

School Admissions September 2025 Waiting List and Appeals Leaflet.

**I HAVE BEEN REFUSED A PLACE AT THE SCHOOL OF MY PREFERENCE
(HIGH SCHOOLS)**

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

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Introduction

This document is a guide for parents, who have not been allocated a place at their preferred school(s).

As a result of legislation laid down in the Education Act 2002, Local Authorities (LA's) are required to formulate a Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme, to include co-ordination with Academies, Community, Foundation, Free, Voluntary Controlled, Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies within their area and with neighbouring Local Authorities.

Details of the Worcestershire Scheme can be found online <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/apply-school-place/school-admissions-policies>

School Place Offered to your child

You will have been offered a place at a school in the email/ letter you have received from Worcestershire LA. In most cases, this will be one of your stated preferences (the higher taking precedence). Where it has not been possible to offer a place at one of your preferred schools, **and you reside within Worcestershire**, a place will have been offered at the nearest school to your home address with places available (except in the case of children in Middle Schools, where the child can remain at the current school).

Why have I been refused a place at my preferred school?

Your application has been processed in accordance with the policy and oversubscription criteria <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/apply-school-place/school-admissions-policies> for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, or the School Prospectus/website in the case of Academies, Free, Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools. If you have **not** been offered one of your preferred schools **outside** Worcestershire, then you should refer to the Information book/website of the relevant LA, or the School Prospectus/website, whichever is relevant for details of the oversubscription criteria.

Your application has been refused on one of the following grounds;

1. the total number of applications for the school exceeded the published maximum number of pupils to be admitted to the school, and the application was not high enough on the oversubscription criteria to be granted one of the available places at the school, and admitting further pupils will prejudice the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources. The prejudice caused is due to:-
 - The physical constraints of the class or school means that additional children cannot be accommodated.
 - The teaching organisation is such that admitting any additional pupils would detract from the provision of efficient education.
 - The children who are already in the school may include a number of children with Special Educational Needs or those identified as Vulnerable Learners which could mean that the school's available resources do not allow for the admission of additional children.

2. the application was received late (the closing date being 31st October 2024), and your application did not meet the requirements of the Late Applications Policy <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/apply-school-place> or the relevant School Prospectus for Worcestershire Academies, Free, Voluntary Aided or Foundation Schools. In the case of schools outside Worcestershire, you should refer to the relevant LA book and/or the School Prospectus, for details of the Late Applications Policy. If late applications do not meet the requirements of the Late Applications Policy they will be only considered for places after all those that applied by the closing date have been considered.

What can I do next?

The Authority seeks to ensure that all pupils have a place at a school, and it is therefore recommended, that in the first instance you accept the offer given. You can do this by responding to your offer on the on-line system, if you applied on-line, **prior to 16th March 2025**, or after that date by emailing your reply slip or details to schooladmissions@worcestershire.gov.uk **NB This does not apply in cases where children will remain at their current school.**

This will **not** jeopardize any future action you may take in seeking a place at an alternative school but will ensure that your child has a place at a school for the new academic year.

FOR WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS, you may then wish to consider the following action/s:

Waiting Lists

If your application for your preferred school is unsuccessful, you will be automatically added to the schools waiting list, which will be kept until 31st December 2025. If you wish to be considered for the waiting list for any school you had not applied for originally, you will need to make a new application for that school.

You should be aware that a school waiting list is an active document. As parents request for their children to be included on the list the position of an individual child already on the list can change. A waiting list does not give priority based simply on the date an application was added to the list, priority is based on the oversubscription policy of the school.

Waiting lists for Academy, Foundation, Free and Voluntary Aided Schools, are maintained by the individual schools and parents will need to contact the school directly, to establish the waiting list procedure in place at those schools. We will notify the schools to automatically add your child to their waiting list if you are refused a place on the national offer day, you must however check with the school to see if they require any further actions from you. Please be assured that no vacancies will be reallocated until such time that all requests/additional applications for the waiting list have been processed. If you apply late or are refused a place after that point you will need to contact the school directly in relation to the waiting list.

Waiting lists for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, are maintained by the School Admissions Team, and parents will automatically be added to the waiting list, which will be maintained until 31st December 2025. After 31st December 2025, if you still wish to be considered for any vacancies at a school, parents will need to apply, in order to be included. You can do this by emailing your request and child's details to schooladmissions@worcestershire.gov.uk

Important Information:-

- a) All parents have until **16th March 2025**, by which they must respond to their offer of a school place, this gives every parent the opportunity to go onto waiting lists, or express new preferences on the

on-line system. Once that specified date has gone past, those automatically placed onto the waiting lists and any new requests for places, will be collated and prioritised in line with the published admission arrangements. This is likely to take a number of weeks, depending on the number of requests.

- b) Once the waiting lists are collated and prioritised, School Admissions will begin the process of reallocating any vacancies for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. School Admissions will also be notified by any Academy, Foundation, Free and Voluntary Aided Schools of any vacancies and new allocations from waiting lists, to be made on behalf of their Governors/Trusts.
- c) School Admissions will contact you directly **IF** they are able to offer a place to your child from any waiting list.
- d) You will only be contacted with regards to an offer and would ask that you allow School Admissions sufficient time to deal with all requests and new offers. This is likely to be 4 weeks after the deadline date for responses.
- e) After that stage you will be able to find out your child's position on any waiting list, but not before.

Appeals General Information

You may lodge an appeal for any school that you have been refused a place. An appeal must be lodged in writing and must include the grounds upon which the appeal is made. Your appeal cannot be acknowledged unless the grounds of your appeal are provided.

In the case of a Community or Voluntary Controlled Schools it should be sent to the School Admissions office. **The deadline by which parents should submit their full reasons for appeal, is 28th March 2025. Any appeals lodged after this deadline will be classed as late appeals and heard after those received on time.**

THE PROCESS FOR LODGING YOUR APPEAL DEPENDS UPON THE TYPE OF SCHOOL YOU ARE APPEALING FOR. PLEASE READ THE DETAILS BELOW VERY CAREFULLY.

If you wish to appeal for an Academy, Free, Voluntary Aided or Foundation School, then the appeal should be lodged and sent directly to the Governing Body of the school, by 28th March 2025.

Please note, appellants do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstance, the admission authority has accepted a second application because of a significant and material change of circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.

In the case of parents who are separated, only one appeal may be submitted for a school in any one academic year.

Appeals for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

The appeal statement you provide **MUST** be documented and include the full grounds upon which the appeal is being made. The appeal should be submitted by 28th March 2025 and must be sent to this office via email to schooladmissions@worcestershire.gov.uk

It is vitally important that parents document the full reasons why they wish to appeal against the decision, including reasons why they require a place at a particular school and their personal circumstances. The appeal panels need to understand fully, your personal reasons, therefore, it is really important that you document everything you wish them to consider. All of the information in relation to the individual cases will be provided to all parties, including the panel, parent and presenting officer from the Local Authority in advance of the hearing date. The Clerk to the panel will contact parents directly to discuss the arrangements for hearing appeals.

Meetings of Appeal Panels may be held in person or online. You will be advised by the Clerk of any arrangements that are in place at the relevant time. If you have a disability or a special need which would make it difficult for you to attend the hearing in person, please let the Clerk know as soon as possible.

Should you prefer your appeal to be heard without your attendance then the Appeal Panel can decide it based on the written paperwork you have submitted, but you must let the Clerk know as soon as possible.

You will be provided with 10 school days notice of when your appeal will take place. Appeals will be heard within 40 school days if lodged by 28th March 2025.

Appeals for Academy, Free and Voluntary Aided Schools

If you wish to appeal for an Academy, Free, Foundation or Voluntary Aided School, then the appeal must be documented, including your full case and sent directly to the Governing Body of the school, by 28th March 2025.

The Clerks to those panels will communicate with you directly in relation to your appeals for those schools.

Vacancies in other schools

You can contact the School Admissions Team and make enquiries to see if there are any vacancies in any other Worcestershire schools.

If you wish to go onto a waiting list, appeal or check vacancies in any schools outside Worcestershire, you will need to look at the information on the relevant Local Authority website and follow their own procedures. In order to be placed onto a waiting list for a school, you must first make an application. If you are refused a place you will then be placed on a waiting list.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact the named officer in the letter you have received.

Or Email: schooladmissions@worcestershire.gov.uk

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