

2021 Primary School Allocation Information

This document provides information about the schools in West Berkshire and what happens after 16 April including:

- Allocation details
- Contacting the admissions team
- Reasons for not being offered your preferred school or schools
- Allocated a school that was not one of your choices
- Waiting lists
- Accepting your place/or not – including accepting a school that is not your preferred school.
- Submitting a new application to change your school choices
- Appeals

Key for information in the table below

- **School Type:** Voluntary Aided (**VA**) Schools and Academy Schools (**AC**) are responsible for their own admission policies and have different oversubscription rules to Community Schools which are set by the Local Authority.
- **(AN) Admission Number:** The number of children that can be offered to schools each year. There are circumstances where schools will exceed this number and if there is demand they ensure they offer places to as many children as possible.
- **NA:** The number of children offered a school place in each school.
- **CS:** Indicates if school is full to maximum class size limit of 30.
- **Spaces:** Shows the number of spaces remaining in schools that are not full to capacity.
- **Last child offered / Admission Rule & Distance:** Each child meets a specific admission oversubscription criterion and by measuring the home to school distance (straight line) for each child's preferred schools we can create a ranked list. The oversubscription rule and distance shown are for the lowest ranked child in the list that we could offer a place to.
- **1st child on waiting list / Admission Rule & Distance:** Following on from above, the next child in the ranked list is placed 1st on the waiting list.
- **WL (waiting list):** Children are placed on waiting lists for all higher preference schools that were not offered and this shows the total for each school with a waiting list.

2021 Primary Allocation						Last child offered		1st child on Waiting List		
Base Name	School Type	AN	NA	CS	Spaces	Admission Rule	Distance (miles)	Admission Rule	Distance (miles)	WL
Aldermaston	C	28	15		13	Other reasons	2.061			
Basildon C.E.	VC	20	23		0	Other reasons	4.809			
Beedon C.E.	VC	10	6		4	Other reasons	19.192			
Beenham	C	15	7		8	Other reasons	1.382			
Birch Copse	C	60	60	yes	0	Other reasons	0.799	Other reasons	0.926	11
Bradfield C.E.	VA	30	20		10	Other reasons	22.453			
Brightwalton C.E.	VA	15	19	yes	0	Other reasons	6.32			
Brimpton C.E.	VC	7	8		0	Other reasons	3.263			
Bucklebury C.E.	VC	18	16		2	Other reasons	11.597			
Burghfield C.E.	VC	30	30	yes	0	Other reasons	1.049	Other reasons	1.05	5
Calcot Infant	C	77	59		18	Other reasons	3.979			
Chaddleworth C.E.	VC	8	1		7	Other reasons	5.48			
Chieveley	C	30	30	yes	0	Other reasons	2.41	Other reasons	2.447	10

**2021 Primary Allocation
Continued.....**

Cold Ash C.E.	VC	30	30	yes	0	Other reasons	1.394	Other reasons	1.431	16
Compton C.E.	VC	30	23		7	catchment	0.893			
Curridge	C	15	9		6	Other reasons	2.397			
Downsway	C	30	30	yes	0	Sibling	2.431	Other reasons	0.238	21
Enborne C.E.	VA	10	11		0	Other reasons	5			
Englefield C.E.	VA	16	16		0	Other reasons	4			
Falkland	C	60	58		2	Other reasons	2.974			
Fir Tree	AC	30	30	yes	0	Other reasons	1.229			
Francis Baily	AC	81	75		6	Other reasons	10.493			
Hampstead Norreys C.E.	VC	15	7		8	Other reasons	19.31			
Hermitage	C	30	28		2	Other reasons	5.025			
Highwood Copse	AC	30	26		4	Other reasons	3.379			
Hungerford	C	56	48		8	Other reasons	9.354			
Inkpen	C	12	11		1	Other reasons	3.229			
John Rankin Infant	C	90	77	yes	13	Other reasons	3.979			
Kennet Valley	C	30	30	yes	0	Other reasons	0.172	Other reasons	0.21	7
Kintbury C.E.	VC	30	16		14	Other reasons	3.004			
Lambourn C.E.	AC	30	17		13	catchment	2.731			
Long Lane Primary	C	30	30	yes	0	Other reasons	0.7	Other reasons	0.746	6
Mortimer St John's C.E.	VC	60	59		1	Other reasons	4.589			
Mrs Bland's	C	60	42		18	Other reasons	2.472			
Pangbourne	C	30	19		11	Sibling	2.363			
Parsons Down Infants	C	30	30	yes	0	Other reasons	0.251	Other reasons	0.267	8
Purley C.E.	VC	15	15	yes	0	Other reasons	2.785	Other reasons		
Robert Sandilands	C	30	30	yes	0	catchment	0.544	Sibling	1.219	10
Shaw-cum-Donnington C.E.	VC	14	10		4	Other reasons	2.339			
Shefford C.E.	VC	12	11		1	Other reasons	5.498			
Speenhamland	AC	45	27		18	Other reasons	1.317			
Springfield	C	42	46		0	Other reasons	0.601	Other reasons	0.642	15
Spurcroft	C	60	60	yes	0	Other reasons	2.079	Other reasons	2.762	1
St Finian's Catholic	VA	28	30		0	Other reasons	2.512	Other reasons	3.281	3
St John the Evangelist C.E.	VA	60	55		5	Sibling	1.231			
St Joseph's Catholic	VA	30	30	yes	0	Other reasons	0.147	Other reasons	0.188	6
St Paul's Catholic	VA	45	39		6	Other reasons	1.17			
Stockcross C.E.	VA	15	12		3	Other reasons	3.999			
Streatley C.E.	VC	15	11		4	Other reasons	3.895			
Sulhamstead	VA	15	13		2	Other reasons	3.866			
Thatcham Park	VC	60	40		20	Other reasons	1.255			
The Ilsleys	C	12	4		8	catchment	0.419			
The Willows	C	60	26		34	catchment	0.835			
The Winchcombe	C	60	60	yes	0	Sibling	0.633	Other reasons	0.669	15
Theale C.E.	VC	45	45	yes	0	Other reasons	10.561			
Welford & Wickham C.E.	VA	15	14		1	Other reasons	6.174			
Westwood Farm Infants	C	60	60	yes	0	Other reasons	0.651	Other reasons	0.663	20
Whitelands Park	AC	60	55		5	Other reasons	4.849			
Woolhampton C.E.	VA	15	15	yes	0	Other reasons	0.698	Other reasons	0.905	14
Yattendon C.E.	VA	15	16		0	Other reasons	0.968	Other reasons	20.034	1

Contacting the admissions team

Please read all of the information below before contacting the team as many of your questions should be answered here. The best way to contact the team is by email: admissions@westberks.gov.uk and we can normally respond the same day depending on the time you email. You can phone the main switchboard (01635 55111) to be directed to the admissions team if you would like to speak to one of us but you may

find it difficult to get through. Please leave a voicemail as this is emailed to the whole team rather than trying numerous times. Again we can normally respond the same day.

Reasons for not being offered your preferred school or schools

If you applied for a school or schools that received more applications than there were spaces, the school's admission policy and admission criteria are used to place you on a ranked list with all of the other applicants. If your child is not ranked high enough for any school, it is not possible for us to offer you a place in any preferred school.

Allocated a school that was not one of your choices

When we are unable to offer a place in one of your choices as outlined above we will offer you a place in the closest school to your home that still has spaces. We are required to do this as described in the school admissions code of practice. Once allocated a school, this is not the end of the process. Places may become available from waiting lists or you can apply for different schools that either have spaces or schools where you may be closer to the top of their waiting list.

You can decline your offered school if you will be making alternative arrangements. If you don't have another school for your child to attend there is no advantage in declining the place. It will not give you additional priority on waiting lists for your preferred schools and you will have no school allocated for your child.

Waiting lists

In West Berkshire we automatically place children on each higher preference school waiting list. Parents can contact the Admissions Team to find out their child's position on the list. admissions@westberks.gov.uk

The position is unlikely to change much because generally a low number of places are declined (for some schools no places are declined) so unless your child is within the first couple of places on a waiting list it is unlikely that a place will become available and even then it is not a certainty.

Positions on waiting lists can change up or down because the lists are ranked based on the admission criteria and distance of each child. If we receive a late application, the child will be placed with regard to the policy rather than being placed at the bottom of the list (**a legal requirement**). It is possible that you could initially be reasonably high on a waiting list such as 5th and then continue to move further down the waiting list because other families move in closer or the catchment area for the school.

Waiting lists for schools outside of West Berkshire

If you were unsuccessful in your application for a school outside of West Berkshire please let us know if you would like to be placed on the waiting list and we will let that Local Authority know. You can contact them to ensure that your child has been placed on a waiting list and ask for the position.

Accepting or declining a school place

We would like you to accept or decline your place as soon as possible so that we can update and offer any places that become available.

If you are not satisfied with the school that has been offered we advise that you still accept it until your child can be offered one of your original choices or an alternative because otherwise your child will have no school place allocated. Declining an offer at a lower preference school or school that was not a preference will not increase the chance of being offered a place in your preferred school.

Your child will remain on the waiting list for your preferred school or schools if you accept a lower preference or preference that was not an offer and chances of being offered will not decrease as a result.

Changing your school preference

You can submit a late application with up to 3 school preferences if you would like to add or change your school preferences. The application is available at www.westberks.gov.uk/primaryadmissions (**late applications can't be made in the online portal**)

Please ensure that your late application reflects the schools you would like considered and which order you would like them. For example if you originally applied for 2 schools and would like to add a 3rd choice please include all 3 schools on the form in the correct order. If you just place the new choice on the form we will assume this is the only school you would like to apply for.

Right of appeal

You can submit an appeal against an admission decision.

Infant Class Size Appeals

The law states that there must not be more than 30 children in an infant class so when a parent is appealing for a place in an infant class, the panel's task is to review the decision already made. It does not have the flexibility to say that your personal circumstances mean that you should have a place at the school, if this would take the number of children in the class over 30. This makes an infant class size appeal different to other school admissions appeals. **Most schools teach in classes of 30 and if True, this is indicated in the above table.**

How to appeal

You have to ensure that you submit your appeal by 22 May for a West Berkshire School.

The best way to appeal is usually online if the service is available. West Berkshire council provide the service: www.westberks.gov.uk/schoolappeals

But to appeal for Voluntary Aided (VA) Church of England Schools you need to contact them directly.

To appeal for schools in other Local Authority areas, please contact them directly or the information should be available on their website.

Contact details for surrounding Local Authorities

Hampshire Schools: 01962 847318, 01962 847345 or email: Independent.Appeals.Service@hants.gov.uk

Oxfordshire Schools: 01865 810180 or email schoolappeals@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Reading Borough Council schools: 0118 9373777 or email: admissions@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Wiltshire County Council Schools: 01225 713010 or email: admissions@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wokingham County Council Schools email: school.appeals@wokingham.gov.uk

More information about infant Class Size Appeals

This text is taken from the local government ombudsmen's website.

What is an 'infant class size' appeal?

- The law states that there must not be more than 30 children in an infant class (that is, classes containing reception, year 1 and year 2 children). This applies even if other adults are always present, and/or some children are absent. There are a few circumstances in which an additional child or children may be classed as an 'exception' and the class sizes goes over 30. But if children leave and the class size returns to 30, that does not mean extra children can be admitted again.
- So when a parent is appealing for a place in an infant class, the panel's task is to review the decision already made. It does not have the flexibility to say that your personal circumstances mean that you should have a place at the school, if this would take the number of children in the class over 30. This makes an infant class size appeal different to other school admissions appeals.

Can an appeal panel ever uphold an infant class size appeal?

- Yes. If the admissions authority has made a mistake in applying the admissions criteria which means you have been wrongly denied a place, then the panel will uphold the appeal. Such mistakes might be:
 - not taking account of a sibling at the school
 - not measuring the home to school distance accurately
 - wrongly allocating a place to an out-of-catchment child.
- The panel can also uphold an appeal if it considers that the child would have been offered a place if the admissions arrangements had not been 'contrary to mandatory provisions in the School Admissions Code'. This is something which should properly have been sorted out well before an appeal, but if your child missed out on a place because of this, the panel should uphold the appeal.
- And the panel can uphold an appeal if it considers that the decision not to offer a place was 'perverse in light of the published admission arrangements'. Parents often complain to us that the panel should have upheld their appeal because the decision to refuse a place was perverse. We do

not usually uphold the complaint, because the threshold for perverse is extremely high in infant class size appeals.

What might be 'perverse'?

- Most parents who have been refused a place at their preferred school consider this refusal to be perverse. But the word has a stronger meaning in its legal sense. It means 'beyond the range of responses open to a reasonable decision maker', or 'a decision which is so outrageous in its defiance of logic or of accepted moral standards that no sensible person who had applied his mind to the question could have arrived at it'. **A decision that makes it impossible for you to transport all your family to school on time, or even impossible for you to continue working, is very unlikely to be perverse. The courts have established this.**
- If the admissions authority had refused a place to a child whose family had had to move house under a witness protection scheme, a panel might decide that the decision was perverse. But it is the panel's decision. We will not question that decision if the panel followed the correct procedures in reaching it.