



Co-ordinated Scheme 2026-27

Co-ordinated Scheme - Secondary Transfer Admissions 2026-27

The secondary Co-ordinated Scheme has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Admissions Code and applies to all schools in Portsmouth, including voluntary aided schools and academies.

This Scheme sets out the key actions and general principles. The detail will be provided in the Local Authority's (LA's) booklet 'Information for Parents 2026-27 Admission to Primary and Secondary Schools'.

The key purpose of this scheme is to ensure that every child living in the local authority area, whose parent has applied for a publicly funded school place, receives a single offer of a school place on the national notification date. This requires LA's to co-ordinate and exchange information on applications and offers during the process.

Application forms and Information for Parents

The LA will publish its composite prospectus Admissions Booklet- Admissions To primary and secondary schools- information for parents 2026/27, no later than 12 September in the offer year on the council website. Paper copies will be available on request (without charge to parents) on request throughout the offer year.

1. An application letter will be provided to each year 6 pupil (known to the LA) resident within the Portsmouth boundary approximately six weeks before the advertised closing date of application, advising them about the application process, how to apply and the closing date.
2. Information regarding pupils who reside within the Portsmouth boundary but attend schools maintained by other Local Authorities (LAs) and pupils resident outside of the Portsmouth boundary but attending schools maintained by Portsmouth LA will be exchanged between the relevant LAs in the summer term preceding the year of application to enable application letters and information to be sent to the home address.
3. The Portsmouth Admission Common Application Form for Portsmouth residents will give parent/carers* the opportunity to apply for **any school in or outside of the Portsmouth area**. Parents will be given the opportunity to apply for up to six preferences. Supplementary forms may be provided in order to gain specific information for the Voluntary Aided schools and Academies in accordance with their admissions policies.
[Applications may be made online](#) or if this is not possible, by submitting a paper application.

*Parent is defined by S 576 of Education Act 1996 and includes a carer (a person looking after a child living with them)

4. **Portsmouth residents whose Year 6 child attends a Portsmouth junior/primary school**
Parents should apply online or return the Portsmouth admission application form to the to the Admissions Team by midnight **Friday 31st October 2025**.
5. Primary/junior schools should log and forward any paper application forms received to the Portsmouth Admissions Team as soon as they are received.
6. **Portsmouth parents whose Year 6 child attends a school outside of Portsmouth**
Parents should apply on a Portsmouth application form online or return their paper form to Portsmouth Admissions Team (details provided on the application form) by **Friday 31st October 2025**.
7. Portsmouth will exchange preference data with neighbouring Local Authorities from November onwards as appropriate.
8. **Applications from parents who live outside of the Portsmouth area applying for schools in the Portsmouth area**
Applications must be made online or on the relevant Admissions application form issued by the home authority. Parent/carers should return their application to their home authority Admissions Team by **Friday 31st October 2025** who will then exchange data with the Portsmouth Admissions Team.
9. The Admissions Team will carry out checks to verify the child's permanent address using Council tax and other LA records. Proof of address may be requested by the Admissions Team after the application has been received.

Allocation process

10. Portsmouth will be operating an equal preference Scheme.
Parents can express up to **6** preferences on their application form.
Each preference expressed by a parent is considered equally against each school taking no account of the ranked order. If the school is oversubscribed in relation to the **total** number of applications, the criteria in the school's admission policy will be used to allocate places. If the school is under subscribed places are allocated to all applicants.
If the process results in more than one preference being allocated to a pupil, the LA will then use the parent's ranked order to make the highest possible offer of a place.

Example of an allocation in an Equal Preference Scheme

See appendix1 at the end of this document.

Allocation address

11. The admissions address used will normally be the child's permanent residence on the application closing date. Any changes of address after closing date and before the allocation date will be used to update the application as long as evidence of the change is received no later than **Friday 9th January 2026**. Please note for out of area preference schools, the date is set by the relevant LA, so this date may be earlier so change of address may not be accepted for application purposes for those preference schools. Any address changes confirmed by council tax records will also be updated prior to allocation and applicants will be advised. In the case of split families, the child's admissions address will be based on the address agreed by parents but in the event of a dispute regarding the admission's address, it will be based on the address at which child benefit is paid. In the absence of child benefit being paid other evidence supplied will be used to determine the child's allocation address. The LA will have the final decision. However, parents will also need to agree the preference schools.

For UK service families & Crown servants with official proof of posting to Portsmouth and of a relocation date, a Unit postal address, quartering area address or future home address will be accepted as the address for the application, in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

Parental Agreement on applications

12. Where both parents/carers have parental responsibility for a child (regardless of with whom the child is residing), before submitting an application form, parents will need to discuss and agree which preference schools they wish to put on the application form and in which order. The parent/carer completing the application form on behalf of the child, must have parental responsibility for the child in question and ensure that all those with parental responsibility are in agreement with the submission.

Portsmouth City Council is unable to resolve or take sides in disputes between parents/carers who both have parental responsibility. If the Admissions Team receive 2 different applications and/or are aware of a parental dispute, the application(s) will not be able to be processed until agreement is reached between the parents/carers. If parents/carers are unable to resolve this, they will need to seek a resolution through the courts.

Allocation Date

13. Notification of allocation will be sent by **email on Monday 2 March 2026** to those applicants who applied online or **by a letter posted on Monday 2nd March 2025** to those who submitted a paper application. Under no circumstances may governors, school staff or LA staff offer places or give an indication of offers before the official offer date. Offers **will not be advised over the telephone**.

Late Applications

14. All applications received by the closing date will be considered first. Late applications will only be considered after all those applications received on-time have been considered and allocated places.
Up until **Friday 9th January 2026**, late applications may be considered along with on-time applications if significant and exceptional circumstances apply at parent's request. Applications from service families being posted into area will also be accepted as on time up until this date.
Changes of preferences will not be accepted after closing date although may be considered if significant and exceptional circumstances apply at parents request by **Friday 9th January 2026**. Please note for late applications and changes of preferences for out of area preference schools, as the date is set by the relevant LA it may be earlier so the exceptional circumstances or changes may not be accepted.
Late applications will continue to be administered as part of the transfer group up to **August 2026**.
The main round admission process will be coordinated with neighbouring authorities beyond each notification date and until 31 August 2026 and will include the allocation of school places for September 2026 to late applicants

Appeals

15. If a parent is unsuccessful with any of their preferences, they will have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel and will be provided with the relevant information by the Admissions Team or by the school if the appeal is in relation to a Voluntary Aided, or Academy school, unless they have delegated this responsibility to the LA.

Waiting lists

16. Waiting lists for all types of schools and academies are the responsibility of the Admission Authority which must maintain them if oversubscribed for at least the first term of the academic year. Portsmouth LA intends to maintain waiting lists for the whole academic year for Portsmouth community and voluntary controlled schools.
All parents who have been refused a place at a preferred school will be added to a waiting list.
Portsmouth LA will maintain waiting lists strictly in accordance with the Schools Admission Code. Children will be held on the waiting list by order of the criteria in the Admissions Policy. No account can be taken of the length of time a pupil is on the list. A pupil's position can change on the list as new applicants join or other applicants come off the waiting list.

Children can remain on a waiting list only until the end of the academic year August 2027, if parents/carers want their children to be on the waiting list for the following academic year 2026/27 they must reapply.

However, the LA or school may also write to parents during the academic year to consider whether they wish their child to remain on the waiting list.

Voluntary Aided and Academies can operate their own waiting lists.

unless they delegate this function to the LA.

Withdrawing offers of places

17. If it is reasonably established that false or misleading information has been used in order to gain a place at a school, the Local Authority reserves the right to withdraw any school place offered. The Admissions Code also permits a place to be withdrawn if it was offered in error or a parent has not responded in a reasonable time to the offer which is specified in the offer letter/email.

Pupils with a statutory education, health and care plan (EHCP)

18. Admission of pupils who have been issued with a statutory education, health and care plan through a different process and via the SEN team. Pupils with a statutory plan naming a particular school are taken account of and given priority in the allocation process.

Fair Access Protocol

19. The Local Authority operates a Fair Access Protocol which prioritises admissions for certain categories of secondary school age children. This protocol relates to admission applications throughout the year (but NOT the transfer of Year 6 pupils from primary/junior to secondary schools). The protocol takes priority above the school's admission policy for those on a waiting list and the LA may require schools to admit above their published admission limit.

Home to School Transport

20. Information on the Home to School Transport Policy will be published on [the council's website](#).

Admission out of chronological year group

21. Children will usually be admitted into their chronological year group except in significant exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of the admissions authority. Where children may have missed school, been educated in another country or have been out of education, these problems can usually be addressed by additional support in the child's chronological year group. For gifted and talented pupils, parents can discuss directly with a school the way provision is made for these pupils. Admission authorities must make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social, and emotional development, any medical issues and views of professionals involved with the child.



Co-ordinated Scheme - Starting School Admissions 2026/27 (Infant and Primary schools)

The primary Co-ordinated Scheme has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Admissions Code and applies to all schools in Portsmouth, including voluntary aided schools and academies.

This Scheme sets out the key actions and general principles. The detail will be provided in the Local Authority's (LAs) booklet 'Information for Parents 2026-27 Admission to Primary and Secondary Schools'. This requires LA's to co-ordinate and exchange information on applications and offers during the process.

Application forms and Information for Parents

The LA will publish its composite prospectus Admissions Booklet- Admissions To primary and secondary schools- information for parents 2026/27, no later than 12 September in the offer year on the council website. Paper copies will be available on request (without charge to parents) on request throughout the offer year.

Portsmouth residents applying for a Portsmouth School

1. The LA advertises the starting school application process through social media, local publications, posters in the community (e.g. schools, Dr and dentist surgeries, community centres, shops, supermarkets, leisure centre and libraries) and posters and leaflets to Early Year Providers including registered childminders and Health Visitors. can also request an application form from their local school or Local Authority or apply online via the Council's website or if this is not possible request a paper application.
3. The Portsmouth Admission Common Application Form (for Portsmouth residents) will give parents the opportunity to apply for **any school in or outside of the Portsmouth area**. Parents will be given the opportunity to apply for six preferences. Supplementary forms will be provided with the application form in order to gain specific information for the Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools in accordance with their admissions policies. [Applications should be made online](#) or by submitting a paper application.
4. For pupils starting school in Year R, parents should apply by **Thursday 15 January 2026**.

5. **Applications from parents who live outside of the Portsmouth area applying for schools within the Portsmouth area**

Applications must be made on the relevant admissions application form issued by **the home authority**. Parents should return their application to their home authority Admissions Service by **Thursday 15 January 2026** who will then exchange data with the Portsmouth Admissions.

6. The Admissions Team will carry out checks to verify the child's permanent address using Council tax and other records. Proof of address may be requested once the application form has been received.

Allocation process

7. Portsmouth will be operating an equal preference Scheme. Parents can express up to 6 preferences for starting school applications applying online or by paper form. Each preference expressed by a parent is considered equally against each school taking no account of the ranked order. If the school is oversubscribed in relation to the **total** number of applications, the criteria in the school's admission policy will be used to allocate places. If the school is under subscribed places are allocated to all applicants. If the process results in more than one preference being allocated to a pupil, the LA will then use the parent's ranked order to make the highest possible offer of a place.
8. **Example of an allocation in an Equal Preference Scheme**
See Appendix 1 at the end of this document.

Allocation address

9. The address used will be the child's permanent residence on the application closing date. Any changes of address after closing date and before the allocation date will be used to update an application as long as the evidence of the change of address is received no later than **Friday 6th March 2026**. Please note for out of area preference schools, the date is set by the relevant LA, so this date may be earlier so change of address may not be accepted for application purposes for those preference schools. Any address changes confirmed by council tax records will also be updated prior to allocation and applicants will be advised, In the case of split families the child's permanent residence will be based on the address agreed by parents but in the event of a dispute about the admissions address, it will be based on the address at which child benefit is paid. In the absence of child benefit being paid other evidence supplied will be used to determine the child's allocation address. The LA will have the final decision.
- For UK service families & Crown servants** with official proof of posting to Hampshire and of a relocation date, a Unit postal address, quartering area address or future home address will be accepted as the address for the application, in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

Parental Agreement on applications

10. Where both parents/carers have parental responsibility for a child (regardless of with whom the child is residing), before submitting an application form, parents will need to discuss and agree which preference schools they wish to put on the application form and in which order. The parent/carer completing the application form on behalf of the child, must have parental responsibility for the child in question and ensure that all those with parental responsibility are in agreement with the submission.
Portsmouth City Council is unable to resolve or take sides in disputes between parents/carers who both have parental responsibility. If the Admissions Team receive 2 different applications and/or are aware of a parental dispute, the application(s) will not be able to be processed until agreement is reached between the parents/carers. If parents/carers are unable to resolve this, they will need to seek a resolution through the courts.

Allocation Date

11. Notification of allocation will be sent **by email on Thursday 16th April 2026** (national offer day) to those applicants who applied online or **by letter posted on Thursday 16 April 2026** to those who submitted a paper application. Under no circumstances may governors, staff or LA staff offer places or give indication of offers before the official offer date. **No offers will be advised over the telephone.**

Late applications

12. All applications received by the closing date will be considered first. Late applications will only be considered after all those applications received on time have been considered and allocated places.
Up until **Friday 6th March 2026**, late applications can be considered along with on-time applications if significant and exceptional circumstances apply at parent's request. Changes of preference will not be accepted after closing date but can be considered if significant and exceptional circumstances apply at parent's request by **Friday 6th March 2026**. Applications from service families being posted into area will be considered on time up until this date. Please note for late applications and changes of preferences for out of area preference schools, as the date is set by the relevant LA it may be earlier so the exceptional circumstances or changes may not be accepted.

Late applications will continue to be administered as part of the transfer group up to **August 2026**. The main round admission process will be coordinated with neighbouring authorities beyond each notification date and until 31 August 2026 and will include the allocation of school places for September 2026 to late applicants

Appeals

13. If a parent is unsuccessful with any of their preferences, they will have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel and will be provided with the relevant information by the Admissions Team or by the school if the appeal is in relation to a Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Trust or Academy school unless they have delegated this function to the LA.

Waiting lists

14. Waiting lists for all types of schools/academies are the responsibility of the admission authority who must maintain them for each oversubscribed school for at least the first term of the academic year. Portsmouth intends to maintain waiting lists for the whole academic year for Portsmouth community and voluntary controlled schools.

All parents who have been refused a place at a preferred school will be placed on the waiting list.

Portsmouth LA will maintain waiting lists strictly in accordance with the Schools Admission Code. Children will be held on the waiting list by order of the criteria in the Admissions Policy. No account can be taken of the length of time a pupil is on the list. A pupil's position can change on the list as new applicants join or other applicants come off the waiting list.

Children will remain on a waiting list only until the end of the academic year August 2026, if parents want their children to be on the waiting list for the following academic year 2025/26, they must reapply.

The LA/schools may also write to parents during the academic year to consider whether they wish their child to remain on the waiting list.

Voluntary Aided and Academies will operate their own waiting lists. unless they delegate this function to the LA.

Withdrawing offers of places

15. If it is reasonably established that false or misleading information has been used in order to gain a place at a school, the Local Authority reserve the right to withdraw any school place offered. The Admissions Code also permits a place to be withdrawn if it was offered in error or a parent has not responded in a reasonable time to the offer which is specified in the offer letter/email.

Pupils with a statutory education, health and care plan (EHCP)

16. Admission of pupils who have been issued with an EHCP is through a different process. Pupils with a statutory plan naming a particular school are taken account of and given priority in the allocation process.

Fair Access Protocol

17. The Local Authority operates a Fair Access Protocol which prioritises admissions for certain categories of primary school age children. This protocol relates to admission applications throughout the year (but not for starting school applicants or Transfer to Junior applicants) the protocol will take priority above the school's admission policy for those on a school's waiting list and the LA may require schools to admit above their published admission number.

Home to School Transport

18. Information on the Home to School Transport Policy will be on [the council's website](#).

Delaying Entry (into Year R)

19. The statutory position is that parents do not have to send their child to school until the term following their child's fifth birthday. However, Portsmouth infant and primary schools admit year R pupils on to the school roll before the end of September, in the school year in which the child has his/her fifth birthday through a carefully managed induction programme which starts in the summer term and includes a home visit. The length and content of induction programmes will vary from school to school.
20. Parents who are allocated a place can discuss deferring entry of their child to later in the school year or go part time but not beyond the point at which they reach statutory school age or for children born between 1 April and 31 August ("Summer born"), not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made. For parents wishing to delay the whole of year for a summer born child only they must follow the procedure set out in para 21 below.

Parents should note that Portsmouth schools not only have managed induction programmes to introduce children into school but have set up the whole of the reception year as fun and gentle introduction to formal Year 1. The children follow the foundation curriculum which is part of the Nursery curriculum so those children who attend pre-school nurseries will find similar learning activities and routines. The reception year groups also have access to more staff support. Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns with school staff as there are many benefits for children to start school alongside their peers.

Admission out of chronological year group (Delaying the whole of year R for summer born)

21. Parents can make the decision to not start their summer born child until statutory school age and request that their summer-born child starts school in the following academic year in Year R rather than Year 1. **Parent/carers must still apply for the correct academic year** and complete a request form with any supporting evidence/ information to demonstrate why it would be in

their child's best interests to delay entry. **Parents should visit and discuss their request with their preference schools prior to making their request. Requests must be submitted by the closing date for applications, 15 January 2026.**

The LA will then co-ordinate this request with the preferred schools and will issue a decision.

If agreed, the current application will be withdrawn, and parents will then have to reapply for the following academic year as places cannot be reserved.

If the request is not agreed, the application will continue to be processed for the academic year originally applied for and a place will be allocated. If parents decide to refuse the allocated place for Year R, they will need to reapply for a Year 1 place in a school before the child reaches statutory school age.



Co-ordinated Scheme - Junior Transfer Admissions 2026/27

The Junior co-ordinated Scheme has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Admissions Code and applies to all schools in Portsmouth, including voluntary aided schools and academies.

This Scheme sets out the key actions and general principles. The detail will be provided in the Local Authority's (LAs) booklet 'Information for Parents 2026-27 Admission to Primary and Secondary Schools'. This requires LA's to co-ordinate and exchange information on applications and offers during the process.

Application forms and Information for Parents

The LA will publish its composite prospectus Admissions Booklet- Admissions to primary and secondary schools- information for parents 2026/27, no later than 12 September in the offer year on the council website. Paper copies will be available on request (without charge to parents) on request throughout the offer year.

Portsmouth residents applying for a Portsmouth School

1. For parents* of year 2 pupils attending an Infant school an application letter will be sent to those residents within the Portsmouth boundary based on information around the 15 July (preceding year of entry) advising them about the application process, how to apply and the closing date.
*Parent is defined by S 576 of Education Act 1996 and includes a carer (a person looking after a child living with them)
2. Information regarding pupils who reside within the Portsmouth boundary but attend schools maintained by other Local Authorities (LAs) and pupils resident outside of the Portsmouth boundary but attending schools maintained by Portsmouth LA will be exchanged between the relevant LAs in the summer term preceding the application year to enable application information to be sent to the home address.
3. The Portsmouth Admission Common Application Form (for Portsmouth residents) will give parents the opportunity to apply for **any junior school in or outside of the Portsmouth area**. Parents will be given the opportunity to apply for six preferences.

Applications may be made online via [the LA's website](#) or by submitting a paper application.

4. For infant to junior transfers, parents should apply online or return the Portsmouth application to their child's current Portsmouth Infant School or to the Admissions Team by **Thursday 15th January 2026**.
5. Schools should log any applications received and forward them to the Portsmouth Admissions Team as soon as they receive them.
6. Portsmouth parents whose child attends an infant school outside of Portsmouth should apply online or return their form to the Portsmouth Admissions Team by **Thursday 15th January 2026**.
7. **Applications from parents who live outside of the Portsmouth area applying for schools within the Portsmouth area**

Applications must be made on the relevant admissions online or paper application form issued by **the home authority**. Parents should return their application to their home authority Admissions Service by **15th January 2026** who will then exchange data with the Portsmouth Admissions.

8. Junior Transfer applications can only be used to make applications for a **junior school** of Wimborne Primary (20 places). Applicants who want to apply for a primary school (as well as a junior school via Junior Transfer application process) will need to complete an in-year application form. Further guidance will be issued on the website and the "Information for Parents 2026/27 - Admission to Primary and Secondary School" booklet and in the application letters which will be sent to parents direct.
9. The Admissions Team will carry out checks to verify the child's permanent address using Council tax and other records. Proof of address may be requested once the application form has been received.

Allocation process

10. Portsmouth will be operating an equal preference scheme. Parents can express up to 6 preferences for junior transfer applications applying online or by paper form. Each preference expressed by a parent is considered equally against each school taking no account of the ranked order. If the school is oversubscribed in relation to the **total** number of applications, the criteria in the school's admission policy will be used to allocate places. If the school is under subscribed places are allocated to all applicants. If the process results in more than one preference being allocated to a pupil, the LA will then use the parent's ranked order to make the highest possible offer of a place. The main round admission process will be coordinated with neighbouring authorities beyond each notification date and until 31 August 2026 and will include the allocation of school places for September 2026 to late applicants.

11. **Example of an allocation in an Equal Preference Scheme**

See Appendix 1 at the end of this document.

Allocation address

12. The address used will be the child's permanent residence on the application closing date. Any changes of address after closing date and before the allocation date will be used to update an application as long as the evidence of the change of address is received no later than **Friday 6th March 2026**. Please note for out of area preference schools, the date is set by the relevant LA, so this date may be earlier so change of address may not be accepted for application purposes for those preference schools.

Any address changes confirmed by council tax records will also be updated prior to allocation and applicants will be advised. In the case of split families, the child's permanent residence will be based on the address agreed by parents but in the event of a dispute about the admission address it will be based on the address at which child benefit is paid. In the absence of child benefit being paid other evidence supplied will be used to determine the child's allocation address. The LA will have the final decision.

For UK service families & Crown servants with official proof of posting to Hampshire and of a relocation date, a Unit postal address, quartering area address or future home address will be accepted as the address for the application, in accordance with the School Admissions Code

Parental Agreement on applications

13. Where both parents/carers have parental responsibility for a child (regardless of with whom the child is residing), before submitting an application form, parents will need to discuss and agree which preference schools they wish to put on the application form and in which order. The parent/carer completing the application form on behalf of the child, must have parental responsibility for the child in question and ensure that all those with parental responsibility are in agreement with the submission.

Portsmouth City Council is unable to resolve or take sides in disputes between parents/carers who both have parental responsibility. If the Admissions Team receive 2 different applications and/or are aware of a parental dispute, the application(s) will not be able to be processed until agreement is reached between the parents/carers. If parents/carers are unable to resolve this, they will need to seek a resolution through the courts.

Allocation Date

14. Notification of allocation will be sent by email on **Thursday 16 April 2026** (national offer day) to those applicants who applied online or **by letter posted on Thursday 16th April 2026** to those who submitted a paper application. Under no circumstances may governors, staff or LA staff offer places or give

indication of offers before the official offer date. **No offers will be advised over the telephone.**

Late applications

15. All applications received by the closing date will be considered first. Late applications will only be considered after all those applications received on time have been considered and allocated places.

Up until **Friday 6th March 2024** late applications can be considered along with on-time applications if significant and exceptional circumstances apply at parent's request. Applications from service families being posted into area will be accepted as on time up until this date.

Changes of preference will not be accepted after closing date but can be considered if significant and exceptional circumstances apply at parent's request by **Friday 6th March 2025**.

Please note for late applications and changes of preferences for out of area preference schools, as the date is set by the relevant LA it may be earlier so the exceptional circumstances or changes may not be accepted.

Late applications will continue to be administered as part of the transfer group up **August 2026**.

The main round admission process will be coordinated with neighbouring authorities beyond each notification date and until 31 August 2026 and will include the allocation of school places for September 2026 to late applicants.

Appeals

16. If a parent is unsuccessful with any of their preferences, they will have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel and will be provided with the relevant documentation and advice by the Admissions Team or by the school if the appeal is in relation to a Voluntary Aided or Academy school unless they have delegated this function to the LA.

Waiting lists

17. Waiting lists for all types of schools/academies are the responsibility of the admission authority who must maintain them for each oversubscribed school for at least the first term of the academic year. Portsmouth intends to maintain waiting lists for the whole academic year for community and voluntary controlled schools.

All parents who have been refused a place at a preferred school will have the option to indicate their wish to remain on the waiting list – via a tick box on the allocation response form online or on a paper reply slip.

Portsmouth LA will maintain waiting lists strictly in accordance with the Schools Admission Code. Children will be held on the waiting list by order of the criteria in the Admissions Policy. No account can be taken of the length of time a pupil is on the list. A pupil's position can change on the list as new applicants join or other applicants come off the waiting list.

Children will remain on a waiting list only until the end of the academic year August 2026, if parents want their children to be on the waiting list for the following academic year 2026/27, they must reapply.

Voluntary Aided schools and Academies will operate their own waiting lists unless they delegate this function to the LA.

Withdrawing offers of places

18. If it is reasonably established that false or misleading information has been used in order to gain a place at a school, the Local Authority reserve the right to withdraw any school place offered, even if the child has started at the school. The Admissions Code also permits a place to be withdrawn if it was offered in error or a parent has not responded in a reasonable time to the offer which is specified in the offer letter/email.

Pupils with a statutory education, health and care plan (EHCP)

19. Admission of pupils who have been issued with an EHCP is through a different process. Pupils with a statutory plan naming a particular school are taken account of and given priority in the allocation process.

Fair Access Protocol

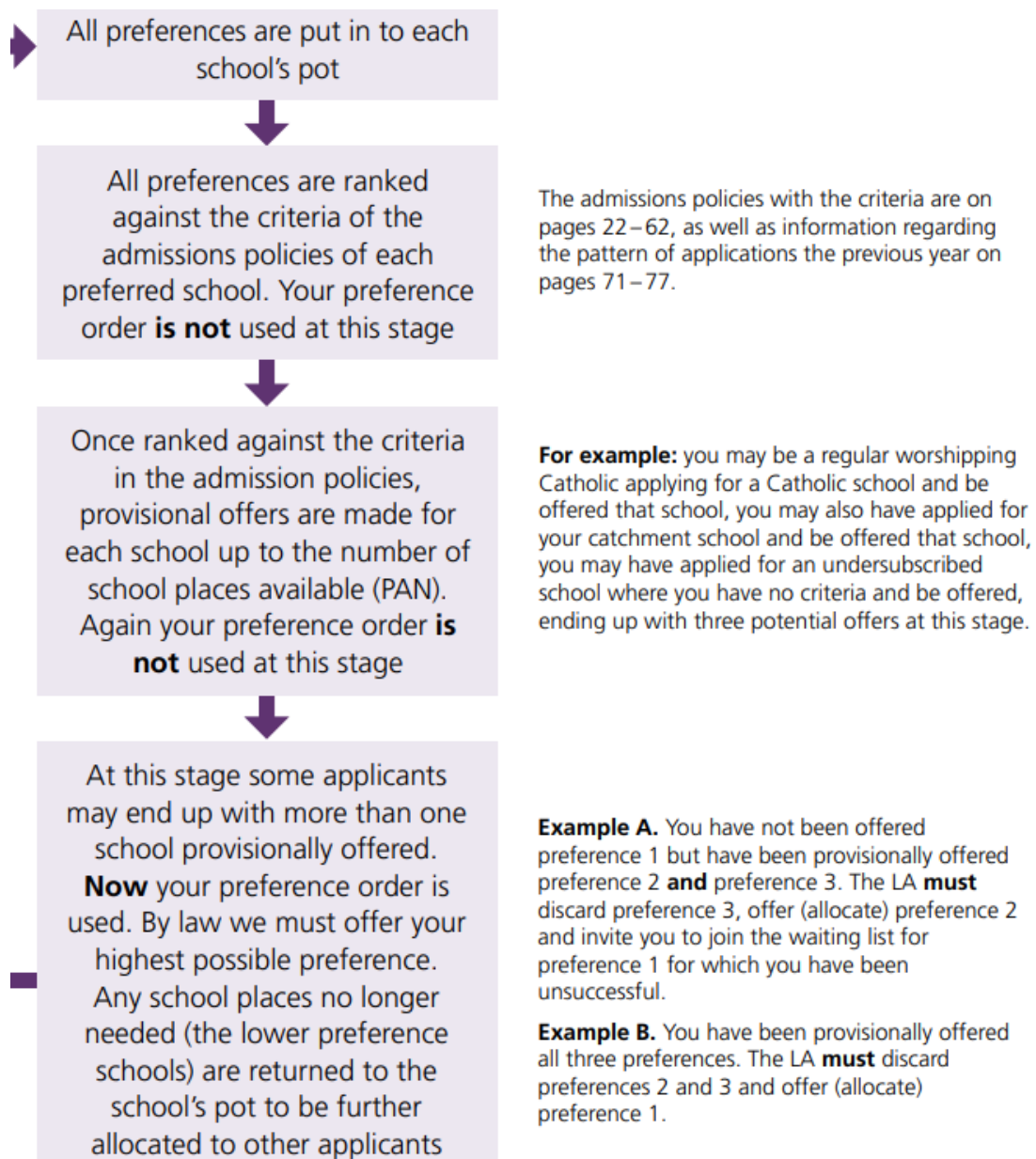
20. The Local Authority operates a Fair Access Protocol which prioritises admissions for certain categories of primary school age children. This protocol relates to admission applications throughout the year. The protocol will take priority above the school's admission policy for those on a school's waiting list and the LA may require schools to admit above their published admission limit.

Home to School Transport

21. Information on the Home to School Transport Policy will be on [the council's website](#).

*Parent is defined by S 576 of Education Act 1996 and includes a carer (a person looking after a child living with them)

Appendix 1 Equal Preference Allocation Process



Text from the image above:

1. All preferences are put into each school's pot.
2. All preferences are ranked against the criteria of the admissions policies of each preferred school. Your preference order **is not** used at this stage.
The admissions policies with the criteria are on pages 22-62, as well as information regarding the pattern of applications the previous year on pages 71-77.
3. Once ranked against the criteria in the admission policies, provisional offers are made for each school up to the number of school places available (PAN). Again, your preference order **is not** used at this stage.
For example: you may be a regular worshipping Catholic applying for a Catholic school and be offered that school, you may also have applied for your catchment school and be offered that school, you may have applied for an

undersubscribed school where you have no criteria and be offered, ending up with three potential offers at this stage.

4. At this stage some applicants may end up with more than one school provisionally offered. **Now** your preference order is used. By law we must offer your highest possible preference. Any school places no longer needed (the lower preference schools) are returned to the school's pot to be further allocated to other applicants.

Example A. You have not been offered preference 1 but have been provisionally offered preference 2 **and** preference 3. The LA **must** discard preference 3, offer (allocate) preference 2 and invite you to join the waiting list for preference 1 for which you have been unsuccessful.

Example B. You have been provisionally offered all three preferences. The LA **must** discard preferences 2 and 3 and offer (allocate) preference 1.