1989) to also include 'previously looked after' children. Children who were 'previously looked after' were defined for admissions purposes as those who immediately after being in care became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order.

A revised School Admissions Code came into force on 19 December 2014 and this states that previously looked children include those who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and not simply those children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). In addition, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders. Those who previously received a residence order are now deemed to have a child arrangement order.

If applying on behalf of a “previously looked after” child the parent will need to provide the following evidence:

- an adoption order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002; or
- an adoption order under the Adoption Act 1976; or
- a child arrangements order; or
- a residence order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989; or
- a special guardianship order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s), under section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

It is important that the evidence is provided since without it there is no basis for considering a child as being “Previously Looked After”. Therefore failing to provide the necessary evidence could have a significant impact on whether a place is offered at the school listed as the first preference.

Children previously in state care outside England

Guidance was issued by the school's minister in 2018 asking Admission Authorities to consider prioritising children who were previously in state care outside England. When reaching a decision whether to offer a place under Criterion 2, the Admissions Authority will use the guidance to determine whether a child should be considered under this Criterion, requesting evidence from the applicant and taking a pragmatic approach to the decision-making process where evidence is lacking.

Disabilities – the Equality Act 2010

A number of academies give a high priority for admission to disabled children who need to be admitted to a school on the grounds of physical accessibility. The definition of disability is that contained within the Equality Act 2010 which is available online at:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents

If a child has a disability as identified in the Act then the child's parent should provide details where permitted online or on paper. In addition, evidence of a child's disability must be submitted in writing by a medical professional.

An unsupported statement that a child is disabled and needs to be admitted to a school on the grounds of physical accessibility will not be accepted.

Catchment areas

Many, but not all schools have catchment areas which are part of the admission arrangements and help establish the priority for a school place. Our [schools search results](#) page has details of a school's location and catchment area, (where it has one).

Living within a particular school's catchment area, where it has one and where it uses this in its over-subscription criteria, gives a high priority for admission but there is no guarantee that a place will always be offered.

Please note that attending the catchment area school does not mean that the child concerned is entitled to free home to school transport (see Section 3).

Time of entry

The admission arrangements give some priority to those with a brother or sister attending the relevant school at the applicant's "time of entry". This means that, in the normal admissions round, there will be no sibling connection for admission purposes for entry to Reception year group if they have a brother or sister in Year 6.

Addresses

Home address

The address on the application should be the child's address at the time of application. This is the address at which the child spends the majority of term-time school nights (Sunday night to Thursday night).

The "time of application" is the entire time period from the point when applications can be made in November 2021 until National Offer Day on 16 April 2025.

Sometimes an application is made based on an address at the time the application is written and the address then changes after the application has been submitted. It is important to tell the Local Authority about changes of address so that places can be offered fairly and so notification can be sent by post to the correct home address.

If the application address is found to have subsequently changed after the application was submitted and this information could have been provided when the application was first made or before places were offered, the Local Authority will consider the application to have been made on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading address. This will normally result in the offer of a school place being withdrawn (see Fraudulent Applications).

If an application is made on the basis of a new address or intention to move to an area, proof of the new address must be provided in order for it to be taken into account.

Change of address

Changes of address which occur after 15 January 2025 can be taken into account if proof of this change is provided no later than 29 January 2025.

To confirm the new address we need one of the following:

- a solicitor's letter advising contracts have been exchanged (if the property is being purchased); or
- a copy of a tenancy agreement (if the property is to be rented) but if this tenancy agreement comes to an end before September 2022 we may not accept the address for admissions purposes; or
- a copy of the Council Tax Bill showing the same name(s) on the school place application (CAF); or
- a letter from a new employer (e.g. University college) where accommodation is being provided by them and is tied to the new post/job giving details of this new address; or
- new Quarter information if this is an accompanied military posting; or
- an Assignment Order if this is an accompanied military posting but details of the new quarter have not yet been given to the family. In this case the base address will be used for admissions purposes.

Please note that a parent may also be asked to provide proof of address from correspondence they have received from HM Revenue & Customs, Child Benefit Division or Tax Credits Division.

Any correspondence from HM Revenue & Customs, Child Benefit Division or Tax Credits Division must pre-date the application made by the parent.

Multiple addresses

Where children spend time with parents at more than one address then the address given on the form should be the one that they live at (i.e. sleep at) for the majority of term-time school nights (Sunday night to Thursday night).

If children spend time at more than one address the address used for admissions purposes will be the one registered and confirmed as the main address by the nursery/school. If it is not possible to establish the main address from the nursery/school records and the parents state that the child spends 50% of time with each parent, the parents will be asked to agree which address will be used as the main address for admissions and transport purposes or they will be required to have this determined legally via a Court Order.

Parents who are unable to agree on the schools to be listed as preferences

If agreement cannot be reached in a timely manner and this would risk no application being processed and the child being without a school place, the Local Authority will process the application from the parent with address registered and confirmed as the main address by the nursery/school. If it is not possible to establish the main address from the nursery/school records and the parents state that the child spends 50% of time with each parent, the parents will be asked to agree which address will be used as the main address for admissions purposes. If they cannot agree or a parent is unhappy with a decision made by the Local Authority their recourse would be to seek an order from the Court.

Fraudulent Applications

If a place has been obtained on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application (for example, a false claim to residence in a catchment area) and this results in the denial of a place to a child with a higher priority for that place, the Admission Authority for the school may withdraw the offer of that place. This follows the guidance in paragraphs 2.13 and 2.14 of the School Admissions Code 2021 published by the Department for Education:

2.13 An Admission Authority **must not** withdraw an offer unless it has been offered in error, a parent has not responded within a reasonable period of time, or it is established that the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application. Where the parent has not responded to the offer, the Admission Authority **must** give the parent a further opportunity to respond and explain that the offer may be withdrawn if they do not. Where an offer is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information, the application **must** be considered afresh, and a right of appeal offered if an offer is refused.

2.14 A school **must not** withdraw a place once a child has started at the school, except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In deciding whether to withdraw the place, the length of time that the child has been at the school **must** be taken into account. For example, it might be considered appropriate to withdraw the place if the child has been at the school for less than one term.

Measuring Home to School Distances for admissions purposes

For admissions purposes for all schools where Oxfordshire County Council is the Admissions Authority for the school, and any Own Admission Authority schools that have adopted the LA's measuring system, the route from home to school will be measured using a straight line.

The straight-line distance used to determine proximity of the home to the school will be measured on behalf of schools by the LA. The start point of the measurement will be the geographical placement of the address (address point using the Easting/Northing British Co-ordinate system) as available to Oxfordshire County Council from information compiled from Royal Mail and/or district or city councils. This placement is accurate to 10 centimetres. The end point of the measurement will be determined by the Admissions Authority of the school and provided to the LA. The calculation of the distance will be made in metres using a Pythagoras calculation. This calculation will be converted into miles by dividing the distance by 1609.344 to achieve a distance in miles accurate to three decimal places.

Measuring the shortest designated public access route

A number of schools still use the shortest designated public access route to measure home to school distances. The method to calculate distance in this way is set out below.

This route is defined on the LA's Geographic Information System.

The start point of a measurement is the "seed point" of the home address. The "seed point" is provided by Ordnance Survey from information compiled from Royal Mail and/or district or city councils. The seed point normally falls within the bounds of a property. The accuracy of

seed points is to the nearest ten centimetres. It is possible to move the location of an individual seed point, but this is not necessary for most addresses. It is not possible to verify the individual location of every seed point prior to measuring due to the number of addresses in Oxfordshire and surrounding areas.

From the seed point the route firstly connects to the nearest point of the digitised network. The positioning of front doors, driveways and back gates is not relevant to the route or the measurement and they are not programmed to be used by the measuring system.

The digitised network is constructed from road data supplied by Ordnance Survey called the Integrated Transport Network (ITN). The Integrated Transport Network has been accurately digitised to measure along the centre of roads and takes corners at right angles. This is the same underlying information as used by internet-based mapping solutions (e.g. Google Maps). However, the LA has a more accurate start **point than internet-based mapping solutions and the ITN has been augmented by the LA** to take into account other available public routes (e.g. alleyways, public footpaths, bridleways, etc). The augmented ITN used by the LA is accurate to at least 1 metre.

All 548,000 kilometres of roads in Great Britain are accurately mapped in a consistent and logical network. The network does not include routes that are not defined as public; these include crossing parks with no paths where the park is not open and available all the time, “short-cuts” across patches of open land without paths, or footpaths across private land which are not defined by Ordnance Survey as public routes.

The end point of the route is the nearest open gate of the school first arrived at from the direction of travel from the seed point that is officially available for use by students for entry and exit to the school site at the start and end of the school day. The location of these gates has been set by the LA. The LA consults with each individual school annually to ensure accurate placement of the gate and its availability for use.

The shortest designated route is established using an algorithm within the bespoke software used by the LA. This software is called RouteFinder and is produced by Higher Mapping Solutions (www.highermappingsolutions.com). This programme integrates with the LA's database (ONE) which is supplied by Capita Children's Services (www.capita-cs.co.uk).

RouteFinder measures in kilometres and the measurement is converted into miles accurate to three decimal places, which gives an accurate reading up to 1.609344 metres.

The shortest designated route is not necessarily a driving route because it may use, in whole or in part, a non-driveable route (e.g. footpaths). The shortest designated route is also not necessarily a walking route because, for example, where the measurement uses a road, the route is along the centre of the road not along the edge (pavement or equivalent) of the road.

Other measuring systems may give a different measurement but the LA cannot take a measurement from another measuring system into account because this would lead to inconsistency in the method used to measure the shortest designated route and would constitute maladministration of the admissions process.

For addresses which are outside the digitised network (approximately 6 miles outside Oxfordshire's county boundary) an internet mapping solution will be used. For addresses in the UK and Europe, we use Google Maps (www.google.co.uk) which allows measuring by

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shortest routes when set to 'walking' mode. For addresses outside Europe we measure a straight line distance using longitude and latitude. Firstly, we derive a start point (the home address) using itouchmap.com/latlong.html. We then measure the straight line distance in statute miles from this start point to the end point (the school gate) using www.nhc.noaa.gov/gccalc.shtml.

A small number of 'Own Admissions Authority' schools measure using a straight-line distance from home to school. The LA also calculates these distances for those particular schools.

Measuring Home to School Distances for transport purposes

The shortest safe route is defined on the LA's Geographic Information System.

This is measured using the same software and the same algorithm as for the shortest designated route (see above). However, in this mode of calculation, certain parts of the network of roads and/or paths have been specified as unsafe and the route will use an alternative direction which will be longer. This longer distance will be used to determine whether a child is eligible for free home to school transport.

Own Admission Authority (OAA) schools in Oxfordshire

Own Admission Authority (OAA) schools are responsible for consulting on and determining their own admissions rules and over-subscription criteria in compliance with the 2021 School Admissions Code. These schools are listed in the table below and their admissions rules and over-subscription criteria will be available online.

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Abbey Woods Academy	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2007	30
All Saints Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3859	60
Appleton Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3850	28
Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3851	15
Aureus Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2011	60
Badgemore Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2513	30
Bampton Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3131	30
Barton Park Primary School	https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2034	30
The Batt Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3605	30
Bayards Hill Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2015	30
Beckley Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3256	20

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Benson Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3181	45
Bishop Carpenter Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3302	16
Bishop Loveday Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3351	60
The Blake Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3600	60
Bletchington Parochial Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3141	15
Blewbury Endowed Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2031	25
Botley School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2032	30
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3221	30
Brize Norton Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2250	20
Buckland Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3222	15
Burford Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2251	20
Carterton Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2252	45

Chalgrove Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2452	30
Charlbury Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2100	30
Charlton Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2573	60
Checkendon Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3801	15
Cherry Fields Primary School	https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2036	30
Chesterton Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3082	30
Cholsey Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2596	60
Christopher Rawlins Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3453	30
Cropredy Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3000	30
Cuttislowe Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2004	45
Dashwood Banbury Academy	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2003	60
Deddington Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3452	30
Didcot Primary Academy	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2012	60
Dr Radcliffe's Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3828	30

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Dr South's Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3655	15
Edith Moorhouse Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2255	45
The Elms Primary School	https://faringdonlearningtrust.org/	30
Europa School UK	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/4002	90
Ewelme Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3752	13
Eynsham Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2013	60
Finmere Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3090	7
Finstock Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3040	15
Folly Primary School	https://faringdonlearningtrust.org/	60
Freeland Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3208	22
Fritwell Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3065	30
Gagle Brook Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2014	30
Garsington Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3167	30
Glory Farm School (Bicester Learning Academy)	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2211	60
Goring Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3803	30

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Great Rollright Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3408	15
Grove Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3228	30
Hagbourne Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3249	30
Hanborough Manor Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3147	45
Hanwell Fields Community School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3837	60
Hardwick Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2060	30
Harriers Banbury Academy	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2053	60
The Hendreds Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3250	18
Heyford Park School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/4018	60
Hill View Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2056	60
Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3420	30
Hornton Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2001	15
Horspath Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3161	20

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
John Blandy Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3230	45
John Henry Newman Academy	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2000	60
Kidmore End Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3807	30
Kirtlington Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3500	15
Ladygrove Park Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2609	60
Larkrise Primary School	https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/list/2027	60
Leafield Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3124	15
Little Milton Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3755	14
Longcot & Fernham Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3232	20
Longford Park Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2017	30
Long Wittenham Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3233	15
Madley Brook Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2002	30
Manor School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2597	30
Middle Barton Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2151	15

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Millbrook Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2016	60
New Marston Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2020	30
North Hinksey Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3237	30
North Leigh Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3128	30
Northbourne Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3852	45
Orchard Meadow Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2024	30
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, Witney	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3822	30

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Oxford	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3836	45
Pegasus Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2593	60
Queen Emma's Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2304	45
Rose Hill Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2023	30
Rush Common School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2574	60
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Henley-on-Thames	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3820	30

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
St Aloysius' Catholic Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3842	30
St Amand's Catholic Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3855	28
St Barnabas' Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3832	30
St Christopher's Church of England Primary School, Cowley, Oxford	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2010	60
St Christopher's Church of England Primary School, Langford, Lechlade	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3555	22
St Ebbe's Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3833	30
St Edburg's Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3505	90
St Edmund's Catholic Primary School and Foundation Stage Unit, Abingdon	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3856	30
St Francis' Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3253	30
St Frideswide Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2037	60
St James' Church of England Primary School, East Hanney	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3225	30

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
St John the Evangelist Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2613	60
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3839	30
St John's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3350	30
St John's Primary School, Wallingford	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2567	30
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3825	30
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3556	30
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3838	60
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3826	30
St Laurence Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3760	15
St Mary & St John Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3834	60
St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Banbury	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3022	30
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bicester	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3824	45

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Chipping Norton	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3858	45
St Mary's Church of England Infant School, Witney	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3207	30
St Michael's Church of England Primary School, Oxford	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3216	30
St Nicholas' Church of England Infants' School and Foundation Stage Unit, Wallingford	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3244	60
St Nicholas' Church of England Primary School, East Challow	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3224	15
St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Cassington	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3651	15
St Peter's Primary School, Alvescot	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3550	14
St Philip & St James' Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3835	60
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3823	30
Sandhills Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2022	30
Shellingford Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3853	15
Shenington Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/5200	15

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Shiplake Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3810	28
Shrivenham Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3239	45
Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3005	15
South Moreton School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2566	25
Southwold Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2607	45
Stadhampton Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2455	15
Standlake Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3127	24
Stanton Harcourt Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3130	15
Stoke Row Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3206	15
Sutton Courtenay Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3243	30
Tackley Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3144	15
Thameside Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2598	30
Tower Hill School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2303	30
Tyndale Community School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2008	60
Wantage Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3246	60
Wantage Primary Academy	https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2033	60

Apply online at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

School	More details online including how places have been offered and catchment area map	Published Admission Number
Watchfield Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2572	45
Watlington Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2459	30
West Kidlington Primary School and Nursery	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2021	30
Wheatley Church of England Primary School Academy	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2009	60
William Morris Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2019	30
Willowcroft Community School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3912	60
Windale Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2025	30
Windrush Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/list/2038	30
Witney Community Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2302	30
Wolvercote Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/2534	45
Wootton St Peter's Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3854	16
Wroxton Church of England Primary School	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/school/3004	15

Section 3 – Travel to School

Home to School Travel and Transport Policy 2025/26 onwards for Reception to Year 11

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Parents have a legal duty to make necessary arrangements to ensure that their statutory aged children attend school regularly. The council is only required to provide free school travel to children resident within the administrative area of Oxfordshire County Council who are eligible under the law and this policy. If children move to an address outside the administrative area of Oxfordshire County Council, the responsibility for determining and, where appropriate, providing free or assisted travel passes to the child's new home authority.
- 1.2 The legal basis for the provision of home to school transport is set out in sections 508A, 508B, 508C, 508D and 509AD and Schedule 35B of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by Part 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) and, where appropriate, the Equality Act and English and European case law. In addition, local authorities are under a statutory duty to have regard to the statutory guidance "Travel to school for children of compulsory school age" issued by the Department for Education (DfE) in January 2024 and the statutory guidance "Post 16 transport and travel support to education and training" issued in January 2019.
- 1.3 Oxfordshire County Council is keen to encourage young people to walk or cycle to the school or college they attend, or to make use of public transport.
- 1.4 Those who are not resident in Oxfordshire are advised to contact their own home local authority for details of any policy that their local authority may have regarding home to school/college transport.
- 1.5 Free and subsidised transport **is not provided to children of pre-school age** who attend nurseries or other Early Years settings, irrespective of whether they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Travel to nursery/early years settings is the responsibility of a child's parent. This is the case both for children who have an EHCP and those who do not have a such a plan.
- 1.6 There is no legal right of appeal should a parent believe the policy regarding free travel to nursery/early years settings should be set aside in the case of their child or any other child.
- 1.7 Normally eligibility for free travel will be determined at the time that a school place is allocated through:
 - Oxfordshire County Council's Coordinated Admissions Scheme for entry at the normal points of admission; and/or,
 - the issuing of an Education, Health and Care Plan; and/or,
 - the operation of the Fair Access Protocol; and/or,
 - the In-Year Coordinated Admissions Scheme.

In addition, the School Admissions Team determines whether free transport should be provided for a temporary or permanent placement funded by the council at an alternative education centre, such as Meadowbrook College.

- 1.8 Parents applying for places in-year at schools that are not part of the in-year coordinated admissions scheme for Oxfordshire need to check the Home to School Travel and Transport Policy to see whether their children may be eligible for free transport. At that point, if they believe their children are eligible, they need to apply directly to the School Admissions Team. The School Admissions Team will then determine whether free travel should be provided. The schools that are not part of the In-Year Coordinated Admissions Scheme are listed online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schooltransfer
- 1.9 Having an Education, Health and Care Plan does not give an automatic entitlement to travel assistance, free or subsidised. Therefore, if a school has been named in an Education, Health and Care Plan in accordance with parental preference and it is not the nearest suitable school, and there is no other basis in the Home to School Travel and Transport Policy for agreeing free travel, there is no obligation on the council to provide free or subsidised travel. In these circumstances transport to school is wholly a parent's responsibility.
- 1.10 When, under the Home to School Travel and Transport Policy, children and young people are entitled to free travel it is provided by the most cost-effective means. This will usually be by the provision of a free bus pass. However, where numbers are small, children may sometimes have to be transported by taxi. If parents wish to take their children to school and it is therefore possible to avoid the provision of a taxi, the council may agree to the payment of a mileage allowance. The mileage allowance is provided for the child's journey to school and the return to the child's home. Parents are not provided with a mileage allowance for their own return to home in the morning or their journey to the school in the afternoon, i.e., the council pays a mileage allowance for two journeys per day rather than four. The mileage allowance is £0.40 per mile. If, through a change in circumstance, the payment of the mileage allowance proves no longer to be the cheapest means of transporting the child to school, the alternative means of travel will be offered, and the parent will be given up to 6 weeks to consider the new arrangement. At the end of that period, or when the alternative means of transport is taken up, whichever is the sooner, the mileage allowance will be withdrawn.
- 1.11 Where free travel is provided or a seat is purchased through the Spare Seat Scheme, travel is provided for attendance at the beginning and end of the school day only and not for extracurricular activities. This applies both to children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan and those who do not have such a plan.
- 1.12 Free or subsidised travel is not provided for children attending induction, taster or transitional days or sessions before joining the school/establishment.
- 1.13 If free or subsidised travel is provided to an educational establishment there is no free or subsidised travel between sites at that educational establishment or from that educational establishment to any other educational provider/providers.

- 1.14 The responsibility for determining entitlement to free travel rests with the School Admissions Team since transport decisions relate to the school attended. The responsibility for organising transport rests with the Supported Transport Team.
- 1.15 Any information regarding Oxfordshire County Council's Home to School Travel and Transport Policy obtained from any source other than the School Admissions Team of Oxfordshire County Council or the Oxfordshire public website should be disregarded.
- 1.16 Buses and coaches used on contracted home to school transport routes are public service vehicles and are subject to specific safety legislation. This is enforced by an initial inspection and certification of the vehicle followed by subsequent annual checks. Vehicles are also subject to random roadside checks undertaken by the 'Vehicle and Operator Service Agency' (VOSA). VOSA may prohibit the use of any vehicle that is non-compliant, i.e., is in a dangerous condition, not roadworthy and/or the driver's hours are irregular. Any service provider using sub-standard vehicles may lose their operator's license.
- 1.17 No free transport is provided to address poor attendance or non-attendance unless this is attributable to permanent or temporary medical/disability/mobility issues that mean a child cannot walk to the nearest available school. This applies both to children who do not have an Education, Health and Care Plan and those do have such a plan.
- 1.18 If free travel is agreed, children and young people will normally be expected to use public transport (ordinary scheduled bus or train services) or, if this is unavailable, contracted transport such as a coach or minibus. Up until the end of Year 5 children of primary school age who receive free travel to school by public transport will normally be expected to travel with a parent and the parent as well as the child will be eligible for a free bus pass. However, in normal circumstances once a child is of Year 6 age and above only the child will receive free travel. Parents will not normally be able to accompany their children on contracted home to school transport routes.
- 1.19 Taxis will only be used where there:
- is no public transport; or,
 - it would be too onerous to use public transport due to multiple changes of bus; or,
 - it can be demonstrated that a young person is unable to travel on public transport or a contracted coach/minibus because of specific permanent or temporary disabilities/special needs; or,
 - the journey would take longer than 1 hour 15 minutes for secondary school age pupils, or 45 minutes for primary school age pupils, and it would be a significantly shorter journey time by taxi.
- 1.20 There are circumstances in which a young person will travel alone in a taxi. However, this is normally when there are no other travellers to be carried rather than because there is an actual requirement for the child to travel alone.

- 1.21 Specialised tail-lift vehicles will only be agreed after an assessment by the Supported Transport Service or following a successful Stage 1 or Stage 2 appeal.
- 1.22 Lone taxi travel will also only be agreed after an assessment by the Supported Transport Team or following a successful Stage 1 or Stage 2 appeal. Assessments will be made by specialist officers within the Supported Transport Team.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of the Parent

- 2.1 Parents should ensure that a child of statutory school age receives appropriate full-time education. In all, except a small number of cases, this involves attending a school.
- 2.2 Parents are responsible for making any necessary arrangements for attendance at an appropriate school or other setting, including submitting timely applications for admission.
- 2.3 Regarding travel to school, parents are expected to:
 - accompany their child as necessary when walking to and from school; and/or,
 - accompany their child as necessary when walking to and from a pick-up point for transport to school and waiting with their child until the vehicle arrives; and/or,
 - ensure that their child has any travel pass that has been issued before their child leaves home; and/or,
 - ensure that their child knows what to do if they lose their travel pass and are refused travel, or if for any reason the vehicle does not arrive, for example, this could be return home, go to a neighbour or telephone the parent for assistance; and/or,
 - provide evidence of personal circumstances in support of any appeal for free transport; and/or,
 - submit any Stage 1 or Stage 2 appeal; and/or,
 - inform the School Admissions Team of any change of address or school and return any pass issued because of living at a previous address; and/or,
 - inform the council of any change in financial circumstances that may affect entitlement under the extended rights arrangements set out in the Home to School Travel and Transport Policy.
- 2.4 Parents have a right to express a preference for their child's admission to a specific school or schools. However, this right is solely concerned with admission to school and there is no eligibility for free transport based upon parental preference of school. Therefore, if a child is not eligible for free travel, the parent concerned is wholly responsible for getting their child to that school.

- 2.5 Similarly, parents who transfer their child to an alternative school for any reason will not be able to claim eligibility for free travel unless the child concerned meets the eligibility criteria shown in this document, for example free transport will not be provided on the basis that a parent believes a child to be unhappy at their original school.

3. Statutory Walking Distance

- 3.1 In understanding home to school transport and what can and cannot be provided free of charge, it is important to understand what is referred to as “the statutory walking distance.” This is 2 miles for children who are under 8 years of age, and 3 miles for those of statutory school age who are aged 8 and over. It is measured along the shortest route along which a child, accompanied by a responsible adult, may walk with reasonable safety. The route may include footpaths, bridleways, and other pathways, as well as recognised roads. All such routes need to be open to the public. Even where the distance is calculated to have been longer than the statutory walking distance it will still be measured using this method. If issues are raised over the possible safety of a walking route the School Admissions Team will arrange for an initial assessment and, if necessary, a full assessment by a member of the Road Safety Team.

4. Walking Routes to School

- 4.1 The council expects that, where necessary, a child will be accompanied to school by a responsible person, such as a parent or other adult. This is a well-established legal point regarding the responsibilities of a parent and means that any assessment of route safety assumes that a child will be accompanied as necessary by a parent or other adult.
- 4.2 It is also well-established in law that the shortest publicly accessible route may include:
- footpaths;
 - shared footpath/cycle tracks;
 - bridleways and other pathways;
 - recognised roads;
 - paths along trunk roads;
 - footpaths along which there is a permissive right of way.

It is important to note that there is no requirement for a route to be maintained by Oxfordshire County Council or by another public body. It simply needs to be available for public use.

- 4.3 If a parent is concerned that a child needs to be accompanied for safety reasons, but the route has been judged by the council to be safe, it is the responsibility of that parent to ensure that the child is accompanied on the route to and from school. Parental perception of risk is not sufficient cause for

the provision of free or subsidised travel.

- 4.4 Route Assessments are carried out by a member of the Traffic and Road Safety Team, in accordance with Oxfordshire County Council's Home to School Travel and Transport Policy, the guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE) in 2014 and the Road Safety manual 'Assessment of Walked Routes to School' which is issued by Road Safety GB.
- 4.5 In accordance with the law, all routes are assessed with the assumption that pupils are accompanied as necessary by a responsible person (see paragraphs 2.3 and 4.1 above). Routes are not classed as unavailable solely due to any or all of the following factors:
- lonely routes; and/or,
 - routes that pass close to canals, rivers, ditches, lakes or ponds; and/or,
 - routes that require railway crossings if a suitable authorised crossing is present; and/or,
 - the absence of street lighting.
- 4.6 It is clear from relevant case law that assessments must look at the relationship between pedestrians and traffic only and that personal safety/security issues of children travelling alone should not be considered. Therefore, routes are assessed in terms of road safety rather than personal safety/security in any other sense.
- 4.7 The assessment carried out is a road safety assessment. This assessment does not include the weight of the bags carried by an individual, the local weather conditions, temporary surface conditions such as mud or puddles, the presence of uncut hedges, difficult terrain and the arduousness of the route or whether the accompanying responsible adult will also have a younger child or pram with them.
- 4.8 If a footway is over ½ metre in width the footway is classed as an available route.
- 4.9 If a footway is less than ½ metre in width, then traffic volumes and speeds are included in the assessment to determine whether the footway is an available route.
- 4.10 Even if there is not a footway, the walking route will still be assessed as available if it is safe to walk, accompanied, as necessary, by a responsible adult. The assessment will take account of traffic flows and whether drivers have enough time to slow down, or pedestrians have time to step-off the road or verge. It is the responsibility of a parent to ensure that a child is accompanied as necessary on the walking journey to school.
- 4.11 No walking route can be absolutely safe. The term used in the Road Safety GB guidance to describe the accepted standard is "reasonable safety."
- 4.12 Assessments will usually take place in the morning during the times children

will be travelling to school and assessments may also be undertaken when returning home in the afternoon. Visits will be timed, where possible, so that crossing assessments of main roads take place at the times when the number of children travelling to school is highest.

5. Children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to their special educational needs or disability (SEND)

- 5.1 Children who cannot walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to their special educational needs or disability (SEND), will not automatically be refused free travel on the basis that they live within the statutory walking distance of the school attended, if that school is the nearest that they could attend.
- 5.2 Parents who believe their child is unable to walk to the nearest school that they could attend because of mobility problems or associated health and safety issues will be expected to provide supporting evidence from a GP or consultant. In the case of a child with an EHCP, the Plan may provide all the information required.
- 5.3 **Free transport will not be agreed to any school irrespective of distance, journey time or number of other suitable schools that are closer to the family home. Free travel will only be provided to the nearest suitable school.**
- 5.4 The Supported Transport Team may need to assess the mobility problems, or associated health and safety issues, related to a student's special educational needs or disability (SEND) to determine the type of free travel that can be made available to that student.

6. Children with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP)

- 6.1 The Children and Families Act received the Royal Assent in March 2014, and this resulted in the gradual replacement of Statements of Special Educational Need with Education, Health and Care Plans.
- 6.2 Having an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) does not give automatic eligibility for free or subsidised travel. Therefore, if a school has been named in a Plan in accordance with parental preference, and there is a nearer suitable and available school, and there is no other basis in the Home to School Travel and Transport Policy for agreeing free travel, transport to the named school will be wholly the responsibility of that child's parent.
- 6.3 Some children with EHCPs may have specific needs that require the use of specialist transport that is not widely available. If a specialist vehicle is not required, it may still be necessary to use more expensive transport provision,

such as taxi transport, to meet the specific needs of the children concerned. However, in all cases, the council will provide the most cost-effective means of travel that will meet a child's need.

- 6.4 Parents of children with EHCPs may, in certain circumstances, be given the option of a personal budget to meet some or all of the provision detailed in the Plan and special transport will be an element of the personal budget.
- 6.5 Whether there is a requirement to assist in meeting a child's travel needs will be considered when an EHCP is issued or amended. Liaison will take place between the School Admissions and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Services to ensure the needs of the child are fully understood, as they relate to travel arrangements.

7. Assessments regarding travel arrangements

- 7.1 If free travel is agreed, an assessment regarding a child's mode of travel will be made by the Supported Transport Service. This will normally only be necessary for children with significant disabilities/special needs. In most cases the child will have an EHCP. Options will include:
 - direct travel payments; or,
 - independent travel; or,
 - directly procured travel assistance.
- 7.2 A parent will be formally notified, in writing, of the travel arrangements that the council believes to be appropriate. At that point, the parent may appeal against the mode of transport decided upon through the normal transport appeal process set out in this document. The first stage of this process is to request a review from the Admissions and Transport Services Manager. Prior to any appeal the council will only make available the transport decided upon in the assessment. The result of any transport appeal is binding on the council.

8. Children in Public Care (Looked After Children)

- 8.1 Children in Public Care (Looked After Children) and children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or a Special Guardianship Order) receive free travel to school if they meet the criteria set out in the Home to School Travel and Transport Policy. If a child is not entitled to free travel, it is the carer's responsibility to ensure that he/she will be able to get the child to and from school.
- 8.2 If the professionals working with the child believe that there are extenuating circumstances that should be considered, the child's social worker may refer the issue to the Admissions and Transport Services Manager for a Stage 1 review.

9. Split site schools

9.1 In the case of split site schools, as with all other schools, when assessing whether a child should receive free travel because of the walking distance to that school, the distance will be measured to the site they initially attend. This decision will not be reviewed because a child subsequently moves to a different site of the same school.

9.2 The following Oxfordshire secondary schools currently have split sites:

- The Cherwell School;
- King Alfred's Academy;
- Lord Williams's School;
- Heyford Park School.

10. Distance measurement for Free Transport for children of Low-Income Families

10.1 The 2 mile limit is measured in the same way as the "statutory walking distance". However, the 6 mile and 15 mile upper limits are not walking routes. The 6 mile and 15 mile limits are measured along routes that are passable using a road route suitable for motorised vehicles.

11. Home

11.1 In this policy document a child's home is defined as the child's main place of residence during the normal school week. Free travel can only be provided to and from that one address.

11.2 There is no use of notional addresses based on the midpoint between a mother's address and a father's address or addresses of convenience such as the address of a grandparent, cousin, family friend or legal representative.

11.3 Where children spend time with parents at more than one address then the address considered as the main address will be the one that they live at (i.e., sleep at) for most of term-time school nights (Sunday night to Thursday night). If children spend time at more than one address the address used for admissions purposes will be the one registered and confirmed as the main address by the nursery/school. If it is not possible to establish the main address from the nursery/school records and the parents state that the child spends 50% of time with each parent, the parents will be asked to agree which address will be used as the main address for admissions and transport purposes or they will be required to have this determined legally via a Court Order.

11.4 Free travel is not provided to and from the address of other family members

with whom the child is not normally/mainly resident, for example the address of a grandparent or childminder.

12. Travel to a friend's home, Induction/Taster Day, Breakfast/After School Clubs, Work Experience and Foreign Exchange Programmes

12.1 No free travel can be provided on an ad hoc basis to children wishing to travel to the homes of children who are entitled to free transport. In addition, no free transport will be provided to:

- attend work experience; or,
- attend an induction or taster day at another school/college; or,
- attend a school as part of a foreign exchange programme; or,
- attend appointments and activities for medical or sports reasons; or,
- attend breakfast or after-school clubs; or,
- attend extracurricular activities/clubs; or,
- attend school trips.

12.2 Paragraph 12.1 applies both to children who do not have an EHCP and those who do have such a plan.

13. Escorts

13.1 Escorts are normally only provided when it has been established through the "Mode of Travel Assessment" or appeals process that a child with an EHCP has a specific need to be accompanied. Escorts are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and undertake Safeguarding training. Escorts will not normally be provided in any other circumstances.

13.2 Examples of factors that may be considered when determining whether to provide an escort are shown below:

- medical issues; and/or,
- health and safety related issues, including risk to self or others; and/or
- the child's mobility; and/or
- severe learning or physical difficulties that necessitate continual care and supervision.

13.3 If a passenger escort is provided, they will:

- travel with the child from an agreed pick-up point to an agreed drop-off point; and,
- assist with entry to, and exit from, the vehicle; and,
- ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, a safe journey for the child and other passengers; and,

- provide a caring environment whilst on the vehicle.

- 13.4 Once transport with an escort has been arranged, parents must provide full details of any changes in the child's needs and circumstances, including any information specific to the journey or which should be passed on to others at the destination.
- 13.5 A passenger escort may supervise more than one child on a journey, consistent with providing the appropriate level of service for each individual child while they are on the vehicle.
- 13.6 It is a parental responsibility to get a child to the pick-up and from the drop-off point for education transport. Therefore, parents must be ready at the arranged pick up and drop off times to ensure the child's safe handover.
- 13.7 Escorts are not assigned for the specific purpose of managing behaviour. An acceptable standard of behaviour is expected of all children using transport contracted by the council.
- 13.8 The need for an escort is reviewed on an annual basis.

14. Drivers

- 14.1 Drivers used on contracted transport for home to school travel are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and they undertake Safeguarding training.

15. Parents accompanying children in OCC transport

- 15.1 Parents will not normally be able to travel in OCC provided transport.

16. Change of address

- 16.1 If a child is in receipt of free travel and the family changes address the child's parent needs inform the School Admissions Team. The child's eligibility for free travel will then be reassessed against the Home to School Travel and Transport Policy. The parent will then be notified in writing if the child is still eligible for free travel.

17. "No Pass, No Travel"

- 17.1 All passengers are required to carry a pass if one has been issued to them. This establishes whether they may be carried on the vehicle, either under a statutory entitlement, a discretionary entitlement or under the Spare Seat

Scheme.

- 17.2 Oxfordshire County Council operates a “No Pass, No Travel” Policy for the safety of its passengers and to restrict access to vehicles to passengers who are not eligible. By limiting access to vehicles, the council seeks to avoid situations where eligible passengers cannot board because their seats are occupied by non-eligible passengers. A full vehicle cannot safely carry additional passengers.
- 17.3 Children may not board a public service vehicle without a pass or the means to pay for the journey. “No Pass, No Travel” takes the same approach with contracted vehicles.
- 17.4 A child who is unable to present a pass when requested to do so by the vehicle driver or council officer will not normally be carried on the vehicle.
- 17.5 It is a parent’s responsibility to ensure that their children have a pass each morning to get on the vehicle to school or college. If not, the parent may have to return home with the child or make other arrangements to get them to school.
- 17.6 If a child loses the pass during the school day, he or she can approach the school to arrange for a temporary pass to get home. No child eligible for free travel will be refused access for the return journey. A child who has been issued with a pass and persistently travels without it may be banned from travelling on the vehicle.

18. Offer of free transport made in error

- 18.1 If free transport is offered in error, because of a mistake made by the council, the free travel will be withdrawn after a notice period of not less than 6 weeks.
- 18.2 If free transport is offered in error because of false or inaccurate information provided by the parent, the transport may be withdrawn immediately.

19. Assessment of eligibility for free transport on admission to mainstream school, special school and alternative education providers

- 19.1 An assessment of eligibility for free travel is made by the School Admissions Team as part of the normal admissions process for entry to mainstream schools. Parents are normally notified of the decision in the letter offering a school place.
- 19.2 If a child ceases to be eligible during the school term, for example due to moving address, the provision will be discontinued at the end of that term.
- 19.3 In the case of children who do not have an EHCP, and whose parents make

in-year applications to mainstream schools that are not part of the Oxfordshire In-Year Scheme, eligibility will be assessed when the parent concerned contacts the School Admissions Team to request an assessment. Appendix 1 lists the mainstream schools in Oxfordshire that are currently not part of the In-Year Scheme. This list may change in the future since currently admission authorities do not have to be part of the In-Year Scheme. An up-to-date list will be available online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/transferring-or-moving-school/before-you-start

- 19.4 The School Admissions Team also determines eligibility for free travel to alternative education providers and eligibility for free travel for those students with an EHCP.

20. **Free transport for those of school age (Reception to Year 11)**

20.1 Children within the following categories are eligible for free travel:

- a. Children attending the nearest available school or educational placement to their address, if the distance from home to school is over the “statutory walking distance” of 3 miles if aged 8 or over or 2 miles if less than aged 8 and of school age. This applies whether the school was listed on the Common Admissions Form (CAF) or not and whether the child concerned does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- b. Children attending the nearest school in Oxfordshire, if the distance from home to school is over the “statutory walking distance” of 3 miles if aged 8 or over or 2 miles if less than aged 8 and of school age. This applies whether or not the school was listed on the Common Admissions Form (CAF) and whether the child concerned does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- c. Children attending the nearest available school to their address even if it is less than the statutory walking distance, if it would not be safe for a child accompanied by an adult to walk from the home to the school. This applies whether a child does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan. If the route is subsequently determined to be safe to walk the parent will be given up to 6 weeks’ notice of the withdrawal of free transport. At the end of that period, free transport will be discontinued.
- d. Where at least 20% of addresses are nearest to the catchment area school and the rest are nearest to another school, free transport will be provided to the catchment school for all addresses if the distance is beyond the “statutory walking distance” or there is no safe walking route. This is referred to as the ‘split village’ entitlement. This additional entitlement applies to all children of the relevant age for the schools concerned and applies whether a child does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan. The villages affected are listed in Appendix 2.

- e. Children who are aged 8 or over and are under 11 years old who are eligible for free school meals, or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit and attend the nearest school if it is over 2 miles from their home. This entitlement applies to all children of the relevant age for the schools concerned and applies whether a child does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- f. Children aged 11 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit and who attend one of their three nearest suitable schools (or places other than school at which they might receive education under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996), where they live more than 2 but not more than 6 miles from that school. The 2 mile distance is measured by “walking route” and the 6 mile distance is measured by road route. This entitlement applies to all children of the relevant age for the schools concerned and applies whether a child does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- g. Children aged 11 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals, or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, and want their child to be educated in accordance with their religion or belief and they attend the nearest suitable school preferred on grounds of religion or belief that is over 2 miles but no more than 15 miles from their home. The 2 mile distance is measured by “walking route” and the 15 mile distance is measured by road route. This entitlement applies to all children of the relevant age for the schools concerned and applies whether a child does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- h. Children entitled to free transport, who move house during Year 11 and continue to attend their original school, subject to the following limits:
 - transport can be provided other than by taxi; and
 - the distance travelled is no more than 15 miles.This applies whether a child does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- i. Children who cannot walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to their special educational needs (SEND) or disability if the school they attend is the nearest suitable and available school that they could attend. In the case of a child with an Education Health and Care Plan, the Plan may provide all the information required.
- j. Children who attend their nearest suitable and available school and are temporarily unable to walk to school because of a short-term illness or medical condition. Evidence of the medical condition and its effects is required from a GP or consultant. This applies whether a child does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

- k. Children who live at RAF Benson and attend Icknield Community College (annually reviewable). This applies whether a child does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

21. Free Travel to Alternative Education Providers

- 21.1 The School Admissions Team will determine whether free travel will be provided to children and young people who have been placed at an alternative education provider by the council. A short-term, full-time placement at an alternative education provider would normally follow a permanent exclusion from a mainstream school and some children may receive a long-term, full-time placement at an alternative provider. In addition, some children attend council-funded days at an alternative education provider and others attend a mix of council- and school-funded days at an alternative education provider.
- 21.2 Currently the main provider of alternative education for Oxfordshire County Council is Meadowbrook College which is an academy and independent of local authority control. This determination will be made on the same basis as attendance at a mainstream school and the relevant criteria are shown in 20.1 of this policy (above). No free travel will be provided to school funded days at an alternative education provider.
- 21.3 Therefore, after a permanent exclusion from school, a young person allocated a council-funded, short-term place at Meadowbrook College (or a similar establishment) will receive free travel if that young person:
- lives over the statutory walking distance from the institution attended; or,
 - lives under the statutory walking distance from the institution but the route is unsafe to walk, even if accompanied by an adult; or,
 - meets the eligibility criteria related to family income.
- 21.4 Free travel to both short and long-term places will be provided by the most cost-effective means.
- 21.5 If a young person is allocated a mix of council-funded days and school-funded days at Meadowbrook College (or similar establishment), the criteria for provision of free transport will be applied and, if there is a right to free travel on the council-funded days, the transport costs for those days will be met by the council. Any transport costs on school-funded days will be the responsibility of the school/family. Therefore, if a young person has two council-funded days (and meets the criteria for free transport) and two school-funded days at Meadowbrook College (or similar establishment), 50% of the travel cost will be met by the Local Authority and 50% will be met by the school or family. Travel funded by the council will be provided by the most cost-effective means.
- 21.6 If a young person allocated a short-term or long-term council-funded place at Meadowbrook College (or a similar establishment) does not meet any of the criteria for provision of free transport, their parent will have the right of appeal. The transport appeal process is set out in this policy document.

- 21.7 Students attending an alternative education provider should have the same start and finish times and, if free home to school travel is agreed, it will only be provided at the beginning and end of the school day.
- 21.8 No free transport will be provided at council expense to address poor attendance or non-attendance at the alternative education provider.
- 21.9 If free travel is agreed, the “default” position will be that students will be expected to use public transport (service bus or rail). Taxis will not normally be provided within urban and rural areas served by service bus or rail routes.
- 21.10 Taxis will only be used:
- if there is no public or contracted bus or minibus transport; or,
 - it would be too onerous to use public transport because of multiple changes of bus; or,
 - the journey would take longer than 1 hour 15 minutes for secondary age pupils, or 45 minutes if of primary school age, and it would be a significantly shorter journey time by taxi.
- 21.11 Most students within Oxford will not be eligible for free travel to Meadowbrook College given the relatively short distances that are likely to be travelled.
- 21.12 Students living in Bicester and Bloxham who attend a council-funded place at Meadowbrook College at West Bar in Banbury will normally be expected to use public transport.
- 21.13 Most students who live in Banbury will not be eligible for free travel to Meadowbrook College at West Bar in Banbury since no student of secondary school age will live far enough away to meet the distance criterion.
- 21.14 As with students who attend mainstream or special schools, any necessary assessments regarding the mode of travel/travel arrangements for young people attending an alternative education provider will be made by the Supported Transport Team. The same appeal arrangements will apply as for all other children of statutory school age.

22. Naming a school in an Education, Health and Care Plan when there is a nearer suitable and available school

- 22.1 If the parent of a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan requests a particular school and that school is named in the Plan, no free or subsidised transport will be provided to that school if there is a nearer suitable school that has been identified by the SEND Team that can meet that child’s assessed needs.

23. Free Travel to Out County Residential Schools for those with an Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Need aged 11 to 16

23.1 Out County Weekly Boarding

A child is eligible for free travel at the beginning and end of each term and at the beginning and end of each school week up to a total of 76 single journeys per year.

23.2 Termly Boarding (3 terms per year)

Children of 11 or over are entitled to free travel at the beginning and end of each term and half-term up to a maximum of 16 single journeys per year.

Children aged up to 11 are entitled to free travel at the beginning and end of each term and half-term, plus 4 discretionary journeys home per year, up to a maximum of 24 single journeys per year.

23.3 Termly Boarding (4 terms per year)

Children of 11 or over are entitled to free travel at the beginning and end of each term and half-term up to a maximum of 16 single journeys per year.

Children aged up to 11 are entitled to free travel at the beginning and end of each term and half-term, plus 4 discretionary journeys home per year, up to a maximum of 24 single journeys per year.

23.4 Out County 52 Week Boarding (joint placement with another agency)

All boarders (or parents) are entitled to 12 single trips home per year (broadly relating to term times). Any additional trips will be the responsibility of the other agency.

23.5 Payment of parental journeys for those with children at Out County residential special schools

Payment will be made if one of the following applies:

- attendance at their child's annual review; or,
- attendance at any meeting called by the council at the child's school; or,
- journeys necessitated by a child's sickness or emergency medical appointments; or,
- an agreed journey to visit a new school placement; or,
- to attend up to three additional meetings per year at the school (called by the school or requested by the parents) if sanctioned by the council in advance; or,
- to travel with the child on train or service bus journeys if the child needs an adult escort.

23.6 Overnight accommodation

The council will not normally reimburse the cost of overnight accommodation for parents/carers.

24. **Application for Transport Assistance on grounds of Religion or Belief**

24.1 In making decisions on assistance with transport the council will respect parents' religious and philosophical convictions as to the education to be provided for their children as far as this is compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure.

24.2 However, a parent will need to satisfy the council of the genuine nature of the religious and/or philosophical belief and that the application is made in good faith. The burden of proof lies with the child's parent/parents.

24.3 Examples of acceptable evidence are:

- the provision of a Baptismal Certificate; and/or,
- a statement of atheism; and/or,
- a statement of adherence to a particular faith; and/or
- a letter of support from a priest, rabbi or imam stating that the child belongs to a particular congregation.

Normally, two pieces of evidence will be required.

24.4 It is important to note that the council will consider the financial consequences of any applications for assistance and that setting up new coach services or taxi routes, or specifically continuing them when they could be discontinued, in order to accommodate new travellers would normally fall within the definition of "unreasonable public expenditure." However, where there are spare seats on already existing home to school transport routes, or scheduled public transport services, the council will be able to consider applications for places under the Spare Seat Scheme arrangements.

24.5 The council will not consider academic grounds expressed for preferring a particular school when de whether to provide assisted transport on grounds of faith or belief.

24.6 Decisions on applications for transport assistance on grounds of faith or belief will normally be taken by a panel of three.

25. **The "Spare Seat" Scheme**

25.1 The “Spare Seat” Scheme operates on contracted routes that are operated for the benefit of those who are entitled to free transport to and from school. The key points regarding this scheme are set out below:

- The council cannot guarantee that a child will keep the seat for longer than one full term (based on a three-term academic year); and,
- Fare prices are reviewed annually; and,
- The parent, or in the case of Years 12 and 13, the student, must complete an application form; and,
- Parents are required to pay in advance for one full term’s travel; and,
- The price charged covers a return journey for every school day of the relevant period; and,
- There will be no rebates for those deciding to travel for less than the maximum number of possible journeys per term. For example, there is no rebate if a child or young person decides to use his/her bus pass for morning travel and returns by some other private means in the afternoon; and,
- If a seat is available, a bus pass will only be issued on receipt of a completed application form, and correct payment; and,
- There is no guarantee that the bus will continue to run throughout a child’s or young person’s time at a school, or that the place on the bus will not be withdrawn at some future date if the place is required for a child or young person who is entitled to free travel; and,
- The “Spare Seat” charge will be waived for those of statutory school age who are eligible for free school meals, or, in the case of those aged 5, 6 or 7, would be eligible for free school meals on income grounds, or whose parent is in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit; and,
- If there are more applicants than places, a parent will be able to add a child’s name to a waiting list. Any waiting list for a specific route will operate for no longer than one academic year; and,
- If there is an available home to school transport route operated on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, children who are not of statutory school age and who are aged 16 to 18, may use the “Spare Seat” Scheme to purchase a seat on that route to enable access to their school or college; and,
- When there are more requests to pay for seats on a specific route than there are seats available, they will be allocated in the descending order of priority shown in the table “Priority for Spare Seats.”

Table 1. Priority for “Spare Seat” Scheme

Prio rity	Category
1	Those with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan naming the school
2	Looked After Children

3	Years 12 and 13 (if there is no available service bus route)
4	Children in receipt of Free School Meals or whose parent/parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit
5	Those who travelled on the route the previous term
6	By year group, in ascending order of priority from Reception to Year 11 (or to Year 13 if there is an available service bus route)

Where there are more applicants than places in any of the above categories, priority will be given to those living closest to the destination school (measured using the shortest designated route on Oxfordshire County Council's Geographic Information System)

- 25.2 The fares for the "Spare Seat" Scheme for 2024/25 are shown in Table 2. The fares normally include an annual 2% inflation increase and rounding to the nearest whole number. The use of the 2% figure reflects the target inflation figure set for the Bank of England. If this target changes or transport inflation rises beyond 2%, the council reserves the right to consult on the use of a different inflation figure and the amendment of "Spare Seat" Fares. No decision has yet been made on fares for 2025/26 and the charges shown below for guidance are those that apply for the academic year 2024/25.

Table 2. Current Charges for 2024/25

Less than 3 miles from home to school/college	£546.00 per annum (£182.00 per term)
3 miles and over from home to school/college	£1,015.92 per annum (£338.64 per term)

26. Code of Conduct

- 26.1 The School Transport Code of Conduct for those travelling on Home to School Transport is shown at Appendix 3.
- 26.2 Free travel or "Spare Seat" travel may be suspended if a child who is aware of the School Transport Code of Conduct breaches it in a significant way. The child's school may also potentially impose a disciplinary sanction. The School Transport Code of Conduct applies to all travellers although the special needs of a child with an EHCP will be taken into account when considering a response to breaching the Code.
- 26.3 If free travel is suspended, the child's parent has a right of appeal against the decision. The appeal process is the two-stage process set out below. Stage 1 reviews are conducted by the Admissions and Transport Services Manager

and Stage 2 reviews are carried out by an independent panel.

27. Home to School Transport Appeals

27.1 The appeals process set out below applies to:

- children and young people who live in Oxfordshire, are of statutory school age and attend a mainstream school; or,
- children and young people who live in Oxfordshire, have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and attend either a mainstream school or a special school; or
- children and young people who live in Oxfordshire, are of statutory school age and are not on the roll of a mainstream or special school but attend alternative education provided at Oxfordshire County Council expense, for example at Meadowbrook College.

27.2 Two stage process

The council annually publishes the appeals process on its website (with paper copies available on request). This sets out the two-stage process for parents who wish to challenge a decision about:

- the transport arrangements offered;
- their young person's eligibility;
- the distance measurement in relation to statutory walking distances; and
- the safety of the route.

27.3 Stage 1: Review by the Admissions and Transport Services Manager

- A parent has 20 working days from receipt of the local authority's home to school transport decision to make a written request asking for a review of the decision.
- The written request should detail why the parent believes the decision should be reviewed and give details of any personal and/or family circumstances the parent believes should be considered when the decision is reviewed.
- Within 20 working days of receipt of the parent's written request the Admissions and Transport Services Manager will review the original decision and send the parent a detailed written notification of the outcome of the review, setting out:
 - the nature of the decision reached; and
 - how the review was conducted (including the standard followed, for example route safety assessments that have followed Road Safety GB guidance); and
 - information about other departments and/or agencies that were consulted as part of the process; and
 - what factors were considered; and

- the rationale for the decision reached; and
- information about how the parent can escalate their case to stage two (if appropriate).
- Complex Stage 1 cases may take longer than the timescale given above.

27.4 Stage 2: Review by an independent appeal panel

- A parent has 20 working days from receipt of the written stage one response from the Admissions & Transport Services Manager to make a written request to escalate the matter to stage two.
- Within 40 working days of receipt of the parent's request an independent appeal panel will consider written and verbal representations from both the parent and officers involved in the case and give a detailed written notification of the outcome (within 5 working days), setting out:
 - the nature of the decision reached; and
 - how the review was conducted (including the standard followed e.g., Road Safety GB); and
 - information about other departments and/or agencies that were consulted as part of the process; and
 - what factors were considered; and
 - the rationale for the decision reached; and
 - information about the parent's right to put the matter to the Local Government Ombudsman (see below).
- Stage 2 appeals will be heard by a panel of three comprising of one officer, one county councillor and one independent person. All panel members receive specific training prior to undertaking their role. The training includes information to ensure an understanding of the specific needs of children with SEND and EHCPs. The Audit & Governance Committee have governance oversight of the process. The county councillor will not be the councillor for the division within which the child resides. No officer will have been involved in the previous decision making. The independent person will be drawn from the volunteers for hearing admission appeals.
- The Clerk to the Appeals & Tribunals Sub-Committee will be from the Law & Governance Department and will not work for the Admissions Team or the Supported Transport Service.
- A representative of the Admissions Team will present the council's reasons for not providing transport and appellants can present a case in writing and/or in person (if the parent wishes, accompanied by a friend). The format of the appeal is set out below:
 1. presentation of the council's case by the council's representative;
 2. committee members, and the parent, are then able to ask the council's representative questions;
 3. presentation of the parent's case;

4. committee members, and the council's representative, are then able to ask of the appellant questions (if present);
 5. summing up by the council's representative;
 6. summing up of the appellant's case;
 7. both the council's representative and the appellant(s) leave the hearing together;
 8. consideration of the case by the Appeals & Tribunals Sub-Committee in private when the independent panel members will decide whether to uphold or refuse the appeal.
- The decision of the Appeals & Tribunals Sub-Committee will be considered binding on the Council and appellant and there is no further right of appeal.
 - The council will not consider requests for a further transport appeal within the same school academic year unless there has been a significant change of circumstance.
 - Complex Stage 2 cases may take longer than the timescale given above.

APPENDIX 1

Schools that have opted out of the In-Year Admissions Scheme for Oxfordshire

This information was correct at the time this policy was published. An up-to-date list is available online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schooltransfer

28. The following secondary age academy has opted out of the Scheme:

Wykham Park Academy (formerly Banbury Academy)	https://wykhampark-aspirations.org/ 01295 251451
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The main point of entry for this academy is Year 7.

29. The following all age academy has opted out of the Scheme:

Heyford Park Free School	http://heyfordparkschool.org/ 01869 232203
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The main points of entry for this academy are Reception and Year 7.

30. The following studio school and university technical college have opted out of the Scheme:

Futures Institute Banbury	https://www.futuresbanbury.org/ 01295 257942
UTC Oxfordshire	https://www.utcoxfordshire.org.uk 01235 391587

The main point of entry for Futures Institute and UTC Oxfordshire is Year 10.

31. The following primary age schools and academies have opted out of the Scheme:

Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp Church of England Primary School	https://www.ashburyprimary.org.uk/ 01793 710259
Bampton Church of England Primary School	http://www.bamptonprimaryschool.org.uk/ 01993 850371
The Blake Church of England Primary School, Witney	http://www.blake.oxon.sch.uk/website 01993 702840
Brize Norton Primary School	http://www.brizeprimary.org/ 01993 842488
Dr South's Primary School	http://dr-souths.co.uk/ 01865 372323

Apply online at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Goring Church of England Primary School	http://www.goring.oxon.sch.uk/ 01491 872289
John Henry Newman Academy, Oxford	http://www.jhnacademy.co.uk/website 01865 772495
North Leigh Church of England Primary School	https://www.northleighprimaryschool.org.uk/ 01993 881525
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Oxford	https://www.our-ladys.oxon.sch.uk/ 01865 779176
St Christopher's Church of England Primary School, Langford	http://www.st-christophers.oxon.sch.uk/ 01367 860318
St Christopher's Church of England Primary School, Oxford	http://www.st-christophers-pri.oxon.sch.uk/ 01865 779772
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame	http://www.st-josephs.oxon.sch.uk/ 01844 214278
St Mary & St John Church of England Primary School, Oxford	http://www.ssmj.oxon.sch.uk 01865 245768
St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Alvescot	http://www.stpeters.oxon.sch.uk/ 01993 842535
Tyndale Community School, Oxford	https://www.tyndalecommunityschool.co.uk 01865 454000

The main point of entry for these schools and academies is Reception.

APPENDIX 2

“Split Village” Entitlement

1. Transport will be provided to the catchment area school from all addresses in the contiguous built-up area of the village if more than 20% of the addresses are closest to the catchment area school and the distance is over the statutory walking limit. Transport will also be provided from individual addresses to the relevant nearest school (if different) if the distance is over the statutory walking limit.

Village *	Nearest Schools	Catchment Area School
Adderbury/Twyford	Blessed George Napier Catholic School The Warriner School	The Warriner School
Ascott-under-Wychwood	Burford School Chipping Norton School	Burford School
Dry Sandford	Fitzharrys School Larkmead School	Fitzharrys School
Duns Tew	Dr Radcliffe's Primary School Middle Barton School	Dr Radcliffe's CE Primary School
Freeland	Bartholomew School Wood Green School	Bartholomew School
Great Haseley	Lord Williams's School Wheatley Park School	Wheatley Park School
Kirtlington	Gosford Hill School Heyford Park Free School The Marlborough Church of England School	The Marlborough Church of England School
Long Hanborough	Bartholomew School The Marlborough Church of England School Wood Green School	Bartholomew School
Old Boars Hill	Fitzharrys School Matthew Arnold School	Fitzharrys School
South Hinksey	Matthew Arnold School St Gregory the Great Catholic School	Matthew Arnold School
Tadmarton	Bloxham CE Primary School Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School	Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School
Twyford/Adderbury	Blessed George Napier Catholic School The Warriner School	The Warriner School
Yatscombe Copse	Fitzharrys School St Gregory the Great Catholic School	Fitzharrys School

2. The Council considers the 'village' to be the contiguous built-up area. Therefore, an address within the Civil Parish but outside the contiguous built-up area of the village does not qualify for free travel under the 'split-village' rule.
3. Similarly, where the village name forms part of the postal address, but the property is outside the contiguous built-up area of the village, free transport will not be provided under the 'split-village' rule.
4. The School Admissions Team will annually review the "split village" entitlement in the light of new housing developments, new routes and new schools to ensure that only villages in which more than 20% of the addresses are closest to the catchment area school, and the distance is over the statutory walking limit or there is no safe walking route, are included in the list of "split villages".
5. Any changes to the list of "split villages" will be made once per year.
6. Once the list of "split villages" has been published in the admissions literature it will remain unchanged for that academic year.

APPENDIX 3

Code of Conduct for those travelling on Home to School Transport

1. If you have been given a bus pass to travel on a school bus it is only for your use and must always be carried if you want to use the school transport.
2. If you lose your bus pass you need to tell your school's office and ask your parent to contact the Supported Transport Team.
3. In the morning, you and your parent are responsible for you being at the pick-up point five minutes before the schooled pick up time.
4. If you are late you need to remember that the school bus will not wait for late-comers.
5. If the transport is late only wait at the pick-up point for 20 minutes.
6. You and your parent need an agreed plan about what you should do if transport doesn't arrive as scheduled.
7. Before setting out, if there is a storm, major flooding or snow, you and your parent should listen to the travel news on the radio and/or telephone the school and/or look at the school's website. If the weather is poor and your parent takes you into school in the morning because the transport has not arrived, remember that you may need to rely on your parent to get you home in the evening, particularly if the weather remains bad.
8. You should always
 - Treat the driver and your fellow passengers with respect;
 - Do as the driver requests;
 - Stay in your seat and keep your seat belt on – for your safety and that of everyone else;
 - Look after your possessions and the bus or other vehicle that you travel on;
 - Take any litter off the bus with you;
 - Keep noise to a reasonable level;
 - Report to the driver or your school anyone you see behaving badly or who is bullying others - always report this kind of behaviour;
 - Do not distract the driver except in an emergency;
 - Do not throw things within the bus or off the bus;
 - Do not carry real or replica weapons;
 - Do not eat, drink or smoke (smoking is against the law for everyone on buses, taxis and trains);
 - Do not use bad language to other students or to adults;
 - Do not damage the vehicle – if you do your parents or carers may have to pay for the damage.

Section 4 – Miscellaneous

Definition of a Parent

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as:

- all natural parents, whether they are married or not;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person (having care of a child or young person means that a person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child, is considered to be a parent in education law).

Having parental responsibility means assuming all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority that a parent of a child has by law. People other than a child's natural parents can acquire parental responsibility through:

- being granted a residence order;
- being appointed a guardian;
- being named in an emergency protection order (although parental responsibility in such a case is limited to taking reasonable steps to safeguard or promote the child's welfare);
- adopting a child (in the case of step-parents) in agreement with the child's mother (and other parent if that person also has parental responsibility for the child) or as the result of a court order.

Where a child's parents are not married to each other, the child's father can gain parental responsibility by:

- registering the child's birth jointly with the mother;
- through a 'parental responsibility agreement' between him and the child's mother;
- as the result of a court order.

In addition, a Local Authority can acquire parental responsibility if it is named in the care order for a child

Definition of a “Baptised Catholic”

A “Baptised Catholic” is one who:

- Has been baptised into full communion (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 837) with the Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual Churches in communion with the See of Rome (i.e. Latin Rite, Byzantine Rite, Coptic, Syriac, etc, Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1203). Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place (Cf. Code of Canon Law, 877 & 878).

Or

- Has been validly baptised in a separated ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Written evidence of their baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases, a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the Rite of Reception took place (Cf. Rite of Christian Initiation, 399).

Written evidence of baptism

The Governing bodies, Academy Committees and Boards of Directors of Catholic schools and academies will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Baptism or Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of “Baptised Catholics”. A Certificate of Baptism or Reception is to include: the full name, date of birth, date of Baptism or Reception, and parent(s) name(s). The Certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of Baptism or Reception.

Those who would have difficulty obtaining written evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception for a good reason, may still be considered as Baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to their parish priest who, after consulting the Vicar General, will decide how the question of Baptism/Reception is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

Those who would be considered to have good reason for not obtaining written evidence would include those who cannot contact the place of Baptism/Reception due to persecution or fear, the destruction of the church and the original records, or where Baptism/Reception was administered validly but not in the Parish church where records are kept.

Governors, Committee Representatives and Boards of Directors may request extra supporting evidence when the written documents that are produced do not clarify the fact that a person was baptised or received into the Catholic Church, (i.e. where the name and address of the Church is not on the certificate).

Guidance on educational provision for children from overseas

Admission authorities must treat applications for children from overseas in accordance with Home Office rules for non-UK nationals. In most cases, children arriving from overseas have the right to attend state-funded schools in England.

Children aged under 18 can enter the UK, as a dependant of a foreign national who has settled status in the UK, as a dependant of their parent(s) who are in the UK on a [work visa](#) or [Student visa](#), or who are part of a family entering or residing in the UK under the [immigration route for British National \(Overseas\) citizens and their dependants](#).

Foreign nationals cannot use the 6-month Standard Visitor visa, or 11-month Short-term Study (English language) visa, to enter the UK to enroll as a pupil at a state-funded school, although some exchange programmes may be possible on the Visit route.

If a school or Local Authority is concerned that a child may not have a right to enter the country to access a state-funded school, they will not deny them a place. However, the Home Office's school referrals team will be alerted so that they can investigate further.

It is up to the school or Local Authority whether or not the child's parents or carers are informed of the referral to the Home Office.

If the Home Office finds that a child is not entitled to state-funded education, it is up to the Home Office to take any further action they consider appropriate. A child should not be denied a place on the basis of the Home Office's findings.

The email address for the Home Office school referrals team is:
schoolreferrals@homeoffice.gov.uk

Children with Education, Health and Care Plans

Discussions about children with Education, Health and Care Plans joining primary or infant schools should have started when the child is three years old. Parent/Carers of a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan should discuss any queries, concerns or requests for a particular primary or infant school with their child's relevant SEN Officer at Oxfordshire County Council and/or the SENCO at their child's current school.

Parents/Carers cannot apply for a place at a special school or resource unit through the admissions process outlined in this booklet.

Parents/Carers should be aware that free transport may not be automatically provided to a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan to attend a mainstream school that is not the nearest or nearest available school.

Private Fostering

There is a legal requirement to notify the Local Authority of private fostering arrangements.

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 years of age (or 18 years of age if disabled) who lives away from their birth parents for longer than 28 days with a person who is not:

- a parent of the child;
- someone who has parental responsibility for the child;
- a close relative of the child.

The Children Act 1989(Section 105) defines a relative as a grandparent, brother, sister uncle or aunt (whether of the full blood or half blood or by affinity) or step parent (Section 10(5) a) refers to a step parent being someone who is, or has been, a party to a marriage).

Those who need to notify Oxfordshire County Council of a private fostering arrangement should contact:

Pratishtha Srivastava Private Fostering Senior Practitioner City Fostering Team County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND

Email: pratishtha.srivastava@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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Charging for school activities

No charge may be made for school activities by the Local Authority or the Directors / School Governors unless it is already provided for in a statement of policy on charging and the remission of charges. Such statements will also usually cover arrangements for the financing of school activities by means of voluntary contributions.

Charging for public examinations

No charge will generally be made for public examinations for which pupils are prepared by the school. However, the fee may be recovered if the pupil fails, without good reason, to complete the examination requirements, or if the pupil is required to re-sit an examination or a request is made for an examination paper to be remarked.

Free School Meals

All state-funded schools in Oxfordshire deal with the administration of Free School Meals for pupils who attend. In order for a pupil to qualify for Free School Meals parents must be in receipt one of the following entitled benefits:

Apply online at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

- **Income Support** - letter from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)/Jobcentre Plus dated within one month of application showing breakdown of income support payment.
- **Income Based Employment & Support Allowance** - letter from DWP/Jobcentre Plus dated within one month of application.
- **Child Tax Credit** (without Working Tax Credit and 'annual income as assessed by the Inland Revenue' of below the threshold figure for the year) - All pages of the TC602 Inland Revenue tax credit award notice for the current tax year.
- **State pension credit** - Pension Credit M1000 Award Notice.

Asylum seekers will need to provide a National Asylum and Support Service (NASS) support notice or IS96 document including details of authority providing support under part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. You will be required to supply:

- NASS reference number
- Port reference number
- Name of authority

Note: Children of those in receipt of Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after employment ceases, or after starting to work less than 16 hours per week, are entitled to Free School Meals. Children who receive IS or IBJSA in their own right are also entitled to receive Free School Meals. Qualification is determined by the school not Oxfordshire County Council and parents/carers should contact their child's current or future school (once a place has been offered) for further information and/or an application form.

Independent (Fee-Paying) Schools

Parents/carers seeking places for their child at an independent (fee-paying) school must apply direct to the relevant school(s). This process cannot be used to obtain a place at an independent (fee-paying) school. If a child is offered a place at an independent (fee-paying) school it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform Oxfordshire County Council that a place is no longer needed at a state-funded primary or infant school so that the available place can be offered to another child. Oxfordshire County Council will not normally accept responsibility for funding a place at an independent (fee-paying) school or funding travel to an independent (fee-paying) school.

School Uniforms

Many schools have a school uniform. Oxfordshire County Council does not offer financial support for parents/carers to buy school uniform. Individual schools may provide financial support or have information about local organisations that offer financial assistance. The school may also have second-hand uniform available for loan or purchase. Parents/Carers should contact their child's future school (after a place has been offered) for information about school uniforms.

Term dates

There are 190 pupil days in each academic year. In addition, 4 days are set aside locally for INSET days for teachers. The term dates for 2025/26 are:

Term	Dates
Autumn	2 September 2025 to 19 December 2025 Half Term: 27 October 2025 to 31 October 2025 Christmas Holiday: 20 December 2025 to 2 January 2026
Spring	5 January 2026 to 27 March 2026 Half Term: 16 February 2026 to 20 February 2026 Easter Holiday: 30 March 2026 to 10 April 2026
Summer	13 April 2026 to 20 July 2026 Half Term: 25 May 2026 to 29 May 2026 Summer Holiday: 21 July 2026 to 1 September 2026

Supplementary Information Forms

Some schools have Supplementary Information Forms which parents/carers are also encouraged to complete. There is no requirement to complete a Supplementary Information Form but it is likely that the criterion used to decide whether a school place can be offered to a child will be affected if a Supplementary Information Form is not provided to the school. If a Supplementary Information Form is completed but the school is not listed as a preference on the child's application, a preference for that school will not be considered. Therefore, it is important to request the school as a preference and to complete and send in the Supplementary Information Form as well.