



## LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

**DECISIONS** to be made by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability,  
Councillor Bob Standley

**MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 2.30 PM**

**REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

### **AGENDA**

1. Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 3 December 2025 (*Pages 3 - 4*)
2. Disclosures of interests  
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the Agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct
3. Urgent items  
Notification of items which the Lead Member considers to be urgent and propose to take at the end of the appropriate part of the Agenda
4. Crisis and Resilience Funding for Free School Meal Eligible children in the Easter and May 2026 school holidays (*Pages 5 - 8*)
5. Admission arrangements for East Sussex Schools 2027-28 (determination) (*Pages 9 - 56*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services
6. Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

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Deputy Chief Executive  
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13 February 2026

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NOTE: As part of the County Council's drive to increase accessibility to its public meetings, this meeting will be broadcast live on its website. The live broadcast is accessible at:  
<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/your-council/videos-of-council-meetings/webcasts>

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## **LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY**

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Councillor Bob Standley, on 3 December 2025 at Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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Councillor Kathryn Field spoke on item 4 (see minute 30)

### 26. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 3 NOVEMBER

26.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2025.

### 27. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

27.1 There were none.

### 28. URGENT ITEMS

28.1 There were none.

### 29. REPORTS

29.1 Reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

30. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2025 TO 2029

30.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services.

DECISIONS

30.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to approve the School Organisation Plan 2025 to 2029 for publication.

REASONS

30.3 The draft School Organisation Plan for the period 2025 to 2029 sets out how the Local Authority seeks to ensure there are sufficient primary, secondary and special school places in the right locations to meet demand in accordance with its statutory duty.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>23 February 2026</b>
<b>By:</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Crisis and Resilience Fund: Funding for Free School Meal eligible children in the Easter and May 2026 school holidays</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To approve the use of funding from the Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide food vouchers to Free School Meal eligible children for Easter and May 2026 school holidays</b>

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1. Approve the proposed plan for the use of funding from the Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide food vouchers to eligible Free School Meal pupils for the Easter and May 2026 school holidays; and**
  - 2. Note that a further report on the use of the Crisis and Resilience Fund will be brought to the March meeting.**
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## **1 Background**

1.1 In the June 2025 Spending Review the Government announced plans for a new Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF) which replaces the current Household Support Fund (HSF) and incorporates funding for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) and introduces a consolidated grant distributed via the Local Government Finance Settlement.

1.2 On 13 January 2026 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) released CRF guidance for local authorities and the allocations. The grant period runs from 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2029, and the total funding allocation for East Sussex is £21.1 million; £6.7 million in both 2026/27 and 2027/28 and £7.7 million in 2028/9.

1.3 The stated primary objective of the CRF is 'to both provide a safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock and to invest in building local financial resilience to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises in the long-term, reducing crisis need'. The fund objectives are to:

- **Outcome 1:** Deliver effective crisis support to prevent escalation of hardship.
- **Outcome 2:** Improve individuals' financial resilience (income maximisation, debt reduction, savings).
- **Outcome 3:** Strengthen local support networks through coordination and referral pathways.

## **2 Supporting information.**

2.1 Since October 2021 the Government have provided local authorities with the Household Support Fund to help households struggling with the cost of living. Local delivery of HSF in East Sussex has been through multiple partners, including directly through Children's Services, District &

Borough Council's, Voluntary Community and Social Enterprises, Food Partnerships and Food Banks. Within the Council the fund has been jointly overseen by Children's Services and Adult Social Care and Health.

2.2 Whilst our delivery of HSF has been successful and has reached over 36,000 households each year, HSF did have some limitations which are recognised locally and by the DWP. These included the short notice of HSF allocations and extensions, different funding streams for crisis support, variation of support provided, a lack of evidence of the impact of support provided and of what worked well for HSF and limited sharing of best practice. The CRF hopes to address some of these learning points and create a Fund that can help residents cope with the impact of financial shocks whilst investing in the infrastructure and resilience-building interventions that can reduce the impact of financial insecurity in the longer term.

2.3 CRF, as a multi-year fund with an increased focus on prevention and resilience, presents a significant opportunity to invest in interventions that are better targeted at the root causes of financial insecurity than the support that has been delivered through HSF. Discussions are taking place with key delivery partners and stakeholders to agree how to use the CRF to best meet the needs of residents in East Sussex and to deliver the objectives of the fund.

2.4 Full proposals for the use of the CRF in East Sussex over the three year period will be brought to the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health and the Lead Member for Children's and Families at the March 2026 meetings for approval.

2.5 In previous years the Household Support Fund has been used in East Sussex to provide Hugg food vouchers to eligible free school meal children from 2-19 years old for the school holidays. If approved by the Lead Member, East Sussex County Council aim to distribute free school meal vouchers for eligible children for the Easter and May 2026 school holidays at a value of:

- Easter holiday – 2 weeks at £15 per week per eligible family (£30)
- May half-term – 1 week at £15 per week per eligible family

2.6 There are approximately 20,000 eligible free school meal children in East Sussex and allocating vouchers with a 94% take up represents a total expenditure of approximately £850,000.

2.7 Providing vouchers for these two holiday periods will ensure continuity of the previous support provided to families whilst the proposals for the use of the full CRF in East Sussex are developed.

### **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The announcement of the CRF provides an opportunity to support residents, including families, cope with the impact of financial shocks whilst investing in the infrastructure and resilience-building interventions that can reduce the impact of financial insecurity in the longer term. Continuing the provision of Hugg food vouchers for free school meal eligible children in the Easter and May 2026 school holidays will provide continuity of support to these families.

3.2 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to approve the proposed plan for the use of funding from the CRF to provide food vouchers to eligible free school meal children in East Sussex for the Easter and May 2026 school holidays.

**CAROLYN FAIR**

**Director of Children's Services**

Contact

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>23 February 2026</b>
<b>By:</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Admission arrangements for East Sussex Schools 2027-28 (determination)</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To seek Lead Member approval of the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for the 2027-28 academic year</b>

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## ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) **approve the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools for the 2027-28 academic year as set out in Appendix 1;**
  - 2) **approve the proposed published admission numbers (PANs) for Community and VC schools for 2027-28 as set out in appendix 2, specifically the proposed PAN reductions at Hankham Primary School and Southover CE Primary School;**
  - 3) **approve the proposed co-ordinated schemes of admissions as set out in Appendices 3-6; and**
  - 3) **approve the altered arrangements for waiting lists following a recent decision by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator**
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## **1 Background**

1.1 The School Admissions Code 2021 ('the Code') states that admission authorities must determine (set) their admission arrangements annually. However, provided the relevant admission authority is not proposing any changes to their admission arrangements, there is no requirement to consult annually; where there is no change to arrangements consultation must take place every seven years.

1.2 For the avoidance of doubt, East Sussex County Council ('the Council') consults annually, whether there is a change or not.

1.3 The Published Admission Number (PAN) for a school is the number of places available in each 'relevant age group' which a school has agreed with the admission authority it can provide. The 'relevant age group' is the age group in which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school.

1.4 Consultation on the proposed admission arrangements (as set out in Appendix 1) was carried out between 17 November 2025 and 15 January 2026 to satisfy the requirement to consult for at least 6 weeks and to end the consultation period by 31 January 2026 as set out in the Code. Schools were alerted to the consultation and asked to publicise it to parents by circulating the link to the relevant page on the Council's website.

1.5 Three responses to the consultation were received via the Council's consultation hub during this period. The results and comments are attached as Appendix 7 to this report.

1.6 The consultation also included Priory School, Lewes, whose trust is responsible for admissions to the school. This is because the trust has requested that the Council consults on their behalf as they propose to use the Council's admission arrangements.

## **2 Supporting information**

2.1 The admission arrangements set out in Appendix 1 are unchanged from 2026-27.

2.2 There were three responses to this section of the consultation questionnaire- two (66.6%) were in favour and one (33.3%) against. There was one comment to the effect that 30 pupils in one class is too high.

### Changes to PAN

2.3 There was one comment in respect of the proposed PANs set out in Appendix 2 to the report: this was from the governors of Heathfield Community College who wished to increase their PAN. Following discussion with the headteacher it has been agreed that the PAN should remain as it is with the option of admitting above this number should the need arise.

2.4 There were no comments received with respect to the proposed PAN decreases for Hankham Primary School and Southover CE Primary School.

2.5 Pupil forecasts show that these reduced PANs will be sufficient to meet in area demand for the foreseeable future however, the accommodation at the schools will remain sufficient to accommodate a PAN of 20 at Hankham Primary School, and 60 at Southover CE Primary School, so the schools can return to admitting this number of children without additional accommodation should the demand arise. Southover CE Primary School has already reduced its PAN, from 60 to 45, with effect from the 2022-23 academic year.

### Co-ordinated schemes for admissions

2.6 The co-ordinated schemes for primary, junior and secondary admissions in 2027-28 (Appendices 3 and 4) are essentially unchanged from 2026-27 as the only changes relate to dates, reflecting the new academic year. The same applies to the co-ordinated scheme for in-year admissions to Community and VC schools in East Sussex in 2026-27 (Appendix 6). The East Sussex in-year admission arrangements for 2026-27 are attached as Appendix 6 for reference.

2.7 There were no comments on this section of the consultation.

### Waiting list arrangements

2.8 Following a recent decision by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, which is binding on all parties, including East Sussex County Council, unsuccessful applicants will automatically be placed on the waiting list for their preferred school in the main admission round without having to opt in, as now. They will remain on the waiting list until the end of term 2 of the year of entry, at which point they will need to opt in if they wish to remain on the waiting list. As this decision is binding, it does not require consultation.

## **3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The School Admissions Code 2021 ('the Code') states that admission authorities must determine (set) their admission arrangements annually.

3.2 Forecasts show that reduced PANs at Hankham Primary School and Southover CE Primary School will be sufficient to meet in area demand for the foreseeable future.

3.3 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to:

- Approve the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools for the 2027-28 academic year as set out in Appendix 1.
- Approve the proposed published admission numbers (PANs) for Community and VC schools for 2027-28 as set out in Appendix 2, specifically the proposed PAN reductions at Hankham Primary School and Southover CE Primary School; and
- Approve the proposed co-ordinated schemes of admissions as set out in Appendices 3-6.
- Approve the alteration to waiting list arrangements as required by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

3.4 The determined admission arrangements for Community and VC schools in 2027-28 will be published on the East Sussex County Council website by 15 March 2026 as required under current legislation. Any objection to these arrangements can then be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator until 15 May 2026. The final arrangements will be published in the composite prospectus online (and available in hard copy on demand) by 12 September 2026 as required by the School Admissions Code 2021.

**CAROLYN FAIR**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All Councillors

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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## Admissions criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools in East Sussex

1. Looked after children and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after. An explanation of who falls into this criterion can be found in the 'Explanation of words and phrases' set out here: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/rcihbysz/admissions-criteria-for-community-and-voluntary-controlled-schools-2025-26.docx>
2. Children who will have a brother or sister (sibling) at the school (or linked junior school- see definitions below) at the time of admission and who live at the same address, within the predefined community area\*.

The definition of 'sibling' can be found in the 'Explanation of words and phrases' set out here: [Apply for a school place 2025 to 2026 | East Sussex County Council](#)

Details of the pre-defined community areas for each school can be found here:  
[Find my community area \(secondary\) | East Sussex County Council](#)  
[Find my community area \(primary and junior\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

### 3. Children of staff members contracted to work at the school in question where:

- a) The member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; and/or
- b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

An explanation of who falls into this priority can be found below in the definitions section.

### 4. Other children living within a pre-defined community area

Each home address within the county falls within a community area although living within the community area does not guarantee a place. Details of the pre-defined community area for each school can be found here:

[Find my community area \(secondary\) | East Sussex County Council](#)  
[Find my community area \(primary and junior\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

### 5. Children who will have a brother or sister (sibling) at the school (or linked junior school- see definitions below) at the time of admission who live at the same address, outside the predefined community area\*.

The definition of 'sibling' can be found in the 'Explanation of words and phrases' set out here: [Apply for a school place 2024 to 2025 | East Sussex County Council](#)

### 6. Other children living outside the pre-defined community area.

### Tiebreaker

□ In the event of oversubscription within any category, place allocation will be decided by prioritising applications on the basis of home to school distance measured in a straight line (as the crow flies) from the address point of the family home to that of the school. Priority given to those whose homes are closest to the school. For split site schools, we will measure to the site where the child will attend for the majority of lessons at the point of entry.

□ In the event that applicants cannot be prioritised using the tie-breaker above because the distance measurements are the same, the Authority will use random allocation to decide which children will be offered the remaining places. This will be done electronically using the Authority's admissions software.

***\*Children living in the priority areas for Denton Primary School and for Harbour Primary School, whose sibling joined one of these school before 1 September 2022 will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends.***

***\*Children living in the Brodricklands and Hamlands Farm estates whose siblings joined Polegate School, Willingdon Primary School or Willingdon Community School prior to 1 September 2024 will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends.***

## **Definitions**

**Twins and children from multiple births (all community and voluntary controlled schools).**

Where the admission of both twins or all siblings from a multiple birth would cause the school to rise above its Planned Admission Number, both twins or all of the siblings will be admitted.

Where the admission of the additional child or children from multiple births to an infant class would result in the class size rising above 30, the additional child/children would be exceptions to the Infant Class Size legislation throughout the infant phase or until the number in the class reduced to 30.

### **Children of staff definition:**

*A member of staff will be considered to be a child's parent for the purpose of this criterion if they are living in the same family unit as the child at the same address and are:*

- their mother or father;*
- any other person who has parental responsibility, such as an adoptive parent, a special guardian or person named in a child arrangement order;*
- any other person who does not have parental responsibility but otherwise has the care of the child, such as a foster carer.*

*For applications made as part of a normal intake, the length of employment will be considered as at the closing date for applications. For in year applications and*

*for the purpose of maintaining a waiting list, the length of employment will be considered as at the date the application is received.*

*To be considered under this category, applicants must indicate this in the reasons section of the application and supply an official letter/email from the headteacher/Chair of Governors of the school in question verifying that the parent with care qualifies under a) or b).*

### **Linked junior school**

East Sussex County Council is the admission authority for two infant schools, Motcombe Infant School and Pashley Down Infant School in Eastbourne. The linked junior school for these is Ocklynge Junior Academy.

### **Applications for admission out of year group**

Arrangements for requesting a delayed reception start can be found here: [How to apply: deadlines, community areas | East Sussex County Council](#)

Arrangements for requesting admission out of year group at other points in a child's education can be found here:

[How to apply: deadlines and community areas | East Sussex County Council](#)

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## Proposed Published Admission Numbers

The tables below show the schools and the published admission numbers (PANs) where the County Council is the admission authority (any changes from 2026-27 shown in **bold**). School shown in *italics* are their own admission authority (A = Academy, T = Trust, F = Free School, VA = Voluntary Aided (Church)). Their admission numbers are included for reference only and may be subject to change.

### Secondary Schools - proposed published admission numbers for year 7 admissions for the 2027-28 school year.

#### 1. Eastbourne area

School	Admission number 2027-28
<i>The Cavendish School (A)</i>	120
<i>The Eastbourne Academy (A)</i>	180
<i>Gildredge House (F)</i>	84
<i>Ratton School (A)</i>	<b>232 (from 243)</b>
<i>St Catherine's College (A)</i>	208
<i>The Turing School (A)</i>	<b>150 (from 189)</b>
Willingdon Community School	210

#### 2. Hastings/St Leonards area

School	Admission number 2027-28
<i>Ark Alexandra Academy (A)</i>	<b>300 (from 360)</b>
<i>The Hastings Academy (A)</i>	180
<i>The St Leonards Academy (A)</i>	300

#### 3. Other areas of the County

School	Admission number 2027-28
<i>Beacon Academy (A)</i>	250
<i>Bexhill Academy (A)</i>	300

Chailey School	180
Claverham Community College	230
<i>Hailsham Academy (A)</i>	180
Heathfield Community College	240
<i>King's Academy Ringmer (A)</i>	150
<i>Peacehaven Community School (A)</i>	180
<i>Priory School (T)</i>	232
<b><i>Robertsbridge Community College (A)</i></b>	<b>150 (from 160)</b>
<i>Rye College (A)</i>	150
<i>St Richard's Catholic College (A)</i>	200
<i>Seaford Head School (A)</i>	232
<b><i>Seahaven Academy (A)</i></b>	<b>150 (from 180)</b>
Uckfield College	270
<i>Uplands Academy (A)</i>	150

**Primary, Junior and Infant Schools - published admission numbers for the 2027-28 school year.**

**1. Bexhill area**

School	Admission number 2027-28
All Saints Church of England Primary School	30
<i>Chantry Community Primary School (A)</i>	30
<i>Glenleigh Park Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>King Offa Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Little Common School (A)</i>	90
<i>Pebsham Primary Academy (A)</i>	30
<i>St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Peter and St Paul CE Primary School (VA)</i>	60

**2. Crowborough area**

School	Admission number 2027-28
Ashdown Primary School	60

<i>Jarvis Brook School (A)</i>	30
<i>St John's CE Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Mary's Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>Sir Henry Fermor CE Primary Academy (A)</i>	60

### 3. Eastbourne area (including Polegate and Willingdon)

School	Admission number 2027-28
Bourne Primary School	60
<i>The Cavendish School (A)</i>	60
<i>Gildredge House (F)</i>	56
<i>Heron Park Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Langney Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
Motcombe Community School (for pupils aged 4-7)	60
<i>Oakwood Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Ocklynge Junior School (A) (for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	210
<i>Parkland Infant School (A) (for pupils aged 4-7)</i>	60
<i>Parkland Junior School (A) (for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	60
Pashley Down Infant School (for pupils aged 4-7)	90
Polegate School	90
<i>Roselands Infant School (A) (for pupils aged 4-7)</i>	90
<i>Shinewater Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>St Andrews Church of England Infant School (A) (4-7)</i>	90
<i>St Johns Meads Church of England Primary School (A)</i>	30
<i>St Thomas a Becket Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	60
<i>Stafford Junior School (A) (for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	90
<i>The Haven CE Methodist Primary School</i> <i>Primary School (A)</i>	60
<i>Tollgate Community Junior School (A)(for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	90
West Rise Community Primary School	90
Willingdon Primary School	60

#### 4. Hailsham

School	Admission number 2027-28
<i>Grovelands Community School (A)</i>	90
<i>Hailsham Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Hawkes Farm Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Hellingly Community Primary School (A)</i>	30
<i>Thornton Grove Academy (A)</i>	30
<i>White House Academy(A)</i>	30

#### 5. Hastings/St Leonards area

School	Admission number 2027-28
<i>All Saints CE Junior Academy (A) (for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	60
<i>Ark Blacklands Primary Academy (A)</i>	90
<i>Ark Castledown Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Ark Little Ridge Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>The Baird Primary Academy (A)</i>	45
<i>Christ Church CE Primary and Nursery Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Churchwood Community Primary Academy (A)</i>	30
<i>Dudley Infant Academy (A) (for pupils aged 4-7)</i>	60
<i>Hollington Primary Academy (A)</i>	30
<i>Ore Village Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Robsack Wood Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (A)</i>	30
<i>St Leonards CE Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>St Mary Star of the Sea Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Paul's Church of England Primary Academy (A)</i>	90
<i>Sandown Primary School</i>	60
<i>Silverdale Primary Academy (A)</i>	90
<i>West St Leonards Primary Academy (A)</i>	60

## 6. Heathfield

School	Admission number 2027-28
<i>All Saints and St Richard's CE Primary School (VA)</i>	15
Cross-In-Hand Church of England Primary School	60
Parkside Community Primary School	30

## 7. Lewes area

School	Admission number 2027-28
South Malling Church of England Primary School	30
<b>Southover Church of England Primary School</b>	<b>30 (from 45)</b>
Wallands Community Primary School	30
<i>Western Road Community Primary School (T)</i>	30

## 8. Newhaven area

School	Admission number 2027-28
<i>Breakwater Academy (A)</i>	30
Denton Community Primary School	30
Harbour Primary and Nursery School	60
<i>High Cliff Academy (A)</i>	30

## 9. Peacehaven/Telscombe Cliffs area

School	Admission number 2027-28
Meridian Primary School	60
<b><i>Peacehaven Heights Primary Academy (A)</i></b>	<b>30 (from 60)</b>
<i>Telscombe Cliffs Community Primary Academy (A)</i>	90

## 10. Rye area

School	Admission number 2027-28
<i>Rye Community Primary School (A)</i>	30

## 11. Seaford area

School	Admission number 2027-28
<i>Anney Catholic Primary School (A)</i>	30
<i>Chyngton School (A)</i>	30
Cradle Hill Community Primary School	90
Seaford Primary School	60

## 12. Uckfield area

School	Admission number 2027-28
Harlands Primary School	30
<i>Little Horsted CE Primary School (VA)</i>	15
Manor Primary School	60
Rocks Park Primary School	30
<i>St Philip's Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	30

## 13. Rural Primary Schools

School	Admission number 2027-28
Alfriston School	15
Barcombe Church of England Primary School	20
Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School	60
Beckley Church of England Primary School	15
<i>Blackboys Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	20
Bodiam Church of England Primary School	15
Bonnors Church of England Primary School	15
Brede Primary School	20
Burwash Church of England Primary School	25

Buxted Church of England Primary School	30
Catsfield Church of England Primary School	15
Chailey St Peter's Church of England Primary School	20
Chiddingly Primary School	15
Crowhurst Church of England Primary School	15
Dallington Church of England Primary School	15
Danehill Church of England Primary School	15
<i>Ditchling (St Margaret's) Church of England Primary Academy (A)</i>	24
East Hoathly Church of England Primary School	15
Etchingam Church of England Primary School	15
Firle Church of England Primary School	15
Five Ashes Church of England Primary School	10
Fletching Church of England Primary School	15
Forest Row Church of England Primary School	30
<i>Framfield Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
Frant Church of England Primary School	15
<i>Groombridge St Thomas Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
<i>Guestling-Bradshaw Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	30
Hamsey Community Primary School	15
<b>Hankham Primary School</b>	<b>15 (from 20)</b>
Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School	30
High Hurstwood Church of England Primary School	15
<i>Hurst Green Church of England Primary Academy (A)</i>	20
Icklesham Church of England Primary School	15
Iford and Kingston Church of England Primary School	30
Laughton Community Primary School	15
<i>Mark Cross Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
Mayfield Church of England Primary School	20
Maynards Green Community Primary School	30
Netherfield Church of England Primary School	20

<i>Newick Church of England Primary School (A)</i>	30
<b><i>Ninfield Church of England Primary School(A)</i></b>	<b>15 (from 20)</b>
<i>Northiam Church of England Primary Academy (A)</i>	18
Nutley Church of England Primary School	15
Park Mead Primary School	15
Peasmarsh Church of England Primary School	15
Pevensey and Westham Church of England Primary School	60
Plumpton Primary School	20
Punnetts Town Community Primary School	15
<i>Ringmer Primary and Nursery School (A)</i>	45
Rotherfield Primary School	30
<i>St Mark's Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
<i>St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
St Michaels Church of England Primary School (Playden)	15
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# Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for reception and year 3 (of junior schools) entry September 2027-28

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## Introduction

Local Authorities (LAs) are required each year to draw up a scheme for co-ordinating the normal admissions round to primary and secondary schools. The aim of the scheme is to ensure that all parents receive a single offer of a school place on the national allocation date. If the prescribed date falls on a weekend or bank holiday, offers are sent on the next working day.

The scheme proposed by the County Council will be the subject of consultation with all maintained schools in the county and neighbouring local authorities.

The co-ordinated schemes apply only to admissions to Reception, and year 3 of junior schools at the start of term 1.

## Primary scheme 2027-28

### Key dates

**September 2026:** Admissions information made available

**15 January 2027:** Closing date for applications

**22 January 2027:** Preferences for each school established

**8 February 2027:** Exchange of preference data between local authorities

**12 March 2027:** Admission authorities in East Sussex advise LA of ranked order

**25 March 2027:** Finalise allocations

**16 April 2027:** Allocations confirmed to primary schools

**16 April 2027:** Decisions conveyed to parents by email

**May 2027: (to be confirmed):** Closing date for appeals

**June to July 2027:** Appeals heard

### Applications made in the main round

1. The co-ordinated scheme is based on all preferences expressed by parents being treated equally, but where more than one school can be offered, the highest possible preference school named by the parent will be allocated. It will be for individual admission authorities to prioritise all preferences expressed for their schools against the published admissions criteria, which they have consulted on and determined. Individual academies can agree that the County Council ranks applicants on the academy's behalf. This would be a traded service. The only valid preferences are those stated on the LA common application form which is available online or in hard copy. Other admission authorities in East Sussex must not use any other application form. A separate, supplementary information form can only be used where additional information is required to determine admission within their published criteria. This form will be obtainable from and returnable to that admissions authority (voluntary aided (VA) schools). A supplementary information form on its own is not a valid application. Applicants living outside East Sussex must use the common application form that is supplied by their home local authority.

2. The process will begin with the information on admission arrangements and methods of application being made available early in September 2026.
3. The LA application form enables parents to name up to any three maintained schools stated in order of preference. It should be completed and submitted to the LA by the closing date of 15 January 2027.
4. By 8 February 2027 East Sussex County Council (“the County Council”) will exchange preference data with any local authority where an application has been received.
5. By 12 March 2027 East Sussex schools that are their own admission authorities will consider all applications for their school, apply their published admissions criteria and provide the County Council with a list of those applicants ranked accordingly.
6. By 12 March 2027 other local authorities will advise the County Council of decisions reached on applications for their schools from East Sussex residents. The County Council will apply its published admissions criteria to those schools where it is the admissions authority and determine the outcome of each preference expressed.
7. By 25 March 2027, the County Council will match the ranked lists against the parental preferences to ensure only one place is allocated per child. Qualifying late applications received before 12 March will be included in this process.

Where a child is:

- Eligible for a place at only one school given on the application form that school will be allocated
- Eligible for two or three schools, a place will be allocated at the highest-ranking preference school
- Not eligible for a place at any of the named schools and the child lives in East Sussex, a place will be allocated at the nearest school to the home with a space.

8. In the period 30 March 2027 to 15 April 2027 decision notifications will be prepared. The LA where the child lives will be responsible for sending these to parents.
9. On 16 April 2027 lists will be prepared of children allocated places at each primary school in East Sussex, and these will be sent to the schools in question.
10. 16 April 2027 - allocation decisions will be notified to parents by email. Letters will only be sent where specifically requested, or where the application has been made on a paper form. Where a preference is not being met, the notification email will signpost parents to the County Council website where information can be found explaining to parents how places have been allocated at their preferred school(s) and advising parents of the right of appeal.

### **Applications received after 15 January 2027 but by 12 March 2027**

1. If an application form is received after 15 January 2027, it will still be passed to the relevant admissions authority with a note that it has been received after that date. It will be for the admissions authority to decide how it wishes to respond to the application. This will continue up until 12 March 2027.
2. If an application is received after 15 January 2027 but before 12 March 2027, together with proof of a change of address\* since the closing date, or proof of another good reason why it was not possible for the family to apply on time, it will be treated as on time in respect of community and voluntary controlled schools. If there is no proof, or the reason is not considered valid by the County Council, the application will be treated as late. There is no separate right of appeal against the decision as to whether the application is treated as on time or late.
3. Applicants whose forms are received between these dates will be sent a decision on 16 April 2027. For applications received after 12 March 2027, we will aim to send a decision email within 20 school days.

### **Changes of preference**

1. Parents may change their preferences at any stage up to the closing date of 15 January 2027. After 15 January 2027, we will not allow preferences to be

changed without an exceptional reason. The LA will judge each case on its merits but will only usually accept a change of preference where there has been a significant change of circumstances (such as a house move\*) thus making the original preferences no longer practical. Parents will be required to put their reasons for changing their preferences in writing, and in all cases, supporting evidence will be required. If the change of preference is agreed, a decision will be sent on 16 April 2027 provided the request was received by 12 March 2027. Such applicants will be advised that they have the right of appeal if the revised preference cannot be met.

\* In the case of house moves, proof of ownership or tenancy on an East Sussex property (such as exchange of contracts or signed tenancy agreement of one year) is required if an address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place. If an applicant cannot provide evidence, the application cannot be accepted.

2. There is no right of appeal where the LA does not accept the change of preference.

### **No application form received**

1. No Reception or junior transfer places will be allocated unless a completed application form has been received.

### **Applications received on or after 13 March 2027**

1. Only preferences stated on the LA application form will be valid. If the preference is for an 'own admission authority' school, the County Council will pass details to the school for a decision. The school must then advise the County Council within fourteen days as to whether a place can be allocated so the County Council can formally advise the parent of the decision. Where the preference is for a community or voluntary controlled school, the County Council will determine the outcome. If there are no places available at one of the preferred schools a place will be allocated at the nearest school with a place available (if the identified school is its own admission authority the County Council will ask the school whether a place can be allocated). We will aim to

process late applications within 20 school days. Any refused preference will carry the right of appeal.

2. Where the preference is for a school in a neighbouring authority, the details will be passed to that authority for a decision to be made. Any authority refusing an application should advise the LA of the decision so the LA can consider allocating an alternative school.
3. The Co-ordinated Scheme will end on 31 August each year. Applications received after this date will be processed as in year applications.

## **Appeals**

1. Parents must be allowed at least 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and submit their written appeal. The appeal must be against any refused preference, thus if a parent puts on the appeal form a school which did not feature as a preference on the original application form an appeal hearing will not be arranged.
2. Parents submitting an appeal will be entitled to at least 10 school days' notice of the date of the appeal. Papers relevant to the appeal will be sent seven working days before the hearing. Appeals must be heard within forty school days of the deadline for lodging appeals. Appeals for late applications will be included with those being heard for the same admission round wherever possible. If this is not possible, they must be heard within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.
3. The County Council must be advised of the outcome of all appeals to other admission authorities.

## **Waiting lists**

1. The County Council will operate waiting lists for all community and voluntary controlled primary, infant and junior schools so that it is clear which child will be offered any place which becomes vacant. Such waiting lists will be operational after the closing date for appeals to be lodged. The waiting list must reflect the admissions criteria. The County Council must be notified by admissions authorities of any places that are subsequently allocated from the

waiting list. Until co-ordination ends, it remains for the County Council to offer places to parents when places become available and are allocated from the waiting list whether the admissions authority is the County Council or not.

2. Waiting lists will operate until the end of Term 2, 2027.

### **Admission of summer born children to Reception classes.**

Parents of summer born children who are due to start in reception can request that their child starts on a part-time basis or joins Reception later during the school year.

However, parents can also request that their child starts in Reception in the September following their fifth birthday (i.e. when they would normally be starting Year 1). Parents making such a request should do so during the normal admission round.

The County Council will consider these requests on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the child's academic, social and emotional development together with the Headteacher and parent's views. If the request is refused but the child is offered a place in the school (but not the preferred year group) the parent would not have the right of appeal.

If the request is agreed, parents will need to be clear that this does not mean the child will remain in the year below their chronological age group for all of their school career, particularly on transfer to secondary school.

The County Council will base its decision-making on the assumption that it is in the best interests of summer born children (i.e. those born between 1 April and 31 August) to be admitted to Reception at compulsory school age where their parents request it, unless there are clear reasons why this is inappropriate (e.g. safeguarding or the pupil has an EHCP or is undergoing statutory assessment).

Parents are, however, required to make a case for this so that it can be demonstrated that the County Council has considered the rationale behind the request and made the decision in the child's best interests. Parents also need to be clear that own admission authority schools in East Sussex will not necessarily work on the same assumption, although they are encouraged to do so by the County Council.

The County Council will, however, advise all parents whose request for admission out of year group is agreed of the potential difficulties this could cause later on, and will require parents to agree that they have understood this and take responsibility for this decision before the child is admitted to school in East Sussex by signing a disclaimer to this effect. Should the parent refuse to sign, admission will not be held up if the child is already compulsory school age, but it will be clearly documented that the parent has been advised of the risks but has refused or otherwise failed to sign the disclaimer.

# Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for the normal year of entry for secondary schools

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## Introduction

Local Authorities (LAs) are required each year to draw up a scheme for co-ordinating the normal admissions round to primary and secondary schools. The aim of the scheme is to ensure that all parents receive a single offer of a school place on national offer day. If the prescribed date (1 March or 16 April) falls on a weekend or bank holiday, offers are sent on the next working day.

The scheme proposed by the County Council will be the subject of consultation with all maintained schools in the county and neighbouring local authorities. This co-ordinated scheme applies only to admissions to year 7 at the start of term 1. The County Council has delegated responsibility for admission to year 12 of community schools with sixth forms to the relevant governing bodies and each school displays its own admission procedures and external published admission

numbers (PANs) for this year group on its website, together with any requirements for entry to particular courses.

## **Secondary scheme 2027-28**

### **Key dates**

**September 2026:** Admissions information made available

**31 October 2026:** Closing date for applications

**27 November 2026:** Exchange of preference data between local authorities

**8 January 2027:** Admission authorities in East Sussex to advise LA of ranked order

**12 February 2027:** Finalise allocations

**26 February 2027:** Allocations confirmed to secondary schools

**1 March 2027:** Decisions conveyed to parents by email

**April 2027 (to be confirmed):** Closing date for appeals

**April to June 2027:** 'On time' appeals heard

### **Applications made in the main round**

1. The co-ordinated scheme is based on all preferences expressed by parents being treated equally, but where more than one school can be offered, the highest possible preference school named by the parent will be allocated. It will be for individual admission authorities to prioritise all preferences expressed for their schools against the published admissions criteria, which they have consulted on and determined. Individual academies can agree that the County Council ranks applicants on the academy's behalf. This would be a traded service. The only valid preferences are those stated on the LA common application form which is available online or in hard copy. Other admission authorities in East Sussex must not use any other application form. A separate, supplementary information form can only be used where additional information is required to determine admission within their published criteria. This form will be obtainable from and returnable to that admission authority (c/o the school or academy). A supplementary information form on its own is

not a valid application. Applicants living outside East Sussex must use the common application form that is supplied by their home local authority.

2. The process will begin with the information on admission arrangements and methods of application being made available early in September 2026.
3. The LA application form enables parents to name up to three maintained schools stated in order of preference. The form should be completed and submitted to the County Council by the closing date of 31 October 2026.
4. By 27 November 2026, East Sussex will exchange preference data with any local authority where an application has been received.
5. By 8 January 2027, East Sussex schools that are their own admissions authorities will consider their applications, apply their published admissions criteria and provide the County Council with a list of those applicants ranked accordingly.
6. By 8 January 2027, other local authorities will advise the County Council of decisions reached on applications for their schools from East Sussex residents. The County Council will apply its published admissions criteria to those schools where it is the admissions authority and determine the outcome of each preference expressed.
7. By 12 February 2027, the County Council will match the ranked lists against the parental preferences to ensure only one place is allocated per child. Qualifying late applications received up to 31 January will be included in this process.

Where a child is:

- Eligible for a place at only one school given on the application form, that school will be allocated
- Eligible for two or three schools, a place will be allocated at the highest-ranking preference school
- Not eligible for a place at any of the named schools and the child lives in East Sussex, a place will be allocated at the nearest school to the home with a space.

8. In the period 13 February to 26 February 2027, decision notifications will be prepared. The LA where the child lives will be responsible for sending these to parents.
9. From this point on secondary schools will be able to see their allocations in SAM. Primary schools will be able to view destination schools for their year 6 leavers in SAM with effect from 1 March 2027.
10. On 1 March 2027 allocation decisions will be notified to parents by email. Letters will only be sent where specifically requested, or where no email address has been provided. Where a preference is not being met, the notification email will signpost parents to the County Council website where information can be found explaining to parents how places have been allocated at their preferred school(s) and advising parents of the right of appeal.

### **Applications received after 31 October 2027 but by 31 January 2027**

1. If an application form is received after 31 October 2026, it will still be passed to the relevant admissions authority with a note that it has been received after the closing date. It will be for the admissions authority to decide how it wishes to respond to the application. This will continue up until 31 January 2027.
2. If an application is received after 31 October 2026 but before 31 January 2027, together with proof of a change of address\* since the closing date, or proof of another good reason why it was not possible for the family to apply on time, it will be treated as on time in respect of community and voluntary controlled schools. If there is no proof, or the reason is not considered valid by the LA, the application will be treated as late. There is no separate right of appeal against the decision as to whether the application is treated as on time or late.
3. Applicants whose forms are received between these dates will be sent a decision on 1 March 2027. For applications received on or after 1 February 2027, we will aim to send a decision letter within 20 school days.

## **Changes of preference**

1. Parents may change their preferences at any stage up to the closing date of 31 October 2026. After 31 October 2026, we will not allow preferences to be changed without good reason. The County Council will judge each case on its merits but will only usually accept a change of preference where there has been a significant change of circumstances (such as a house move\*) thus making the original preferences no longer practical. Parents will be required to put their reasons for changing their preferences in writing, and in all cases, supporting evidence will be required. If the change of preference is agreed, a decision will be sent on 1 March 2027 provided the request was received by 31 January 2027. Such applicants will be advised that they have the right of appeal if the revised preference cannot be met.

\* In the case of house moves, proof of ownership or tenancy on an East Sussex property (such as exchange of contracts or signed tenancy agreement of one year) is required if an address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place. If an applicant cannot provide evidence, the application cannot be accepted.

2. There is no right of appeal where the LA does not accept the change of preference.

## **No application form received by 31 January 2027**

No secondary transfer places will be allocated unless a completed application form has been received.

## **Applications received on or after 1 March 2027**

1. Only preferences stated on the LA application form will be valid. If the preference is for an 'own admission authority' school, the County Council will pass details to the school for a decision. The school must then advise the County Council within fourteen days as to whether a place can be allocated so the County Council can formally advise the parent of the decision. Where the preference is for a community or voluntary controlled school, the County Council will determine the outcome. If there are no places available at one of

the preferred schools a place will be allocated at the nearest school with a place available (if the identified school is its own admissions authority the County Council will ask the school whether a place can be allocated). We will aim to process late applications within 20 school days. Any refused preference will carry the right of appeal.

2. Where the preference is for a school in a neighbouring authority, details will be passed to that authority for a decision to be made. Any authority refusing an application should advise the LA of the decision so the LA can consider allocating an alternative school.
3. The Co-ordinated Scheme will end on 31st August each year. Applications received after this date will be processed as in-year applications.

## **Appeals**

1. Parents must be allowed at least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and submit their written appeal. The appeal must be against a refused preference, thus if a parent puts on the appeal form a school which did not feature as a preference on the original application form an appeal will not be arranged.
2. Parents submitting an appeal will be entitled to at least ten school days' notice of the date of the appeal. Papers relevant to the appeal will be sent seven working days before the hearing. Appeals must be heard within forty school days of the deadline for lodging appeals. Appeals for late applications will be included with those being heard for the same admission round wherever possible. If this is not possible, they must be heard within thirty school days of the appeal being lodged.
3. The LA must be advised of the outcome of all appeals.

## **Waiting lists**

1. The LA will operate waiting lists for community and voluntary controlled schools so that it is clear as to which child will be offered any place which becomes vacant. Such waiting lists will be operational after the closing date for appeals to be lodged. The waiting list must reflect the admissions criteria.

The LA must be notified by admissions authorities of any places that are subsequently allocated from the waiting list. Until co-ordination ends, it remains for the LA to offer places to parents when places become available and are allocated from the waiting list whether the admissions authority is the LA or not.

2. Waiting lists will operate until the end of Term 2, 2027 for Year 7 admissions.

### **Applications for children to be educated out of chronological year group**

The School Admissions Code 2021 specifies that parents applying for a school place have a right to request that their child be educated outside their chronological age group. It further specifies that the admission authority for the school in question should make a decision as to whether to agree this 'on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned'. The admission authority is required to take into account various factors including the views of the Headteacher.

The County Council, having sought all relevant advice, will work on the assumption that it is in the best interests of children to continue to be educated out of year group if that has been the case for the child hitherto, where they have been in a school which follows the National Curriculum, unless there are clear reasons why this is inappropriate.

Where parents submit applications for their children to be educated out of year group where this has not happened before, or where they have come from provision that does not follow the National Curriculum (e.g. private provision or overseas) the County Council will make a decision in the best interests of the child in consultation with the Headteacher of the relevant school as in the case of summer-born children applying at reception entry (see primary scheme).

These arrangements will apply to schools where the County Council is the admission authority- schools in the co-ordinated scheme which are their own admission authority are encouraged to work in the same way but the decision is for each admission authority to make in these cases.

The County Council will continue to advise all parents whose request for admission out of year group is agreed of the potential difficulties this could cause later on, and continue to require parents to agree that they have understood this and take responsibility for this decision before the child is admitted to school in East Sussex (although admission should not be held up if the parent refuses to sign- in this case it would need to be clearly documented that the parent had been advised of the risks but had refused or otherwise failed to sign the disclaimer).

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# East Sussex County Council Co-ordinated scheme for in-year admissions in 2026-27

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## Introduction

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires that Local Authorities co-ordinate in-year admissions to schools for which they are the admission authority (Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools). Own Admission Authority (OAA) schools and Academies may opt in to the scheme.

In-year admissions are those relating to children whose parents are seeking admission outside the normal timescale, which means after the first day of the first term of reception, year 3 (of a junior school) or year 7.

Admissions to years 12 and 13 of those community schools with sixth forms are not co-ordinated by the Local Authority and do not form part of this scheme.

OAA schools and Academies may also require Supplementary Information forms to be completed to enable applications to be ranked in order of admission priorities, but an application will be valid even if this is not done.

OAA schools and Academies opting into the scheme may additionally request in year management of applications and waiting lists as a traded service via the webshop.

Fee-paying schools will not be included in this scheme.

Applications are received throughout the year and therefore no timetable applies to this scheme. Decision outcomes will be issued to parents within ten school days, or as soon as possible thereafter.

This scheme will be administered by the Admissions and Transport Service of East Sussex County Council.

## **In-year admissions scheme 2026-27**

### **Application process**

1. Parents or carers may name up to three preferences on the application and all preferences expressed by parents will be treated equally. This means that each preference will be measured against the published oversubscription criteria only, without reference to the order stated by the parent. Only one school place will be offered, and this will be the highest possible preference expressed by the parent that can be agreed.
2. Details of current applications will be shared with schools electronically via SAM and schools are asked to confirm within two school days whether a place is available in the relevant year group. If the Admissions and Transport Service already has this information it will offer or refuse the place ahead of this timescale unless by prior agreement with the school.
3. OAA schools or Academies are then asked to confirm within a further three school days whether the available place can be offered to the applicant.
4. To make a valid application for a school participating in the scheme, parents or carers must complete an in-year application via the parent portal or the form supplied by East Sussex County Council. The East Sussex in-year application form is available in paper form on request or applications can be made online through the East Sussex Council website.

5. OAA schools or Academies may require additional information to apply their oversubscription criteria and will provide a supplementary information form on the school's website. Where the parent or carer fails to complete the supplementary form, the admission authority will rank the application according to the information given on the application form only. Where the parent or carer completes the supplementary form but fails to complete the LA application form, this will not constitute a valid application.
6. Completed supplementary information forms will be returned to the individual schools, and not the Admissions and Transport Service.

### **Notifying parents of the outcome of their applications**

1. The Admissions and Transport Service will notify parents and carers of the outcome of their applications, where the County Council is the admission authority.
2. OAA schools and Academies must notify all applicants of the outcome of their application within fifteen school days, giving reasons and appeal rights in writing if the application is unsuccessful.
3. If it is not possible to offer a place at any of the preferred schools, the Admissions and Transport Service will notify the parents of this and suggest the child remain in their current provision, if feasible, or offer the nearest available school place if not, assuming the child lives in East Sussex. Where the child qualifies for inclusion in the Fair Access Protocol, this will be invoked to place the child in a suitable school.

### **Refusing an application to a school where places exist in the child's year group**

1. An admission authority may only refuse an application in a year group where places exist if the child's behaviour is challenging as defined in the Code, and the preferred school has a disproportionate number of challenging pupils already on roll. The County Council will only do this in exceptional circumstances and parents will still have the right of appeal.

2. Any such cases will be referred for placement via the Fair Access Protocol, where the child is unplaced. The protocol may place the child in the preferred school even though a place has initially been refused.
3. This provision cannot be used in the normal year of entry, so that it is not possible to refuse a place (if there is one available) in reception, year 3 (of a junior school) or year 7 at any point during the school year.

### **Admission to school outside the child's normal age group**

1. In England and Wales, children are entitled to attend school from the September following their fourth birthday. However, formal education is not compulsory until the child is five. The vast majority of children start in reception as soon as they are entitled to and remain with the same age group until they leave school at the age of sixteen, or eighteen if they continue in the sixth form provision.
2. It is recognised that this arrangement will not suit every child and there is flexibility within every admission authority's arrangements to allow children to be admitted to the year below their chronological age, or, more exceptionally, to the year above.
3. Parents who believe it to be in their child's best interests to be placed out of year group, are asked to complete a request form available on request from the Admissions and Transport Service to enable the County Council to reach a decision on whether or not the child should be offered a place out of year group.
4. For schools where the County Council is the admission authority, this will normally be agreed where the child has applied to move from another school in England and Wales which follows the National Curriculum and has been educated out of year group up until the point of applying for an East Sussex school.
5. Where this is not the case, the County Council may need more information to enable a decision to be reached.

6. If an admission authority offers a place at the preferred school, but not in the preferred year group, there is no right of appeal against this decision.

### **School offered**

1. Where a place is offered, schools should return a notification of the start date via SAM to confirm that the place has been accepted.
2. If the place is not accepted within ten school days, schools must contact the parent or carer to establish whether or not the place is still required. If the parent or carer declines, or cannot be contacted, the current school should be contacted to establish whether the child is still on roll.
3. If the child is still on roll and the parent no longer requires the place, a SAM notification should be issued to this effect.
4. If the child is not still on roll, a CME referral must be made if efforts to contact the family are unsuccessful. A SAM notification should be issued to advise and the place held for the child until the CME procedure is completed.

### **Appeals**

1. Parents and carers will be informed of their statutory right of appeal when they receive the outcome of their applications. Parents can appeal for any preference expressed but not allocated, even if it was a lower preference than the one offered.
2. Parents will be allowed at least 20 school days from the date of the notification to submit an appeal via East Sussex County Council's School Appeals Team.
3. Links to the East Sussex County Council's School Appeals online process will be included in the notification. Appeal details for OAA schools and academies will be available on the individual school or Academy's website.

### **Waiting lists**

1. Waiting lists for all East Sussex schools where the County Council is the admission authority will be held by the County Council.

2. OAA schools and academies will be responsible for maintaining their own waiting list in accordance with their published oversubscription criteria.
3. The County Council requires parents and carers to renew their waiting list application after every two terms (at Christmas, Easter and for the new academic year). Parents and carers not doing so are assumed no longer to require the place.

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## **In Year Admissions arrangements 2026-27 for Community and Controlled schools**

### **1. About in year admissions**

1.1 School places must be allocated according to admissions legislation, including the School Admissions Code issued by the Secretary of State. The aim of the Code is to ensure places are allocated and offered in a consistent, open and fair way.

1.2 Admission arrangements are subject to consultation with various bodies including parents, schools and neighbouring local authorities. The arrangements are then set and published by the County Council each year.

1.3 In-Year Admissions are those relating to children whose parents are seeking admission to a school outside the normal timescale, defined as those requesting admission to school after the first day of the first term on which children in that age group are normally expected to start at the school.

1.4 In East Sussex, the normal timescale applies in Reception, year 7, and in the case of junior schools, year 3.

1.5 Admissions to years 12 and 13 of those community schools with sixth forms are delegated to the individual schools as they will have academic entry requirements.

### **2. Applying for places**

2.1 Parents can name up to three preferred schools via the online admissions portal or the in-year application form supplied by the County Council. This is available from 1 June 2026.

2.2 Parents are asked to specify the reason for wishing to move school, and the name of the current school, to enable the County Council to establish whether or not the child is currently unplaced, or qualifies for inclusion in the Fair Access Protocol.

2.3 Unless the parent specifies otherwise, in year admissions will be assumed to be for the child's chronological age group. See section 5 for admissions out of year group.

2.4 If any of the preferred schools are own admission authority schools, the application will be securely shared with the school to enable the admission authority to make a decision on the application.

2.5 If vacancies exist in the child's year group at more than one of the preferred schools, a place will be offered at the highest preference possible and parents will be advised of this by the relevant admission authority.

2.6 If there is competition for any available places, the following priorities will be used by the County Council as admission authority to decide which children should be admitted: 1) Looked after children and previously looked after children; 2) Children who will have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission and who live at the same address within the pre-defined community area; 3) Children of staff; 4) Other children living within a pre-defined community area; 5) Children who will have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission and who live at the same address outside the pre-defined community area; 6) Other children.

2.7 Children living in the priority areas for Denton Primary School and for Harbour Primary School, whose sibling joined one of these schools before 1 September 2022 will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends. Likewise, children living in the Brodricklands and Hamlands Farm estates whose siblings joined Polegate School, Willingdon Primary School or Willingdon Community School prior to 1 September 2024 will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends.

2.8 Tie breaker: In the event of oversubscription within any criterion, place allocation will be decided by prioritising applications based on home to school distance measured in a straight line, with priority given to those whose homes are closest to the school. The County Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) measures from the child's home to the school using validated address point data as start and end points.

2.9 Own admission authority schools may have different admission priorities, and parents should check with those schools whether further information is needed to decide who should be offered any available places (usually a 'Supplementary Information Form' (SIF)).

2.10 If a place is available in the child's year group at any or all of the preferred schools, the County Council will issue a decision to the parent offering a place at the highest preference school with a place, and explaining what the parent needs to do to accept the place offered.

### **3. If there are no places available in any of the preferred schools**

3.1 The County Council will refuse the application and offer the parent the right of appeal, and inform the parent of waiting list arrangements if applicable.

3.2 If the child lives outside East Sussex, the County Council will not offer an alternative school.

3.3 If the child is currently attending a school within a reasonable daily travelling distance, the County Council will suggest that the child remains at the current school.

3.4 If the child is not able to continue to attend the current school due to distance following a house move, or has never attended school in the UK, the County Council will allocate a place at the nearest alternative school with a place available.

3.5 If the child was previously on roll at a state-funded school in East Sussex, but has been withdrawn from that school to electively home educate, the County Council will offer a place at the previous school, if possible.

3.6 If the child is unplaced and vulnerable, the East Sussex Fair Access Protocol may be used to place the child.

3.7 If the child is unplaced and there are no places available within a reasonable travelling distance, the County Council will arrange for the child to be placed at a school within a reasonable distance. This will not necessarily be the preferred school, but will normally be the school which serves the child's home address. Children placed in this way will have priority over children on the waiting list, as will Looked After Children and children with Education, Health and Care plans naming the school in question.

#### **4. Refusing an application to a school where places exist in the child's year group:**

4.1 An admission authority may only refuse an application in a year group where places exist if the child's behaviour is challenging as defined in the Code and the preferred school has a disproportionate number of challenging pupils already on roll. The County Council will only do this in exceptional circumstances and parents will still have the right of appeal.

4.2 The County Council will refer any such cases for placement via the Fair Access Protocol, where the child is unplaced.

4.3 This does not apply in the normal intake year, as admission authorities are legally obliged to admit up to PAN in the intake year.

#### **5. Admission to school outside the child's normal age group:**

5.1 In England and Wales, children are entitled to attend school from the September following their fourth birthday. However, formal education is not compulsory until the child is five. Most children start in reception as soon as they are entitled to and

remain with the same age group until they leave school at the age of sixteen, or eighteen if they continue in the sixth form provision.

5.2 It is recognised that this arrangement will not suit every child and there is flexibility within every admission authority's arrangements to allow children to be admitted to the year below their chronological age, or, more exceptionally, to the year above.

5.3 Parents who believe it to be in their child's best interests to be placed out of year group, are asked to complete a request form available from the Admissions & Transport Service to enable the County Council to reach a decision on whether or not the child should be offered a place out of year group.

5.4 For schools where the County Council is the admission authority, this will normally be agreed where the child has applied to move from another school in England and Wales which follows the National Curriculum and has been educated out of year group up until the point of applying for an East Sussex school.

5.5 Where this is not the case, the County Council may need more information to enable a decision to be reached.

5.6 If an admission authority offers a place at the preferred school, but not in the preferred year group, there is no right of appeal against this decision.

## **6. Withdrawing the offer of a place**

6.1 If the County Council offers a place but the parent cannot be contacted, or does not wish to accept the place within a reasonable timescale, the place may be withdrawn.

6.2 A place may also be withdrawn if it has been offered based on incorrect information, if it is reasonable to do so. The County Council will not do this if the child is already attending the school.

6.3 If a place is withdrawn due to incorrect information, the County Council will reconsider the application based on the correct information, and offer a place or appeal rights if the place should instead have been offered to another child.

## **7. Appeals**

7.1 If an admission authority is unable to offer a place in the preferred school, parents have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel.

7.2 In East Sussex County Council, School Admission Appeals are convened and clerked by the Member Services team, which is independent of the Admissions and Transport Service.

7.3 When a parent notifies East Sussex County Council of their wish to appeal, Member Services will notify the Admissions and Transport service, check that the decision to refuse a place has been notified to the parent, and acknowledge receipt of the appeal.

7.4 The parent and Admissions and Transport Service will be notified of the arrangements for the appeal to be heard in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Appeal Code issued by the Secretary of State.

7.5 Independent appeal panels' decisions are binding on the admission authority and the parent, and if the appeal is successful, the school will contact the parent to arrange a start date.

## **8. Waiting lists**

8.1 Admission authorities are not obliged to hold a waiting list for places which become available after the end of term 2 in the 'relevant age group'.

8.2 Where waiting lists are held, these must be in accordance with the published admission priorities.

8.3 Admission authorities must offer places which become available in accordance with their admission priorities.

8.4 The County Council will maintain waiting lists and offer places on behalf of schools.

8.5 Children admitted on appeal, through the Fair Access Protocol, the EHCP process and as Looked After Children (or previously looked after children) will take priority over children on the waiting list, and will normally be admitted whether a place is available or not.

8.6 Where a school has admitted a child or children over numbers, places will not be offered from the waiting list in the year group in question until the number of children on roll has reduced below the published admission number, or the revised admission number if the school has agreed one with the County Council.

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## Responses to consultation on proposed admission arrangements for 2027/2028

Consultation took place between 17 November 2025 and 15 January 2026 which satisfied the duty to consult for at least six weeks. We asked for views on the following:-

### 1. Proposed admission criteria for local authority controlled schools and Priory School

The proposed admission criteria (below) remain unchanged from 2026-27:

**1. Looked after children and children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after.**

An explanation of who falls into this criterion can be found in the '[Explanation of words and phrases](#)' on the Council's website.

**2. Children who will have a brother or sister (sibling) at the school (or linked infant or junior school-see definitions below) at the time of admission and who live at the same address, within the predefined community area\***

The definition of 'sibling' can also be found in '[Explanation of words and phrases](#)'

Details of the pre-defined community areas for each school can be found here:

[Find my community area \(secondary\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

[Find my community area \(primary and junior\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

**3. Children of staff members contracted to work at the school in question where:**

a) The member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or

b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

An explanation of who falls into this priority can be found below in the definitions section.

**4. Other children living within a pre-defined community area**

Each home address within the county falls within a community area although living within the community area does not guarantee a place. Details of the pre-defined community area for each school can be found here:

[Find my community area \(secondary\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

[Find my community area \(primary and junior\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

**5. Children who will have a brother or sister (sibling) at the school (or linked infant or junior school-see definitions below) at the time of admission who live at the same address, outside the predefined community area.\***

The definition of 'sibling' can also be found in '[Explanation of words and phrases](#)'

**6. Other children living outside the pre-defined community area.**

**Tiebreaker**

- In the event of oversubscription within any category, place allocation will be decided by prioritising applications on the basis of home to school distance measured in a straight line (as the crow flies) from the address point of the family home to that of the school. For split site schools, we will measure to the site where the child will attend for the majority of lessons at the point of entry.
- In the event that applicants cannot be prioritised using the tie-breaker above because the distance measurements are the same, the Authority will use random allocation to decide which children will be offered the remaining places. This will be done electronically using the Authority's admissions software.

***\*Children living in the priority areas for Denton Primary School and for Harbour Primary School, whose sibling joined one of these schools before 1 September 2022 will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends.***

***\*Children living in the Brodricklands and Hamlands Farm estates whose siblings joined Polegate School, Willingdon Primary School or Willingdon Community School prior to 1 September 2024 will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends.***

## **Definitions**

**Twins and children from multiple births (all community and voluntary controlled schools).**

Where the admission of both twins or all siblings from a multiple birth would cause the school to rise above its Planned Admission Number, both twins or all of the siblings will be admitted.

Where the admission of the additional child or children from multiple births to an infant class would result in the class size rising above 30, the additional child/children would be exceptions to the Infant Class Size legislation throughout the infant phase or until the number in the class reduced to 30.

### **Children of staff definition:**

A member of staff will be considered to be a child's parent for the purpose of this criterion if they are living in the same family unit as the child at the same address and are:

- their mother or father;
- any other person who has parental responsibility, such as an adoptive parent, a special guardian or person named in a child arrangement order;
- any other person who does not have parental responsibility but otherwise has the care of the child, such as a foster carer.

For applications made as part of a normal intake, the length of employment will be considered as at the closing date for applications. For in year applications and for the purpose of maintaining a waiting list, the length of employment will be considered as at the date the application is received.

To be considered under this category, applicants must indicate this in the reasons section of the application and supply an official letter/email from the headteacher/Chair of Governors of the school in question verifying that the parent with care qualifies under a) or b).

## Linked junior school

East Sussex County Council is the admission authority for two infant schools, Motcombe Community School and Pashley Down Infant School in Eastbourne. The linked junior school for these is Ocklynge Junior Academy.

## Applications for admission out of year group

Arrangements for requesting a delayed reception start can be found here: [Admissions for summer-born children | East Sussex County Council](#)

Arrangements for requesting admission out of year group at other points in a child's education can be found in this section of our website [Apply for a school place | East Sussex County Council](#) Please read the section called "Requests to be educated out of age group".

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3 people completed the survey online. All responded to the question about the admissions criteria. The results are as follows:

## Are the proposed admissions criteria acceptable?

Yes	- 2 (66.6%)
No	- 1 (33.3%)

## Comments received (1)

- 1) 30 pupils in Early Years including quite a few SEN children is unmanageable! Also have to calculate the extra arrivals during school year due to the massive explosion of new houses in rural areas. Children do not get support they need to reach acceptable levels, children cannot excel because there is no space for them to grow as teachers are tied down. We need more schools, more teachers. Not more crowded classrooms!
- 2. Proposed admissions numbers - If the admission numbers are not acceptable, please tell us what you think the admission numbers should be and why?**

## Comments received (1)

- 1) The Governors of Heathfield Community College would propose increasing the PAN to 248 for the foreseeable future based on the demographic projections in the ESCC School Organisation Plan and the consistent surplus of 1st choices received for Year 6 to 7 transition. This could be revisited should either of these factors change in the future.
- 3. Proposed co-ordinated schemes - Do you have any comments to make on the co-ordinated schemes?**

## Comments received (0)

- 4. Any other comments about the County Councils admission arrangements for 2027-28?**

## Comments received (1)

- 1) It is acknowledged that the surplus for Heathfield has been in the 6th Form. This is in part due to transport links to other areas no longer served by a school sixth form. the College would look positively upon any support for students to reach rural locations such as Heathfield to ensure high quality school based provisions remain sustainable.

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