

Application Form Guidance – Entry into Primary school 2025/26
For children born between 01/09/2020 to 31/08/2021 who live in Sheffield

The information below will help you when you are making your application. Before you complete an application, we strongly recommend that you read the booklet 'A Guide for Parents - Entry into Primary school 2025/26'. This booklet is available to download from our website:

<http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/apply-school-place>

It is important that you tell us the full reason for applying for each

school on your application: You may feel that your child has an exceptional reason (medical, social etc.) for applying for a particular school, which you would like to be taken into consideration. There is an Admissions Committee that can consider these reasons. The Admissions Committee has the discretion to prioritise an application within its admission category; additional information will only be considered if it is supported by and confirmed by a professional (e.g. hospital/doctor's correspondence). *The evidence must outline why the school you are applying for would be more able to meet your child's needs than any other mainstream school.* Providing 3rd party evidence does not in itself guarantee that your application will be prioritised. If you do provide evidence, we will not tell you the Admissions Committee's decision about prioritisation, but the decision will be used when we allocate school places. **It is the applicant's responsibility to provide any additional evidence, and we will not contact you to ask for it.**

Please note: for appeals on Infant Class Size grounds - if a preference is later refused, and you lodge an appeal, an appeal panel can only consider the reasons (and any supplementary information) that you gave in support of your original application, and which was received by us before the 31st January 2025.

Change of Address: Places are allocated based on your home address as at **31st January 2025**. Therefore, you must notify the Admissions Team, in writing, if you change address before this date. You must also provide proof of this move - **we will not chase this proof up**. If proof is not received by us

before the 31st January, we will assume that the intended move has not taken place. A move may change your catchment area school and affect the status of your application. Acceptable proof is: 2 household bills (e.g. gas, council tax), in your name at the new address, or, for a house purchase, written correspondence from the solicitor that the purchase has been completed, and completion must take place on or before the 31st January 2025; or, for a rented property, a copy of your signed and dated tenancy agreement which must start on or before the 31st January 2025. If you move after 31st January 2025, you should still tell us. It will not influence your child's allocation decision on the 16th April 2025, but it could subsequently affect positioning on any waiting list your child may be on (you must also provide the proof, as above).

Child in Care/Previous Child in Care: It is important that you tell us if your child is a Child in Care or a Previous Child in Care, including those from outside of England. Please give full details in the reasons section of the application. This will then ensure that we correctly categorise the application. We may ask you to provide proof of the circumstances. N.B. *Previous Children in Care are children who were in care, but who ceased to be so because they were adopted or became the subject of a Residence Order or a Child Arrangement Order or Special Guardianship Order immediately following being in care. If you are unsure if your child is a Child in Care or a Previous Child in Care, please contact the Admissions Team.*

Shared Parental Responsibility (PR): If there is another person you do not live with, but who shares PR with you for the child, that person's details must be included on the application. We expect parents/people with PR to consult with each other and agree on the school(s) they wish to apply for. We cannot process any application where parents disagree about the school(s) applied for. We don't investigate whether applications have been agreed but by signing the application or submitting an online application, this is confirmation that you have discussed and agreed the preferences with anyone with PR. We will not become involved with or resolve disagreements between parents. Where the child spends time at 2 different addresses, parents must agree and notify us which address to use. If parents are unable to agree we will ask

for details of where child benefit is paid and where this can be provided, we will use that address. We encourage parents to resolve any disagreements before the closing date as a delay may affect the availability of places at preferred schools.

Applying for a Catholic or Church of England Voluntary Aided (VA) school or E-Act Academy Pathways: If one (or more) of your preferences is for a Catholic or Church of England Voluntary Aided (VA) school, or E-Act Academy Pathways, you will need to complete the SIF (supplementary information form) required by those school(s). These forms will then be used by the school(s) to ensure that your child is correctly placed within the relevant admission category. You can request the forms directly from the schools, download from our website, or email Admissions. **You** must make sure that the form(s) (and any other supporting documents that may also be required), are received by each VA school you are applying for and/or E-Act Pathways Academy, no later than **31st January 2025**. Please do not send the SIF to the Admissions Team.

Attendance at a Nursery: you must apply for a school place, even if the nursery is linked to your preferred school. Attendance at the nursery does **not** entitle, or give your child priority, for a place at the school.

Applying for schools in Another Authority: If you want to apply for schools in another authority we will share your application with the other authority, as per the Co-ordinated Admission scheme We recommend that you contact that authority to find out if there is any additional information you may be required to provide in support of your application, especially if you are applying for VA schools in another authority. Other authorities may also have different closing dates, and you must make sure we receive your application to match potential earlier closing dates of other authorities