

## West Berkshire Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2021/22

### Introduction

Each year all local authorities must formulate and publish a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within their area. Where the scheme is substantially different from the scheme adopted for the previous academic year, the local authority must consult the other admission authorities in the area and any other local authorities it determines. Where the scheme has not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that the local authority must consult on the scheme at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period. Following any such consultation, which must be undertaken with a view to ensuring the admission of pupils in different local authorities is, as far as reasonably practicable, compatible with each other, the local authority must determine the qualifying scheme and must take all reasonable steps to secure its adoption.

### The Normal Admissions Round

In relation to any application made in the normal admission round, each parent in the area (The permanent home address as outlined in the published admission arrangements within West Berkshire) shall receive a single offer of a school place, or a refusal, determined under the scheme, the result of which shall be communicated in writing to the parent by the LA on **01 March 2021 or next working day if this is a weekend** (for secondary admission) or **16 April 2021 or next working day if this is a weekend** (for primary admission).

West Berkshire residents must make applications for school places online, via the West Berkshire website, or on a West Berkshire Common Application Form, where parents can express a preference for up to three schools, rank those schools and give reasons for the preference. All preferences must be expressed on this form, including those for schools in a different area.

Residents from other areas should make their applications on their home Local Authority Application. Relevant information will be forwarded by those Local Authorities to West Berkshire for consideration if a preference is made for a West Berkshire School.

Each preference will be considered against the school's admission policy.

Places will be offered up to each schools admission number where there is sufficient demand. Where a child is eligible to be admitted to a single school, a place will be offered at that school. Where a child is eligible to be admitted to more than one school, a place will be offered for the highest ranked school. Where a child is not eligible to be admitted to any school applied for online or on the Common Application Form the LA will either:

1. Offer an alternative school place if that child is from the area, or
2. Make no offer for an alternative school place if that child is not from the area.

Children from the area with no allocated place will normally be offered a school place in the following order:

1. At the catchment area school if a place exists, using distance as a priority;
2. At the nearest school from the home address where a place exists.
3. Where there is no West Berkshire School places available, no place will be allocated. The normal admissions round process will be undertaken in accordance with the timetables below.

### **Late Applications**

The closing date for secondary admission applications in the normal admission round is **31 October 2020** and the closing date for primary applications is **15 January 2021**. The authority will accept, applications received after this date provided that they are received before allocation procedures begin and treat them as on time applications.

Secondary applications that are considered late will be processed together from **16 March 2021**. Late applications received from **17 March 2021** will be processed by date of receipt. All late applications will be processed with regard to the admissions oversubscription criteria of the preferred school(s). No place will be allocated to children from waiting lists until **16 March 2021** (unless an admission authority decides to exceed their admission number) when acceptances should have been returned.

Primary and junior applications considered late will be processed together from **1 May 2021**. Late applications received from **2 May 2021** will be processed by date of receipt on the basis of the admissions oversubscription criteria of the preferred school. No place will be allocated to children from waiting lists until **1 May 2021** (unless an admission authority decides to exceed their admission number) when acceptances should have been returned.

### **Duties of the LA**

1. To forward application data received for places at Voluntary Aided primary schools in the area to the governing body as soon as possible.
2. Where an application is made for a school outside the area, or received from another LA for a school within the area, to exchange details of that application with the other LA as soon as possible, and no later than the timetabled date for the normal admissions round.
3. To determine by reference to the LA's admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria the order in which any application for a place at a community or Voluntary Controlled school is ranked.
4. To determine by reference to each of the Academy, Foundation and Secondary VA schools admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria the order in which any application for a place is ranked.
5. To confirm with the Governing Bodies of Voluntary Aided primary schools, by reference to their admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria, the order in which any application for a place at those schools is ranked.
6. To determine whether a child is to be granted or refused a school place at a school in the area in accordance with this scheme, and timetable for the normal admissions round.

7. To inform the governing body or other LA where appropriate of the decision whether to grant offers or refuse applications, and by the timetabled date in the normal admissions round.
8. To communicate the decision granting or refusing places at schools in the area to parents, including the date by which the pupil will be registered, on behalf of a governing body where appropriate, on **1 March 2021** (for secondary admissions) or **16 April 2021** (for primary admissions) for the normal admissions round.

#### **Duties of the Governing Bodies acting as Admission Authorities**

1. To forward applications incorrectly received directly for places at the school to the LA as soon as possible.
2. To receive application data from the LA and determine by reference to the governing body's admission arrangements and over-subscription criteria the order in which any application for the school will be ranked, and to notify the LA of the ranked list by the timetabled date for the normal admissions round.
3. To ensure that any determination under this scheme to offer or refuse a place at the school will only be communicated to the parent by the LA on behalf of the governing body.

#### **Secondary Schools – Normal Admissions Round Timetable**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>31 October 2020</b> | <b>Closing date for applications</b>         |
| <b>01 March 2021</b>   | <b>Offers and refusals issued to parents</b> |
| 16 March 2021          | Parent's acceptance of offer                 |
| 31 March 2021          | Closing date for appeals                     |

#### **Primary & Junior Schools – Normal Admissions Round Timetable**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>15 January 2021</b> | <b>Closing date for applications</b>  |
| 17 February 2021       | LA transfer of applications data to VA Governing Bodies (Additional data received later from other Local Authorities will be transferred for inclusion) |
| 09 March 2021          | West Berkshire VA Governing Bodies' ranked lists to the LA  |
| <b>16 April 2021</b>   | <b>Offers and refusals issued to parents</b>  |
| 1 May 2021             | Parents' acceptance of offer  |
| 22 May 2021            | Closing date for appeals  |