



Applying for Junior School for 2026/27

Information for Parents and Carers of children in a Stockport Infant
school

Apply online from 15 August 2025
Deadline: 31 October 2025



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Your guide to applying for a Year 3 place at a junior school if your child is in an Infant school

It is important that you are sure that you have all the information necessary to make your selection of preferred schools and give yourself the best chance to be allocated a place at your preferred school for September 2026.

This guide explains the admissions process and gives you basic information on all our junior schools, but you can also get more detailed information from the schools themselves on their websites. I hope you find this guide useful.

The demand for places is high so it is essential you submit your application by the deadline to give you the best chance of getting a place at one of your preferred schools.

You can apply anytime from 15 August 2025 until the closing date of 31 October 2025.

Please use all your preferences and consider using one of your preferences for your associated junior school. If you decide not to apply for your associated junior school, you will not automatically be allocated it should your other school preferences be unsuccessful. Your child is not guaranteed a place at their associated junior school. However, your child's associated junior school represents their strongest chance of obtaining a place at a school.

If you have any further questions or concerns, you can contact our Frontline Team at the Contact Centre on 0161 217 6022 who will be happy to help you or alternatively you can visit www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions for more information.

We hope that your child will enjoy the exciting times ahead of them in their new school.

Tim Bowman
Director of Education

Contents

Dates for your diary	4
Our Schools	5
Section 1: Before you apply	6
Maximising your chance of being allocated one of your preferred schools	6
Our different types of schools	7
More information about schools	7
Where to apply to	7
Catchment areas	8
Deciding your preferences – equal preference scheme	8
Children with special educational needs	9
Summer born children	10
Admission outside of chronological age group	10
Section 2: Making your application	12
Applying online	12
Your home address	13
Determining a child’s principal parental address	13
Moving house during the admissions process	14
Parental responsibility	14
Resolving parental disputes and multiple applications	14
Fraudulent applications	15
Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) – known as Cared for Children in Stockport	15
Admission of children of UK service personnel and crown servants	15
Your reasons for applying for each of your preferences	16
Siblings (brothers and sisters)	16
Additional information you may need to provide	16
Applying for a school with religious character	16
Highly exceptional medical and / or social reasons	17
Declaration	18
Submitting your application	18
Amending/ reviewing online applications	19
If your address/circumstances change	19
Verification of information	19
Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	19
Late applications	19
Section 3: How places are allocated	20
Oversubscription criteria	20

Published Admission Numbers (PANs) and in year admissions limit	20
Making decisions	20
Distance measurement	21
Tie-Breaker	21
Section 4: What happens after decisions have been made	22
Offer day	22
Appeals	22
School waiting lists	23
Starting school	24
After your child has started at their new school	24
Section 5: School admission arrangements	25
Admission arrangements for new academy status schools	25
Admission arrangements for Stockport junior schools	25
Section 6: In year school transfers	30
Section 7: Other Useful Information and support for school age children	31
Travelling to school	31
Free School Meals	31
Term Dates	31
Advice and support	31

Dates for your diary

15 August 2025	Online application system becomes available.
31 October 2025	Closing date for receipt of applications
24 January 2026	Last date changes of address can be notified to School Admissions Team to be considered before national offer day
16 April 2026 – Offer Day	Emails will be sent to applicants informing them of the outcome of their application
16 May 2026	Deadline for appeals to be received that will be heard before the summer holidays
Summer Term 2026	Appeals heard by an independent panel
September 2026	Pupils start school in Year 3
31 December 2026	Waiting lists for schools close unless individual school admissions arrangements say otherwise

Apply online at www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Applications received **after** the **closing date of 31 October 2025** will be ranked in the last oversubscription criteria for all junior schools. Please complete your application by the closing date to give yourself the best chance to be allocated a place at your preferred school for September 2026.

Our Schools

Key
C Community School
VA Voluntary Aided School
A Academy

School	Type	Headteacher	Address	Contact	Year 3 junior school places for September 2026
Banks Lane Junior School	C	Mr E Milner	Hempshaw Lane, Stockport SK1 4PR	0161 480 2330	90
Cheadle Catholic Junior School	VA	Ms R Fender	Conway Rd, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, SK8 6DB	0161 485 3754	90
Great Moor Junior School	C	Ms K Bushaway	Southwood Road, Great Moor, SK2 7DG	0161 483 4987	78
Hursthead Junior School	A	Mrs T Kendrick	Kirkstead Road, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 7PZ	0161 439 6961	90
Nevill Road Junior School	C	Ms J Cliff	Nevill Rd, Bramhall, SK7 3ET	0161 439 4598	90

Section 1: Before you apply

This section gives you all the information you should know and things you need to do before

Think about where you want your child to go to school and talk to them before making the application. You know your child best and which school is the right school for them rather than what other people might tell you.

- It is important that you take time to read the information in this guide to help you understand how the application process works.
- Visit schools to ensure you are happy with your preferences before submitting your application.
- If your child attends the associated infant school, they will have a higher priority in the oversubscription criteria
- Look to see how many places are available in each school. This is called the Published Admission Number (PAN). This number is set to take account of the number of pupils each school can accommodate and how many places are needed in an area.
- Consider how likely it is that your child will be offered a place at your preferred schools.
- Read the oversubscription criteria for each school and look to see which apply to your child.
- **Use all five of your junior preferences.**

Maximising your chance of being allocated one of your preferred schools

Apply on time

- The closing date is 31 October 2025
- All applications received after this date will be processed at a later date after the majority of places have been allocated
- A late application means you are less likely to get the school you prefer or want

Use all of your preferences

- You could disadvantage your chances if you do not use all five junior of your preferences
- Use one of your preferences to put your associated junior school. If you don't put it as a preference and we cannot offer you one of your other preferences, you may be allocated a school that is a long distance from home.
- Each preference is considered in its own right so give yourself five separate chances
- We only look at the order of your preferences (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc.) if we are able to offer you more than one of your preferences. We will **always** allocate the highest preference

Include all relevant information

- Details of siblings who will still be at either the junior school or associated infant school in September
- Any exceptional medical or social reasons that you want the school to consider

Consider your preferences carefully

- Many of our schools are heavily oversubscribed so have a look at the oversubscription criteria and see where you think your application might fit within those criteria
- Don't assume that you will be allocated a place at your closest school if you do not put it as one of your preferences.
- Don't assume anything, read this guide carefully.

Our different types of schools

There are several different types of schools in Stockport:

Community Schools - Community Schools are completely maintained by the Council, who are responsible for admission arrangements. There are currently three junior schools.

Voluntary Schools – Voluntary Aided (VA) schools are maintained by the Council but the premises are owned by the Diocesan Authorities who are responsible for building improvements and repairs. There are also Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools, where the Council provides maintenance and running costs but does not own the premises. There is one junior school. There are no Voluntary Controlled junior schools in Stockport.

Academies - Academies are publicly funded independent schools, free from Council and national government control. These schools are their own Admissions Authority and employ their own staff. There is one junior school.

Free schools - Free Schools are all-ability state-funded schools set up in response to parental demand. They can be set up by a wide range of proposers, including charities, universities, businesses, educational groups, teachers and groups of parents. There are no free schools in Stockport.

Independent Schools – Independent schools are not maintained by the Council. Tuition fees are usually charged although bursary schemes may be operated. The Council does not have responsibility for these schools, or their admissions and applications should be made directly to the school.

More information about schools

Many parents will choose to send their children to their associated junior school; however, you may wish to find out more about some other schools before making your decision.

Each school has a website which will give you lots of information about the school.

You can find useful information on the Department for Education website (www.education.gov.uk) including Ofsted reports and school profiles.

Where to apply to

Stockport operates a co-ordinated admissions scheme for junior school applications. This means parents only have to complete one application. There is co-ordination between the council and

other admissions authorities in Stockport, and every parent who lives in Stockport receives one offer of a junior school place.

Parents can express a preference for up to five junior schools.

If you live outside Stockport, you should follow your home Council's application process, even if you wish to apply for a Stockport junior school.

Catchment areas

Most schools in Stockport have a geographical area around it called the catchment area and every address in Stockport falls within the catchment area of one primary and one secondary school. The catchment area in which the parent lives will determine which is the catchment area school. Residence in the catchment area does not guarantee a place at the school.

You can also use your postcode to find out which school's catchment area you live in by searching [School catchment areas - Stockport Council](#). You can also use this site to look at maps of the catchment areas.

The catchment area school may not always be the nearest school (although it will be in your locality).

Cheadle Catholic Junior Schools has oversubscription criteria based on parish boundaries and you should contact the school for a map of these boundaries.

The law says that parents are not guaranteed a place in their catchment school, but that their application will be ranked in one of the higher oversubscription criteria of that school.

Deciding your preferences – equal preference scheme

The statutory equal preference system is used to allocate school places. This means that:

All your preferences are initially looked at individually, regardless of the order in which you have ranked the schools.

The order you have ranked your preferences becomes important when it is possible to allocate a place for your child at more than one of your preferred schools. In this instance you will be offered a place at the available school you have ranked the highest

Stockport has always maintained a consistently high rate of meeting parental preferences (over 90%) although it is very difficult to predict from year to year. Many of our schools are heavily oversubscribed which means they receive many more applications than they have places.

It is not possible to guarantee places at any school; however, the higher in the oversubscription criteria your child is in, the more chance you have of gaining a place.

The number of preferences you can make on your application is limited to five junior schools so you need to be realistic when making your preferences. If your child is unlikely to meet the criteria, you may not receive an offer at any of your preferred schools. This could happen if you don't live in the catchment area or attend the associated infant school

or live too far away from the schools or if you name a faith school and are not baptised in the relevant faith. So, it is very important to understand the order in which places are allocated if a school is oversubscribed by reading the admission arrangements for the school.

Although you don't have to include your associated junior school or catchment school in your selection, please carefully consider putting these as one of your preferences. If you don't and we cannot offer you one of your other preferences, you may be allocated a school that is a long distance from home, you will not automatically be allocated a place at your catchment school.

You don't have to use all five junior preferences. However, if you only put one preference, and are not offered a place at that school, you will be offered a place at the next nearest junior school with an available place after all other applicants have been considered.

Each of your preferences will be considered equally and separately. Putting more than one preference will not affect your chance of being offered your first preference. Schools are not told the preference of each application and they consider your child's application against their oversubscription criteria only and not according to the order of preference you put the school on your application.

You can make any changes to your application before the closing date. However, if you wish to change your preferences or you wish to change the preference order after the closing date, you will not be able to do so unless there are exceptional reasons for doing so.

Children with special educational needs

Our schools always endeavour to meet the needs of individual children, and most will find their needs can be met within a mainstream school. Some children however may have additional needs which require additional support; for example, when children have a learning difficulty or a disability that means they find it harder to learn than other children in their age group. Children may have a range of needs, including physical or sensory difficulties, language difficulties and emotional/behavioural difficulties.

The network of services that work with schools in Stockport means that each young person's needs can be addressed with additional support to overcome the barriers they face.

Schools may not refuse to admit a child because they feel unable to cater for their special educational needs. Schools cannot refuse to admit a child on the grounds that they do not have an Education Health & Care (EHC) Plan or are currently being assessed.

There is a clear expectation that pupils with special educational needs will be included in mainstream schools. A parent's wishes to have their child with an Education, Health and Care plan educated in a mainstream school should only be refused in the small minority of cases where the child's inclusion would be incompatible with the efficient education of other children. It is Stockport Council's policy to educate children in mainstream schools, if this is the parent's wish, wherever possible.

If a pupil has a disability, the school must not treat him/her less favourably than other pupils because of the disability and must take reasonable steps to avoid putting the pupil at a substantial disadvantage compared to pupils without disability. This requirement applies to the full range of school activities in and outside the classroom. Where a pupil needs additional aids

and services, these will usually be provided through the pupil's Education, Health and Care Plan. However, the requirement to take reasonable steps does not include adaptations to school buildings. There is an expectation that, over time, schools and the Council will increase physical access for disabled pupils. However, to make all schools physically accessible will take a long time and therefore the Authority has adopted a policy of making a number of schools accessible, with at least one school in each area, adapted to meet the needs of physically disabled pupils.

If a pupil requires or is likely to require in the future, wheelchair access or specialist facilities such as a disabled toilet or changing facilities, a place will usually be provided in one of the designated schools.

The process of allocating a Year 3 place for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) is different from children who do not have an EHC Plan. You should contact Stockport's EHCP Team to discuss the transition arrangements for your child. You do not need to apply via the normal application process. Children still going through the statutory assessment process (without a finalised EHCP) must follow the same online application procedure as that set out for other children.

There is lots more information for parents / carers on Stockport's local offer which you can find here <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/showcase/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send-local-offer>

Summer born children

If your child's entry to infant school has already been delayed under the summer born process, and you wish your child to remain outside of their age group when they transfer to junior school, you will need to apply once again for an outside normal year group place.

You should be aware that the decision by one Admissions Authority is not binding on other admissions authorities so it is possible that a new Admissions Authority will decide that it is in your child's best interests to return to their normal year group and so your child would miss a school year.

Admission authorities will consider your request in the same way as the original request but must also take into account that your child has been educated in a different year group up until this point. For many children, it will be right for them to remain with their adopted year group, but it is possible that others may be better off joining their normal year group.

All decisions will be made taking individual circumstances into account and considering all of your child's needs, including their social and emotional needs. You should make this request alongside an application for a school place and should do so when your child's normal year group are making applications for a school place. **This means that a summer born child that started in Reception a year later than is usual, would apply for a Year 3 junior school place and for an out of year group place when they are in year 1 rather than year 2.**

Admission outside of chronological age group

Requests should be submitted in writing to the Admissions Authority responsible for the school preferred by the parent. Requests should be supported by documentary evidence where necessary. The Admissions Authority will consider the request based on the information

provided, the Admissions Authority reserves the right to request further information or request that the child is assessed by the school's Headteacher. Decisions are communicated in writing and are final.

Please also consider the points below before submitting a request:

- It is advised that all parents/ carers wishing to submit a request, still make an application for a school place at the normal time.
- Requests should be made in writing to the relevant Admissions Authority for the school the request relates to
- Parents / carers may provide any supplementary documentary evidence to support their request
- Decisions are made by the Admissions Authority on an individual case basis and will consider:
 - The views and wishes of the parent
 - The views of the prospective Headteacher/Governing Body
 - Evidence indicating academic, social and emotional development to date
 - Where relevant, the child's medical history
 - Whether the child has previously been educated out of age group
 - If the child would have fallen into another age group if it were not for the child being born prematurely
- Decisions will be communicated in writing
- Should a request be granted, it does not indicate a formal offer of a school place instead it is an agreement to consider the child's application for a school place outside of the normal admissions round.
- Should the request be granted, and your child is unsuccessful at obtaining a place at the school requested. The agreement to consider other schools outside of the normal admissions round may not be extended, particularly if the school is under the control of a different Admissions Authority. This could result in your child being considered for school places in the expected chronological age group

Remember to apply by 31 October 2025

Every year some applicants miss out on the opportunity to be allocated a place at their preferred school because they miss the closing date.

Applications received after the closing date are the last criteria to be considered for places.

Section 2: Making your application

This section gives you information to help you complete your application. Please read it carefully

If you live in Stockport and your child is due to start Year 3 in September 2026, you must apply using the online system available at www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions. The online system is available from 15 August 2025 and closes at midnight on 31 October 2025.

Applying online

The parent portal

- If you do not already have a parent portal account, you will need to register online at: <https://education.stockport.gov.uk/Synergy/>
- If you don't already have an email address, you will need to create one before you can register
- Please keep your log in details safe as you will need them to log into your account to see the outcome of your application on national offer day
- Once you have registered, you will receive an email with a link you must click in order to verify your email address
- If you already have a parent portal account, you will need to sign into it. If you have forgotten your password you will need to reset it

If the schools you wish to apply for are not listed on the portal, you must contact the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team on admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk before 11:59pm on 31 October 2025, otherwise your application will be considered late.

You will receive an acknowledgement email once you have submitted your application. If you do not receive an acknowledgment email, please contact the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team as soon as possible

What you need to do when completing the online application

- You will need to answer questions about your child including their name, address, date of birth
- You will need to provide your contact details, including your email address and phone number as well confirmation of your relationship to the child
- Decide which five junior schools you would most like your child to attend and decide your order of preference
- Include details of any exceptional medical and social needs on the online form. Supporting documents should be uploaded to your application or you can send them to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team on admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk. Please write your child's name and date of birth on all documents.
- You will need to confirm your child's religion if you are applying for a denominational school

- You may need to enclose a supplementary information form for each Roman Catholic / Church of England school you are applying for, if applicable and return to each relevant school. **Before applying you should check whether your preferred schools require you to provide any additional information and who you should send it to. Please check the admission criteria carefully for information.**
- If your child will have a sibling on roll at the associated infant and junior schools at the time of admission you should include the sibling details to ensure that your application is placed in the correct oversubscription criteria

You can change your application at any time up to the closing date by logging back into your account, but you must remember to resubmit it every time you make a change. You will not be able to make any changes after the closing date.

If you don't have access to the internet, free internet access and access to computers is available in Stockport Libraries.

If you experience any technical difficulties when making your application, contact the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team.

Your home address

For the purpose of allocating school places in Stockport, only one address can be used and the address to be used should be the principal parental home address. Parents/ carers cannot, for example use:

- a child minder's address, the address of a grandparent or anyone else who may provide childcare
- a property they own but do not live in as the principal parental home, this would include business properties with living accommodation

Determining a child's principal parental address

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, the place of residency will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the week (e.g., where the child wakes up the majority of mornings each week). Full details must be submitted in writing to enable the Council to determine which address will be used for the purpose of admission.

Where care is shared jointly, and it is not possible to determine which parent is the principal carer the Council will consider the following information to decide on a main address for the child:

- Address to which child benefit is claimed
- Address held by child's current School or Nursery
- Child's registered GP address
- Child's registered dentist address
- Any other documentation indicating the child's registered address

In the instance that further information is received regarding a conflict to the principal parental address of a child which has been provided, the Council have the right to request both parent/ carers to provide proof of the child's residency at the address.

Moving house during the admissions process

If you move address after you have applied, you must notify the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team as soon as possible as this may have an impact on your application. You should email the team on admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk.

Changes of address must be notified to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team by no later than 24 January 2026 for junior school applications to be considered by national offer day. All notifications must include proof of house move for example, a completion statement, tenancy agreement, council tax bill and confirmation of disposal of previous property. Changes of address notified to Stockport Council after these dates will not be considered when allocating places before the relevant national offer day. School places cannot be allocated on the basis of an intended change of address.

Parental responsibility

For the purpose of allocating school places parental responsibility is taken into account.

The definition of a 'parent' in education law is wider than just those with parental responsibility. The definition of a parent is defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996. This can include all natural parents whether they have parental responsibility or not, other people who have acquired parental responsibility by court order or anyone else who has care of a child such as another family member.

Resolving parental disputes and multiple applications

Anyone with parental responsibility for a child can make an application for a school place, however, only one application in each admission round can be considered for a child. Parent/carers should agree on a set of preferences before submitting one application for the child.

In circumstances where two applications are made for one child (and applications differ), both parents will be contacted and asked to confirm which application should be processed and which should be withdrawn.

In circumstances where parent/ carers cannot come to an agreement:

- Where a principal parental address can be determined, the applicant residing at the child's principal parental home will be the application that is processed, and the other application will be withdrawn.
- Where the principal parental address cannot be determined, then neither application will be considered, and the Council will contact parents asking them to agree a single application to go forward for processing and provide a deadline for the final application to be confirmed.

In cases where parents cannot agree on the preferences for their child they should endeavour to do so as soon as possible. If mutual agreement is not possible, ultimately, a Specific Issues Order from the court may need to be obtained. If an agreement on a valid application form to

be processed is not received, both applications will not continue to be processed until an agreement is made or a court order is provided.

Where the Council has a duty to offer a child a school place, any school with places available will be randomly selected and offered. This will not be any of the preferences expressed and may be considerable distance from either home.

School and Council staff must treat all parents equally, unless a court order limits a parent's ability to make educational decisions, participate in school life or receive information about their child.

Fraudulent applications

Any attempt to obtain a school place by using a false or intentionally misleading address is taken very seriously. Admissions Fraud is:

- Declaring you live at an address which neither the Child or Principal parent lives at
- Misrepresenting your childcare arrangements including custody, contact and those who have parental responsibility.
- False claims about a child's religion, their siblings or public care status

In all cases of suspected fraud, we will investigate the circumstances and where we find that the place has been obtained fraudulently, we may withdraw the place even if your child has already started at the school. Whilst we investigate, we may suspend your application and use other information available to us for example, council tax records. We will ask you to provide evidence of your circumstances within a set timeframe and make a decision based on this.

Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) – known as Cared for Children in Stockport

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires that schools' oversubscription criteria must give priority to looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). (See Section 1.7 of the School Admission Code). Parents/carers of all previously looked after children will need to provide a photocopy of the relevant order or proof of adoption with the application form. You can upload proof with your online application if you wish to be considered under this criterion.

Admission of children of UK service personnel and crown servants

Stockport Council acknowledges that service families are subject to movement within the UK and from abroad. The Council is not able to reserve places but will consider requests and allocate places in advance of the move provided the application is accompanied by an official letter declaring a relocation date. A Unit or quartering address can be used if evidence of the intended address is not provided. For in year admissions, places will be allocated, subject to a place being available in the relevant year group, prior to moving. If we are unable to allocate a place at that time, parents will be offered the right to appeal.

Your reasons for applying for each of your preferences

You are able to give reasons for each of your preferences. We need you to give us this information so that the Council or school governors can correctly apply their oversubscription criteria. Schools can only use their published admission criteria to decide which children qualify for a place. This means it may not be possible to consider some of your reasons for your preference. However, you should give any reasons that are detailed in your preferred school's criteria such as a sibling link, faith claim or exceptional grounds where applicable.

Siblings (brothers and sisters)

A sibling for the purpose of allocating a school place means one who is still attending the school at the time the child starts. In the case of infant and junior schools, the sibling can be attending either the infant school or their associated junior school.

The sibling must be of statutory school age (Reception to Year 5)

Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner, where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. This means that step or half brothers and sisters will be treated as siblings if they are living together, but full brothers and sisters living apart will not qualify.

Where there are applications for twins, or other multiple births, and one child is allocated the last place at a school but there are not enough places for all the children within the Published Admission Number of the school, the Admission Authority will exceed the PAN to provide a place for all the children of the multiple birth. However, if one child is placed at a school outside of the oversubscription criteria, e.g. the school is named on an EHCP, then other siblings of multiple birth will not be admitted over PAN and will follow the normal admission process.

Some schools may have their own definition of siblings in their admission arrangements so please ensure you read the admission arrangements for your preferred schools carefully.

Additional information you may need to provide

You should check the criteria for the schools you are applying for so you know if you have to provide any additional information, such as a baptism certificate. You can upload additional information to your online application or you can email it to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team on admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk or you may need to send it directly to the school.

Applying for a school with religious character

Many schools with a religious character will have oversubscription criteria that relate to this for example giving a higher priority for those of the school's faith.

If you are applying for a Stockport Catholic school, you will be asked if your child has been Baptised Catholic or not. You should only answer YES if your child's Baptism has actually taken place. An intention to have your child Baptised Catholic at a later date will not be considered.

You will need to provide proof of your child's baptism to the school you are applying for. You can also upload it to the online admissions system when you make your application.

Highly exceptional medical and / or social reasons

You will have the opportunity to give your reasons for applying for a particular school, however, no places can be guaranteed at any school and parents should not make assumptions about entitlement to a place.

In very limited circumstances some applications may be considered as having highly exceptional medical/social reasons.

If an Admissions Authority includes this in their oversubscription criteria it should be made clear how applications will be considered. Stockport Council has included an oversubscription criteria for highly exceptional medical/reasons for its schools and in very limited circumstances, some applications may be considered as having highly exceptional medical/social reasons. In such instances, successful applications would be placed higher in the admissions oversubscription criteria for a particular school.

Where applicants feel this may be the case, they **must** indicate this by ticking the boxes provided on the application form and state the nature of the condition and/or circumstances. The applicant must provide written evidence from a recognised professional such as, but not limited to a consultant, doctor or social worker in support of their application. The supporting evidence must relate specifically to the child or family and the school for which the application is being made and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that could cater for the child's specific requirements/needs.

It should also explain any difficulties that would arise if the child had to attend an alternative school. Any supporting evidence you have **must** be submitted to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team **by the closing date 31 October 2025**. If you do not provide evidence by this date, **it will not be considered**.

Very few applications are considered under this criteria in any one year, those that have been, have for example, been situations related to the sudden death or terminal illness of a parent or similar life changing/traumatic event.

A panel of Officers or Governors if relevant will consider the evidence given in the application and whether this is appropriate/ relevant for the particular school (and not just why a child shouldn't attend a different school). The panel does not have to accept any recommendations made in the evidence.

The panel will need to decide whether it shows that the needs of the child can only be met at the specific school. The panel expects the evidence to show why other schools would not be able to meet this need.

The panel will keep in mind that all Stockport schools are able to support children with special educational needs and are expected to manage most medical needs. This means it is unlikely that an application made only on these reasons would be successful.

An application with medical evidence may be agreed under this criterion where a child has an exceptional illness or disability (for example, limited mobility) which means that, in the opinion

of the Panel, the child can only reasonably attend one school. If the Panel feels that the child's needs could be met by other schools, they will not agree the application.

An application with social evidence may be agreed under this criterion where a child's education would, in the opinion of the Panel, be seriously affected if they did not go to a particular school. This must be clearly shown in the supporting evidence.

A parent's place of work, childcare arrangements or a family connection with the school is not sufficient reason alone for agreeing an application. However, they may be taken into account if there are other reasons as well.

If the parent has applied for more than one school, the Panel will look at each application separately and make a decision.

Where the Panel agrees a child's application meets the threshold, it will be considered under the exceptional needs rule during the allocation of school places. However, an agreed application does not guarantee a place at the school.

The School Places, Admissions and Transport Team will not:

- respond to applicants who have included reasons for a particular preference
- seek further clarification of stated circumstances or contact any party which the applicant may suggest.

Declaration

You must declare on your application that you have parental responsibility for the child you are applying for and the address on the application is the main residence of the child. If you provide any false or misleading information on the application or in supporting papers, or withhold relevant information, it may render your application invalid and lead to the withdrawal of an offer of a place.

Submitting your application

The closing date for receipt of your application is 31 October 2025.

Before you submit your application please check that you:

- are familiar with the oversubscription criteria for each school you are applying for
- are clear on the order you want to list the schools you are applying for
- think carefully about naming a school where your child is unlikely to qualify for a place and
- do not disadvantage your child by listing only one preference
- have used all five junior preferences as this will increase your chances of obtaining a place for your child at one of your preferred schools
- considered including your associated junior school and / or catchment area school as one of your preferences

Amending/ reviewing online applications

If you re-visit your online account for any reason, to make changes or just to review it, you must re-submit your application in order for it to be processed.

If your address/circumstances change

If the details you have submitted on your application change at any time you **must** inform the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team **immediately**. All changes will be assessed according to the oversubscription criteria for each school you have named. Changes of address must be notified to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team by no later than 24 January 2026 for junior school applications to be considered by national offer day.

Verification of information

The Council may verify information you have provided on the application form, which could involve contacting other departments of the Council or other Councils who maintain appropriate records. In instances where the information provided is different from that held by them, they may use the information on the application form.

Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The online system is a secure system that has several security features to prevent unauthorised people from being able to see your information. We primarily use your data for school admissions. All information is processed in accordance with our [school admissions privacy notice](#). We never sell your data to third parties or use it to market to you without your consent.

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date of 31 October 2025, even by one day, will be treated as a late application. The Council will only accept applications received after the deadline if there is an exceptional circumstance for doing so. Late applications made without a genuine and good reason will not be considered until at least two weeks after national offer day, 16 April 2026. Applications received after the closing date will be in the last oversubscription criteria and placed on waiting lists for each school, regardless of whether you live in the catchment area of the school and/ or have siblings at the school.

Parents or carers who apply late may miss out on a place at their preferred school. Applications received after the closing date without a genuine reason can only be considered for any of the remaining places available after the on-time applications had been processed. This designation as being 'received after the closing date' will remain up to and including 14 calendar days follow the relevant national offer day after which point the designation will be removed resulting in a reassessment according to the published oversubscription criteria.

If your preferred school has any places remaining, your child will be considered for these places along with any other late applications. Otherwise, your child's name will be added to the school's waiting list until 31 December 2026, along with those unsuccessful applications considered in the initial allocation round.

Section 3: How places are allocated

This section gives you information on how places are allocated

Oversubscription criteria

All schools must have a method of allocating school places in case there are more applications for the school than there are places available, up to the Published Admission Number (PAN). Regulations require that places are provided for pupils who have an Education, Health & Care Plan which names the school and has also determined that looked after children and previously looked after children must be given the highest priority in Admissions arrangements criteria.

Following this the Admissions Authority can determine the order in which pupils are taken into the school this is known as the oversubscription criteria. Details of all the criteria used to allocate places can be found in section 5.

Published Admission Numbers (PANs) and in year admissions limit

All schools must have a PAN for their normal intake year (Reception, Year 3 and Year 7). This is the number of places the school has planned to provide. Once places have been allocated up to the PAN the year group will be considered as full.

The PAN is the minimum number of places available for the normal round intake and that entire academic year. If there is higher demand and a school has sufficient capacity and resource, it may reorganise or take an additional class or form of entry above the PAN. Published admission numbers can be increased without consultation if circumstances allow but cannot easily be reduced.

After the intake year, it becomes the in-year admissions limit which can change without consultation. While there is an expectation that the number of places available is the same, the in-year admissions limit can rise or fall depending on the school's circumstances. A school that had planned to operate with 3 classes in a year group may only have demand for 2 classes and so could reduce the in-year admissions limit. Schools can make these decisions to ensure that they are making efficient and effective use of resources.

In-year admissions limits can be reviewed at the end of each academic year or earlier if necessary and apply to individual year groups. In year admissions limits can be different for different year groups. The current circumstances at the school such as a significant proportion of the site being out of use due to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete will also be considered.

Making decisions

Whilst every effort will be made to place your child in one of your preferred schools, no places can be guaranteed. If your first preference cannot be offered and you have not indicated another option, your child will be allocated the nearest school with a place available. Unfortunately, this may not necessarily be in your immediate locality.

Each one of your preferences is treated as a separate application regardless of the order you have listed them in. Stockport Council will share your child's details to each school/Admissions Authority. All on-time applications will be considered at the same time. Schools will not be told which preference number they are or which other schools you have applied for.

If you have listed a voluntary aided school or academy we send your application details to the relevant school as the school governors decide who should be offered places. If a school receives more applications than they have places available, the school will use its oversubscription criteria to rank and determine which applicants can receive an offer. This information is then returned to Stockport Council and matched against the applicant's list of preferences.

If you have listed a community school, the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team will apply the council's oversubscription criteria if there are more applications than available places.

If more than one of your preferred schools can offer your child a place, we will offer a place at the one which is ranked highest. If only one preferred school can offer your child a place, this is the place you will be offered. If a place cannot be offered at any of the preferred schools, a place will be offered the next nearest school with places available.

Your child's name is automatically added to the waiting list of the preferred schools higher than the school we have offered. You will receive only one offer of a school place for each child.

Distance measurement

For the purpose of allocating school places, distances will be measured consistently and will be measured to three decimal places as a straight line (as the crow flies) between the Council's Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address points for the respective home address and the school, using the Easting and Northing for each address point. The Easting and Northing gives an approximate centre point of a site and everybody is measured to the same point of the school.

Applicants will be ordered starting with those living closer to the school within each of the appropriate oversubscription criteria.

If there are two or more applications with distances which are exactly the same competing for a final place random allocation will be used to determine which applicant will be allocated the final place. The random allocation will be carried out in a public place. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

For the purpose of determining eligibility for free school travel the shortest available walking route is used to measure distance. The Free School Travel policy can be viewed at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/travel-to-school>.

Tie-Breaker

If a school is oversubscribed within any of the criteria, priority will be given to those children living nearest to the school. In the event of distances being the same for two or more applications where this distance would be the last place/s to be allocated, the place will be allocated to the pupil that is nearer using walking distance as measured using the Council's school admissions data mapping software. In the event of two or more applications with distances, which are exactly the same competing for a final place, e.g. blocks of flats, the place will be decided by drawing lots, the first name drawn will be offered the place.

Section 4: What happens after decisions have been made

This section gives you information on the outcome of your application and what happens next

Offer day

In 2026, offer day for junior school places is 16 April 2026. If you live in Stockport and applied on time, you will receive an email with your allocation on that day. You can also log into your online account to view your allocation. If your application was late, you will receive your offer at a later date. You will only receive an offer of one school place.

If you've been offered your first choice

We'll email you with details of the offer made to your child. The school that has been offered to your child will send a welcome pack over the summer term. The welcome pack gives you information about what you need to do next.

If you have not been offered your first choice

We'll email you with information about the school place that has been offered. The email will include information about:

- How to accept or tell us you no longer need the school place that has been offered
- Your child being placed on a waiting list for your preferred choice school

Accepting your offer of a school place

Stockport Council does not ask you to formally accept an allocated place at a Stockport school.

Appeals

Parents/ carers of children refused a place at any of their preferred schools have the right to appeal against the decision to an Independent Appeal Panel. A parent cannot appeal more than once for the same school place in the same academic year, unless significant and material changes in the case have taken place which the previous Independent Appeal Panel could not have been aware of at the time of the hearing. More details about our appeal process can be found on our website <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/admission-appeals/school-admissions-how-to-appeal>.

If your request for a place at a particular school has been turned down, you will be offered an alternative. If, however, you wish to appeal against the decision, you can do so by completing an appeal form online at www.stockport.gov.uk/admissionappeals.

If you would like a PDF copy of the appeal form to return via email or post, please contact the appeals team in Democratic Services at admission.appeals@stockport.gov.uk.

Appeals for admission to Year 3 in September will be heard from June to July. Appeals cannot be heard over the summer holidays. Where possible, the Panel will hear all appeals for the same school before coming to any decisions. If you are appealing before your child is due to start junior school, it is important that you register your appeal as soon as possible to ensure that a decision

is made well before the start of the new school year in September. The deadline to submit an appeal that is guaranteed to be heard before the summer holiday is 16 May 2026. Any appeal application submitted after this date may not be allocated a hearing until September 2026.

The date of the hearing will be arranged by the Secretary to the Independent Appeals Panel who will give you at least fourteen calendar days' notice via email of the date and time of the appeal.

Approximately seven school days before the appeal, the Admissions Authority will provide the parent with a statement of the reasons why a place has not been offered.

Your appeal will be heard by an Independent Appeals Panel consisting of three volunteers including at least one 'lay person', in an informal atmosphere and will be conducted in such a way as to put you at ease. The meeting is held remotely via Microsoft Teams and all information is treated in confidence. A representative of the Admissions Authority will attend to explain why a place has not been allocated at your preferred school. All appeals are determined on their individual merits.

A parent cannot appeal more than once for the same school place in the same academic year, unless significant and material changes in the case have taken place which the previous Independent Appeal Panel could not have been aware of at the time of the hearing.

The decision of the independent appeal panel is binding on the school and the Admissions Authority.

School waiting lists

Waiting lists are organised and ranked in the oversubscription criteria order that applies for each school. Every time a child is added to the list, it is reordered according to the oversubscription criteria and so you may find your child moving down the list as well as up. This can happen frequently:

- If a child higher on the waiting list is offered and accepts a place, others move up.
- If a child declines a place or moves away, others may move up.
- If a new application is received and the child meets a higher category (e.g. having a sibling on roll at the school), they may be ranked above existing applicants
- If a child already on the waiting list has a change of circumstances meaning they now fall into a higher category

You should be able to see your child's position on the waiting list via the online portal after they have been published after 16 May 2026. Waiting list positions are updated on the online portal on a weekly basis. If you are unable to see your waiting list position on the portal, you can email the School Admissions Team on admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk.

The names of children who were not allocated a place at their preferred school will be kept on a waiting list until 31 December 2026. If a place becomes available at that school during that period, you will be contacted and given the opportunity to accept the place. At the end of December, the waiting lists will be cleared, and the normal in-year admissions process will take over, any parents wishing to have their child's name included on the waiting list for the remainder of the academic year will need to re-apply.

A child granted a place at a school by the Independent Appeal Panel or other permitted exception under the School Admissions Code will count as an allocated place above the PAN of the school.

This will influence the availability of places accordingly i.e. places will not be offered from the waiting list of a particular school until the number of children allocated falls below the PAN.

Starting school

The school where your child is offered a place will invite you to visit the school before the end of the summer term 2026. You will have the opportunity to look around the school and to discuss questions such as school uniform, travel arrangements, meals and possible financial help. By the start of the summer holidays, the arrangements for your child's transfer to a new school should have been completed so they can look forward to starting there in September.

After your child has started at their new school

If you are unhappy with your child's school, you should initially contact the school and make an appointment to discuss the problems with the Headteacher. Moving schools can cause a great deal of disruption to a young person and it is important to ensure that all avenues have been explored before taking this step as a last resort. If you still wish to go ahead with the transfer, please visit our website for further information on changing schools during the school year: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/changing-schools-during-school-year>

If you have any further questions that are not answered in this guide, please check our website www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you still have questions, you can call our Frontline Team in the Contact Centre on 0161 217 6022.

**The online system will close on 31 October
2025 – remember to apply by this date.**

The online system will reopen 2 days after the closing dates to enable parents/ carers to apply which will be considered as detailed above.

Section 5: School admission arrangements

This section explains what admission arrangements for junior schools are

The determined admission arrangements for a school are the full set of arrangements which set out how a school will admit pupils. This includes the published admission number (the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted to the relevant year group), the oversubscription criteria and information on waiting lists. You are advised to read the full arrangements for all your preferred schools before you complete your application. The full admission arrangements can be found on the relevant school website.

Admission arrangements for new academy status schools

Admission Arrangements are set approximately 18 months in advance. Schools having recently attained academy status should continue to use the current admission arrangements and associated oversubscription criteria until they have consulted upon and subsequently adopted their relevant academy admission arrangements.

**The online system will close on 31 October
2025 – remember to apply by this date.**

The online system will reopen 2 days after the closing dates to enable parents/ carers to apply which will be considered as detailed above.

Admission arrangements for Stockport junior schools

The following admission arrangements apply to:

- **Banks Lane Junior School**
- **Great Moor Junior School**
- **Nevill Road Junior School**

The published admission number for the junior schools are:

- Banks Lane Junior School 90
- Great Moor Junior School 78
- Nevill Road Junior School 90

When a community junior school is oversubscribed, after placement of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school for all on time applications:

- A. Looked after children and previously looked after children
- B. Children considered to have highly exceptional medical/social reasons
- C. Children who live in the catchment area of the school and will have a sibling at the associated infant or junior school at the time of admission
- D. Children who live in the catchment area of the school
- E. Children who live outside the catchment area of the school and will have a sibling at the associated infant or junior school at the time of admission
- F. Any other applicants, in order of straight line distance measured between home and the school
- G. Applications received after the closing date ordered by the criteria detailed at A-F above

Associated infant and junior Schools

- Banks Lane Infants School is associated with Banks Lane Junior School
- Great Moor Infant School is associated with Great Moor Junior School
- Nevill Road Infant School is associated with Nevill Road Junior School

Further information on the admission arrangements can be found on Stockport Council's website [School admission documents - Stockport Council](#).

The following admission arrangements apply to **Cheadle Catholic Junior School**

The governing body is the admissions authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The governing body has set its admission number at 90 pupils to be admitted to Year 3 in the school year which begins in September 2026.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (see note 1)

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority.

1. Catholic looked after and previously looked after children. (see notes 2 & 3)
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parishes of Christchurch, St. Ann's, St Chad's and that part of St Vincent's formerly in St. Ann's and that part of St. John's Parish that lies within Stockport boundary (see note 3)
3. Other Catholic children. (see note 3)
4. Other looked after and previously looked after children. (see note 2)
5. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

(i) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (1) above (see note 8)

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.
2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

3. "Catholic" means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the

Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

4. “brother or sister’ includes:
 - all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
 - the child of a parent’s partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same address as the applicant.
 - A ‘parent’ means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.

5. A child’s “home address” refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form (“CAF”). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week

Further information on the admission arrangements can be found on the school’s website [Cheadle Catholic Junior School - Admissions](#)

The following admission arrangements apply to **Hursthead Junior School**

The published admission number at the school is 90

After placement of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school:

NB: Categories A – G refer to applications received by the closing date: 31st October

- A. Looked after children and previously looked after children (See definition in the Glossary of terms in Policies and Procedures, please visit www.stockport.gov.uk/nursery-and-school-admissions)
- B. Children considered to have highly exceptional medical / social reasons.
- C. Children in attendance at Hursthead Infants, ranked by categories D – G.
- D. Children who live in the catchment area* of the school and will have a sibling* at Hursthead Infant School or Hursthead Junior School at the time of admission.
- E. Children who live in the catchment area* of the school.
- F. Children who live outside the catchment area* of the school and will have a sibling* at Hursthead Infant School or Hursthead Junior School at the time of admission.
- G. Children who are any other applicant, in order of straight-line distance* measured between home and the school.
- H. Applications received after the closing date ordered by the criteria detailed at A – G above

The overwhelming majority of children join the school in Year 3. Their admission is preceded by several visits by the children to meet the teachers, familiarise themselves with the building and experience a typical lesson with their new teacher. The Year 2 children will have visited the Junior School on several occasions and will have a Year 5 buddy to support them in the transition process. We have a very comprehensive programme of events for transition.

To support a smooth transition, children are currently joining Year 3 in their former Year 2 class. To continue to develop positive peer relationships and in preparation for High Schools, they will be mixed into three new mixed-ability classes for Year 4.

Section 6: In year school transfers

Stockport Council administers applications for school places in Stockport. Where the Governing Body/ Academy Trust of a school is responsible for admission arrangements this is done in conjunction with the Headteacher.

If you live in Stockport and wish to change school during the school year, all applications for Stockport school places must be made to our School Places, Admissions and Transport Team.

If you are moving into Stockport from another area or moving house within Stockport, you may be asked to provide evidence that you live at the address indicated on your application.

If you're applying to transfer to a school in another Council's area, you'll need to contact the Council that the school is located in to discuss their process for changing schools during the year.

Please visit our website for further information on changing schools during the school year: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/changing-schools-during-school-year>

All applications are considered in relation to the normal year group for the child's chronological age. All maintained schools, and academies, including schools designated with a religious character, that have places available must offer a place to every child who has applied for one, without condition or the use of any oversubscription criteria, unless admitting the child would prejudice the efficient provision of education or use of resources.

An in-year transfer application can only be refused on the following grounds:

- When the admission of an additional child would cause Infant Class Prejudice (for primary school applications only)
- When the admission of an additional child would cause prejudice to the provision of efficient education and to the efficient use of resources. To determine this the Council will take into account:
 - The number of children on roll and the original Published Admissions Number from when that year group entered the school
 - The current circumstances at the school being applied for such as a significant proportion of the site being out of use due to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete
- The pupil has been permanently excluded from two schools

In the case of multiple applications for a particular year group, places will be allocated, or names placed on the waiting list in accordance with the published admissions criteria for the school as determined for 2026/27 admissions.

Where an application is refused the parent will be notified, in writing, advising them of the reason for the refusal and their right of appeal to the Independent Appeal Panel.

Parents/ carers and pupils should be aware that a request to transfer primary school will be subject to Stockport Council's Transfer Process and Fair Access Protocol. This can be viewed at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/changing-schools-during-school-year>.

Section 7: Other Useful Information and support for school age children

Travelling to school

Most young people will live within 3 miles of their local school and the area is generally well served by public transport. Children under 16 can travel on buses at a concessionary rate.

Some children may qualify for free school transport, please refer to our published policy to determine if your child is eligible for free school transport: www.stockport.gov.uk/travel-to-school.

Applications for free school transport should be made on our free school transport portal: www.stockport.gov.uk/travel-to-school

Free School Meals

For information on free school meals please visit the following page: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Term Dates

School term dates can be found on the following page: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/school-term-dates>

Please refer to the individual school's websites for information on their In-Service Training Days.

Advice and support

For help and advice with anything not covered in this booklet, please telephone our frontline team in the Contact Centre on **0161 217 6022**

More complex matters may be referred to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team via admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk

You can also visit our Frequently Asked Questions page on our website: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/primary-and-secondary-school-admissions-frequently-asked-questions>

If you need assistance in translating or interpreting this information, please contact the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team.