

Apply online now

Secondary school admissions 2025

For children born between
1 September 2013 - 31 August 2014



For more information go to our website
www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions

Apply online at www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions
You must apply by 31 October 2024

How do I apply?

- Apply online at **www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions** if you live in Solihull.
- If you live outside Solihull, you must apply through your home council. You can still apply for Solihull schools on your home authority application.
- You will need an email address.
- We will send you an email to acknowledge receipt of your application once it has been submitted. If you do not receive this acknowledgement, please check your application to ensure it was completed. You can log into the portal at any time to check that the application has been submitted.
- You will need to remember your login details on offer day.

What do I need to know about making an application?

You can apply for up to six schools that you would like your child to go to. You must read the admission arrangements of the school you are applying for to see how places are allocated. You may need to carry out additional steps rather than just submitting an application.

You must rank the schools in order of preference. The school you name first should be the one you would most like your child to go to. If you can be offered the school you list as preference one, lowered ranked applications are withdrawn.

You can apply for any school. It may be in Solihull, a church school, an academy, or a school in another council area such as a grammar school.

Find out if your child needs to sit a test to get into the school you are applying for, such as a grammar school. There are no grammar schools within Solihull, the nearest are located within Birmingham and Warwickshire.

You must read the admission arrangements for the grammar school you apply for. Some grammar schools have catchment areas. To submit a grammar school preference, you must have sat the test and include it as a preference on the local authority application.

Find out if the school you are applying for needs any supplementary information, such as a baptismal certificate.

There is no guarantee of a place at any secondary school. In 2024, some children were not offered places at their catchment school. For other schools, those children attending a named feeder school or those with sibling in the school were also not offered places on national offer day.

Baptised Catholic children will have a high priority for Catholic schools. Find out if the school needs proof of baptism.

If you live in Solihull, we strongly recommend that you include your catchment-area school among your preferences, even if it is your lowest preference. If you don't and you do not qualify for any of your preferred schools, you will be offered a place at the nearest school with a vacancy after all the offers are made. (This may not be your catchment school.)

Your catchment school is likely to be full of applicants who did apply. For 2024 admissions, some children that did not include their catchment school and did not qualify for a place at their preference schools were offered a place over 7 miles from their home.

Applying late is likely to affect the offer you can expect to get. You will not get an outcome on offer day.

Most secondary schools do not give priority to children attending a particular primary school. Some schools do not give priority to younger siblings. You must check the school's oversubscription criteria.

Priority is given, at some Solihull schools, to children with exceptional social or medical reasons. The information on our webpage tells you how to apply under this category. Only applications with independent evidence will be considered. Is your application realistic? Are you likely to be offered a place? You can use this booklet and information on our website as a guide to find out if you would have been offered a place last year.

Check the schools' or council's websites for more information about open days and open evenings to be held in September.

More information about the process and the schools is available at **www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions**.

You can find out about catchment areas and measure the distance from your home to school at **www.solihull.gov.uk/onlinemaps**.

What do I do if I live outside Solihull?

You must apply to your home Council.

You can apply for Solihull schools by including them on your application. You will not qualify for a catchment-area place because you do not live in Solihull, but your application will be considered based on your distance from home to school. In most cases, attending a Solihull primary school will not give you any additional priority for a Secondary school.

This booklet and information on our website will show you how places have been offered in previous years. This will tell you if an application from your address would have been successful in the past although, this is no guarantee for the future. You should always include a preference for a school where you are very likely to get a place, even if it is your lowest preference.

You can check your distance from home to school on our website.

How do I know if my application for a school is realistic?

This section will help you to find out if your application would have been successful last year. This does not mean that you will be offered a place, but it will give you a good indication. Living in the catchment area for a school does not guarantee you a place at that school.

If a school has more applications than places available then all the applications are put in priority order, according to the oversubscription criteria.

Find out the oversubscription criteria for the school you want to apply for and then find out what priority would be given to your application. Oversubscription criteria for all schools and academies can be found online.

If the school you want to apply for is a Catholic school it is likely that they will give priority to children who are baptised Catholic and/or those who live within the parish, and/or attend a Catholic primary school.

It is likely that you will have to provide proof of your child's baptism or church attendance. Check the schools over subscription criteria for more details.

This example uses the admission arrangements for Lyndon School 2024-25.

If your child is looked after by the local authority, for example, in foster care, or is an adopted child who was previously looked after, has exceptional social or medical reasons, your application would be given **priority 1**.

if you live in the school or academy's catchment area your application would be given **priority 2**.

If you live outside the catchment area but have an older child who will still be attending the main school in September 2025 your application would be given **priority 3**. Most schools do not give sibling priority if your older child is in the sixth form.

If you are a member of school staff your application would be given **priority 4**. (Check the school's admission arrangements for the definition of a member of staff).

If your application is not priority 1, 2, 3 or 4 it will be given priority 5 as you live outside the catchment area. These applications will be put in order of distance from home to school, measured in a straight line.

Distances are measured by our admissions system. This is the only measurement we will use (measurements taken from other websites, such as Google Maps, will not be valid.)

You can measure your approximate distance online, at www.solihull.gov.uk/online-maps.

Once you have worked out your priority you can compare it with the priority and distance of the last person offered a place last year. If you have a higher priority, or the same priority and live closer to the school you have a chance of being offered a place. If you have the same priority and live much further away your chance of being offered a place is not good.

Use this example to help:

You want to apply for Lyndon School	
Question: Is your child in foster care?	Answer: No
Question: Do you live in Solihull and in the Lyndon catchment area?	Answer: No
Question: Will an older brother or sister be attending next September?	Answer: No
Question: Are you a member of school staff?	Answer: No
Question: How far do you live from Lyndon School?	Answer: 1.85 miles
This means your application will be given priority 5 - distance 1.85 miles	

You should then find out the priority and distance of the last person offered a place in previous years. For September 2024 this was priority 5 - 1.12 miles. This means that your child would not have been offered a place in 2024 because you live too far away. However, this is only a guide and does not mean your application would be unsuccessful every year.

The number of places available for out-of-catchment applicants will vary every year depending on how many applications are made and how many live in the catchment area. This means that the distance of the last person offered a place will also vary, for example, it will not always be 1.12 miles for Lyndon School.

You can find out the priority and distance of the last child offered a place for the last three years online.

You can still apply for this school and if it is the school, you want the most you should put it first on your application. However, you should also apply for other schools where you have a better chance of getting a place.

How places were offered for children starting in September 2024

This information shows how places had been offered on national offer day, 1 March 2024. Some places were offered from the waiting lists after the offer day. The number of places available for 2024 is shown in brackets next to the school's name.

Alderbrook School (280)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 5 – 0.54 miles. 1519 applications were received for a place at Alderbrook School in 2024.

Arden (300)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 8 – 4.32 miles. 913 applications were received for a place at Arden School in 2024.

Grace Academy (180)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 2 - 0.97 miles. 706 applications were received for a place at Grace Academy Solihull in 2024.

Heart of England School (215)

Everyone that applied was offered a place. 425 applications were received for a place at Heart of England School for 2024.

John Henry Newman Catholic College (240)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 6 – 1.32 miles. 842 applications were received for a place at John Henry Newman Catholic College for 2024.

Langley School (196)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 4 – 2.61 miles. 1022 applications were received for a place at Langley School for 2024.

Light Hall School (190)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 6 – 1.14 miles. 649 applications were received for a place at Light Hall School for 2024.

Lode Heath School (240)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 6 – 2.34 miles. 725 applications were received for a place at Lode Heath School for 2024.

Lyndon School (240)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 5 - 1.12 miles. There were 758 applications received for a place at Lyndon School in 2024.

Park Hall Academy (240)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 10 - 0.78 miles. There were 654 applications received for Park Hall Academy for 2024.

St Peter's Catholic School (205)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 4 – 3.99 miles. There were 760 applications received for St Peter's Catholic School in 2024.

Smith's Wood Academy (240)

Everyone that applied was offered a place. There were 353 applications received for Smith's Wood Academy for 2024.

Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst (250)

All children were offered a place. There were 601 applications received for Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst for 2024.

Tudor Grange Academy Solihull (280)

The application of the last person offered a place was priority 5 – (without a sibling) 2.42 miles. There were 1577 applications received for Tudor Grange Academy Solihull for 2024.

When will I find out which school my child has been offered?

You will find out which school your child has been offered on 1 March 2025.

Your right of appeal

You can appeal if you are unhappy with your offer. You will receive more information with your outcome. The appeals section on our website provides information on how the appeal will be carried out and how the panel make their decision. The threshold for granting an appeal is high. In 2024, 237 appeals were lodged for secondary schools in Solihull. At the point of publication only 2 were upheld.

What happens if my application is late?

Applications received after the closing date are late and will not be processed until after offer day. Applying late will affect the offer you can expect to get.

Can I change my application?

If you want to change your application and you are a Solihull resident, you can email us with the details. We will send you an email confirming your changes. You cannot make changes online after you have submitted your application. Any changes we make for you will not be seen online. Your online outcome, on offer day, will show your changes.

If you make changes to your application involving schools outside Solihull the details will be sent to the relevant council to be dealt with by their rules.

Waiting lists

If your application for a school has been refused, your child will be added to the waiting list. Waiting lists will be created after offer day. On national offer day we will give you the date that the waiting lists will be released. You will then be able to contact us to find out your waiting list position. Waiting list positions are held in criteria order and can go up and down as children join the list and places are offered from the list.

What happens if I move house?

If you are moving house, you should apply on time to your home council. Apply for school(s) in the area you are moving to as well as your local school.

When you have moved into your new home and sent us documents to prove your move, we will update your application and take it over from your home council.

We will use your new address if we can, but once the allocation has started in January it becomes more difficult as offer day approaches. If it is too close to offer day, we will use your new address after the places have been offered.

If you move house after your child has been offered a place your application will be reassessed based on your new distance and criteria. If the new distance and criteria mean that you would not have qualified for an offer on national offer day, the place will be withdrawn. The offers we make are conditional on the information remaining the same as on national offer day.

If your child moves into the home of a friend or relative, or you change address temporarily to improve your priority for a school place, we will not use that address. Owning a home in the catchment area but living elsewhere will not qualify as a catchment address. You must be living at the address.

What happens if the information I give is not correct?

The law says that a school place can be withdrawn after a child has started at the school if the place was gained by providing fraudulent or intentionally misleading information. We reserve the right to check the address on the application at any time using a variety of methods or resources.

It is important that the information you provide is accurate and honest. If we find that any information in your application is false and you are not entitled to the place you have been offered, it will be withdrawn.

If you know anyone who is using an incorrect address, you should contact us and we will investigate.

How can I find out more?

Go to our website

www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions

Contact us

School Admissions, Solihull Council, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB

✉ admissions@solihull.gov.uk

☎ 0121 704 6693

If you or someone you know needs this document in another format or language contact School Admissions.

Apply online at www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions now

You must apply by 31 October 2024

If you live in Solihull you can check catchment areas online. You can measure your distance from home to a Solihull school wherever you live at www.solihull.gov.uk/online maps