Secondary Transfer **2026**

A guide for parents and carers of children applying to **secondary or upper schools for 2026**

This leaflet explains how to apply for a secondary school place for children born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 and upper schools for children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013.

All the information you need is available on our website **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions**

The website has full details about the application process and a school directory providing information about secondary and upper schools in Hertfordshire.

Apply online at
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

You should visit the website to view admissions information and apply online because:

- it is quick, easy to use and secure
- you will receive immediate confirmation that your application has been received, and you can view it at any time
- you can access your school offer before allocation letters are received
- you can accept the school place offered online.

If you do not have internet access at home, you can apply online from any Hertfordshire library.

The closing date for applications is Friday 31 October 2025.

What happens when?

1 September 2025	Online application system opens.
September and October	Secondary and upper schools hold their open events (Details available at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolsdirectory**)
31 October 2025	**Deadline for applications**
2 December 2025	Last date to: • submit reasons for making a late application and for that application to be considered 'on time' • notify us of a change of address and for that address to be taken into account for allocation day **Please refer to the online admission pages for more detail about these processes.**
30 January 2026	Last date to make a late application to be considered for allocation day.
2 March 2026	**Allocation Day.** School places are offered.

How are places offered?

Hertfordshire County Council coordinates admissions to all maintained schools and academies in Hertfordshire. If you live in Hertfordshire your application for secondary or upper schools, including any schools outside Hertfordshire, should be made online.

Many schools have more applications than there are places available. When schools are oversubscribed a set of admission criteria (rules) are used by the school's admitting authority to decide which children should be offered places. Different schools have different admission rules, so it is important that you check the admission arrangements for all the schools you are interested in.

The admission authority for foundation, voluntary aided schools and academies is the governing body or academy trust.

The admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools is the local authority in which the school is located. The admission authority for Hertfordshire community schools is Hertfordshire County Council.

The admission rules for all schools in Hertfordshire can be found in the online school directory at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schooldirectory** or obtained from schools direct. You need to read the full arrangements for the schools you are interested in to get the complete picture.

Information about schools outside Hertfordshire can be found on the relevant local authority website. Website and contact details for our neighbouring local authorities are available at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions**

What do I have to do?

1. You should choose up to four schools and rank them in order of preference.

To help you make this decision you can:

- find schools in your area by looking at the school directory online
- find schools which are close to your home address using the "Find Your Nearest School" facility at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions**
- read the admission rules for schools you are interested in and consider whether your child would be offered a place
- arrange to visit schools, information with dates of open events was distributed to all pupils in July 2025 and is also available online at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schooldirectory**
- consider the home-to-school transport policy and whether your child will qualify for free transport to any of the schools you list on your application form, the transport policy is available at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schooltransport** consider other sources of information, for example the school prospectus or Ofsted reports
- If you are applying for a secondary school place for more than one child, you must make a separate application for each of them. To maximise the chances of your children being allocated places at the same school, it is recommended that you list the same schools in the same order across all applications. Further guidance on multiple birth children is available at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions**

2. You must make an application by 31 October 2025

You should apply online at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions**

If you are applying to a foundation, voluntary aided school or academy, check the online directory or contact the school to see if you need to complete a supplementary information form (SIF). SIFs are used by some schools to obtain the additional information needed to apply their own admission rules correctly, for example faith schools may ask for evidence of religious attendance or faith membership.

What happens next?

3. We will offer your child a school place on 2 March 2026.

Online applicants will receive an allocation email on 2 March 2026. This is the easiest way to obtain your school allocation. Individual allocation emails will be sent before parents can access the online allocation system at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions**

Online applicants will be able to view their school offer online at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions** once allocation letters have been sent on 2 March 2026.

Parents/carers will **only** be sent an allocation letter by first-class post on 2 March if they applied on a paper form and did not provide an email address.

If your child qualified for more than one school, he/she will be offered the highest ranked school where they qualified for a place.

If your child did not qualify for any of the schools you ranked, your offer will usually be a place at the nearest school to your home address with places remaining (this only applies to Hertfordshire residents). This could be a school outside Hertfordshire.

However, if your child is currently on roll at a school that they can continue to attend in September 2026 (for example, an all-through school or middle school), an alternative school place will not be offered.

4. What can you do if you are not happy with the school you have been offered?

Full details and guidance will be available on allocation day at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions** and in the "What Can You Do Now?" leaflet.

Home to School Transport

Very few children are entitled to home to school transport, so you should ensure your child has a reliable method of travelling to the schools you list on your application form. The county council's full home to school transport policy and other guidance on home to school transport is available at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schooltransport**

If you would like to know the nearest schools to your address for home to school transport purposes, visit the travel website at **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schooltransport**

Information about public bus routes which may run to schools is available at **www.intalink.org.uk**

Please contact individual schools about any local arrangements they may have in place with bus and coach operators.

Where can I get more help and information?

Customer Service Centre

contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions
0300 123 4043

Opening hours:
8.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday

Admissions and Transport Team

transfer.admissions@hertfordshire.gov.uk
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

CHR 102, Farnham House,
Six Hills Way, Stevenage,
Hertfordshire, SG1 2FQ

If you do not have internet access, you can request a paper application form, information about the secondary transfer process and local schools by calling the Customer Service Centre. The advisers have information on many subjects. They can also refer you to the Admissions and Transport officers who have detailed local knowledge.

If you need help to understand this information, please call 0300 123 4043.

An interpreting service is available for those who need it.

Arabic
إذا كنت في حاجة للمساعدة كي تفهم هذه المعلومات، فالرجاء الاتصال على رقم 0300 123 4043. تتوافر خدمة الترجمة الفورية لمن يحتاجونها.

Bengali
এই তথ্য বুঝতে আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হলে অনুগ্রহ করে 0300 123 4043 নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন। যাদের প্রয়োজন তাদের জন্য দোভাষী সেবার ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে।

Chinese (Traditional)
如果您在理解這則資訊上需要幫助，請聯絡客戶服務中心，電話：0300 123 4043。
我們可為有需要的人提供口譯服務。

Italian
Se avete bisogno di assistenza per comprendere quanto indicato, vi preghiamo di telefonare allo 0300 123 4043. Un servizio di interpretariato è disponibile su richiesta.

Polish
Aby uzyskać pomoc w zakresie zrozumienia tych informacji, prosimy o kontakt pod numerem 0300 123 4043. Pomoc tłumacza ustnego jest dostępna dla osób wymagających takiej usługi.

Portuguese
Se precisar de ajuda para entender estas informações, contacte o centro de atendimento ao cliente através do número 0300 123 4043. Está disponível um serviço de interpretação para quem precisar.

Punjabi
ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਲਈ ਸਹਾਇਤਾਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0300 123 4043 ਤੇ ਕਾੱਲ ਕਰੋ। ਜਰੂਰਤਮੰਦਾਂ ਲਈ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਆ ਸੇਵਾ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

Tamil
இந்தத் தகவலைப் புரிந்துகொள்வதில் உங்களுக்கு உதவி தேவைப்பட்டால், தயவுசெய்து **0300 123 4043** என்ற எண்ணைத் தொடர்புகொள்ளுங்கள். தேவைப்படுபவர்களுக்கு மொழிபெயர்ப்புச் சேவை கிடைக்கின்றது.

Turkish
Bu bilgileri anlama konusunda yardıma ihtiyacınız varsa, lütfen 0300 123 4043 numaralı telefonu arayın. İhtiyaç duyanlar için tercümanlık hizmeti mevcuttur.

Urdu
اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہو، تو برائے مہربانی 0300 123 4043 پر کال کریں۔
جن افراد کو درکار ہو ان کے لیے ترجمان کی سہولت دستیاب ہے۔

Apply online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions