

Admissions Timetable 2024/25

Admission Phase	Admission forms available to parents w/c	Parents' consideration period	Closing date for receipt of completed forms	Allocation period by LA/ admitting authority	Parents informed by ("Offer date")
Secondary	04/09/23	04/09/23-06/11/23	06/11/23	07/11/23-08/01/24	01/03/24
Reception	25/09/23	25/09/23-17/11/23	17/11/23	17/11/23-23/02/24	16/04/24
Nursery	25/09/23	25/09/23-16/02/24	16/02/24	19/02/24-22/03/24	07/05/24

Application forms must be returned to the Local Authority by the closing date. Your child may have less opportunity to be allocated to your preferred school if your application is received after the closing date. Late applications received after the end of the allocation period will not be processed until after the "offer dates".

1. How to apply

Arrangements must be made to enable parents to express a preference for a school they wish their child/children to attend. By law, parents who express a preference are given priority for admission over those who do not. In the case of sixth form admissions, expression of a preference can be made by either a parent or a young person or both and should be done by contacting the School concerned.

You can access the applications forms in accordance with the above timetable on the Flintshire County Council web site (www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions). This is the preferred method of application. This form should be used if you are a resident in Flintshire and you wish to express a preference for a Flintshire school OR if your child currently attends a Flintshire school. If you wish to apply for a school in Cheshire West and Chester, you must use their application form as we are unable to process applications for schools in Cheshire West and Chester. Parents are strongly advised to express more than one preference. They must be listed in a preferred order. Only the highest preference that can be met will be used to offer a place. **Listing the same school multiple times does not result in a better chance of being offered that school.**

2. Neighbouring Authorities

Flintshire works closely with neighbouring Local Authorities to coordinate admission arrangements in Wales. Information will be passed on to the appropriate admissions authority. Please note that neighbouring local authorities' timetables may be different to that above. If the school for which you wish to express a preference is in another County please contact the respective Local Authority to ensure you do not miss the closing date:

Denbighshire County Council – admissions@denbighshire.gov.uk; Tel : 01824 706000

Wrexham County Borough Council – admissions@wrexham.gov.uk; Tel: 01978 298991

Cheshire West & Chester Council* – admissions@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk; Tel: 0300 123 7039

* If you wish to apply for a school in Cheshire West and Chester, you must use their application form as we are unable to process applications for schools in Cheshire West and Chester.

3. Late Applications

Late applications will be considered after those received by the closing date. If the Local Authority considers that there are good reasons for the application form being late it will be considered with the "on time applications". In all cases, supporting evidence must be provided.

All late applications will be ranked in accordance with the oversubscription criteria and any places which are available will be offered to the highest ranking applicants up to the end of the allocation period. If the Admission Number for the requested school has been reached, parents will be offered the right to an appeal. A waiting list will also be maintained for that school if necessary and any places that become available will be offered to the highest ranking applicant on the list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

4. The Process for offering school places

All pupils will be admitted if the Admission Number has not been reached. The Admission Number for each school relates to the number of children that can be admitted to each year group during the school year. The Admission Number for a school is calculated using the capacity assessment method in the Welsh Government's guidance document 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales'. All school Admission Numbers are included on the 'Schools List' (www.flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

If more parents express a preference for a school than there are places available and the Admission Number is reached, the Local Authority applies the published oversubscription criteria to rank all preferences expressed to see who can be offered a place. All preferences received will be considered on the basis of equal preferences. This means that in the first instance, all preferences will be considered against the relevant oversubscription criteria only, ie without reference to the preferred ranking. If a place can be offered at more than one of the preferences expressed (because a preferred school is undersubscribed or because the applicant has a high enough priority against the criteria for an oversubscribed school, or because a school receives the same number of applications as the number of places available), the place offered will be for the school ranked highest on the application.

Please Note:

Expressing a preference does not guarantee a place at your preferred school if that school is oversubscribed. If more parents apply for places at the school than the number of places available, the Local Authority will apply the oversubscription criteria for allocating places as set out in the policy.

5. Voluntary Aided Faith and Foundation Schools

If you express a preference for a voluntary aided school (Catholic or Church in Wales) or foundation school in Flintshire the relevant school will be sent your details. You may also be required to complete a Supplementary Information Form which is available direct from the school. The timetable for admissions (above) also applies to voluntary aided and foundation schools. These schools are responsible for considering your child's application against others received in accordance with their own oversubscription criteria. The school governors should use the school's own oversubscription criteria to rank applications and make offers of places. Any preferences not met will be returned to the local authority and will be treated equally with other preferences expressed for Flintshire Community Schools.

6. Policy for Admissions to Schools

The County Council, as the Local Authority, is responsible for determining the arrangements for admissions to all Community Primary, Welsh Medium Primary, Secondary, Welsh Medium Secondary, Special Schools and Voluntary Controlled Schools. The Local Authority will consult annually with school Governing Bodies and the Diocesan Education Authorities in relation to admissions.

The Local Authority will comply with statutory requirements and the Welsh Government School Admissions Code and will take account of the expression of parental preference in the context of its duty to ensure the provision of effective education and the efficient use of education resources. When considering applications, the Local Authority will observe the provisions of the School Admissions Code which states that admission authorities should admit to the school's admission number and will rarely be

able to prove prejudice as a ground for refusing an additional pupil while the numbers remain below the admission number.

Under the School Admissions Code, it may be reasonable in exceptional circumstances for the local authority, with the agreement of the Headteacher, to exercise discretion to admit more pupils than the admission number indicates, subject to such admissions not adversely affecting the school in the longer term including but not exclusively the duty to comply with infant class size legal requirements.

The Local Authority will comply with its duty to ensure the provision of effective education and the efficient use of resources. In so doing, the Local Authority will have regard to the total resources, including accommodation and staffing, available to each school and any constraints imposed by the school organisation and curriculum. It will also consider the resource implications for the authority and impact on other education policies.

When a parent gives fraudulent or intentionally misleading information in order to obtain a place at a school for their child, the Local Authority reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place. Where a place is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information, the application must be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

7. Welsh Language Policy for all schools

The Authority's Welsh Language Policy aims to ensure that all pupils reach a standard of bilingualism. It will be the responsibility of the Authority, in conjunction with the Headteacher and the School Governors, to ensure the teaching of both Welsh and English is in accordance with National Curriculum requirements.

Primary Education will be provided for all children mainly through the medium of English, or mainly through the medium of Welsh. Secondary Education will be provided for all children mainly through the medium of English, or mainly through the medium of Welsh. To ensure continuity with the primary schools, Welsh will be taught as a second language in all secondary schools where the main medium of instruction is English.

Flintshire County Council, working in partnership with schools will provide parents with full information and understanding of the advantages of Welsh medium education and the opportunities which exist within Flintshire, explaining clearly that:

- there is no need for parents to be Welsh speakers for their children to take advantage of this opportunity;
- receiving education in a designated Welsh medium school enables pupils to become fully bilingual;
- there are intellectual advantages to being equally fluent in two languages.

Pupils who have received their education through the medium of Welsh in primary school transfer to the Welsh medium Secondary School (Ysgol Maes Garmon) at Key Stage 3. Pupils can transfer from English medium primary schools to the Welsh medium Secondary School where they will be offered the immersion scheme that is available at the end of Year 6 and all the way through Year 7. For further details about the scheme please contact Ysgol Maes Garmon Tel: 01352 750678.

8. Admission Phases

8.1 Early Entitlement to Education

A part-time education place is available for every child the term after his/her third birthday.

Children born in...	Entitled to...
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Autumn Term	2 terms of educational provision (Spring and Summer)
Spring Term	1 term of educational provision (Summer)

Children born in the Summer term receive their education entitlement in the school nursery classes in the Autumn term after their 3rd birthday. Parents may state a preference for an approved setting which may be a pre school playgroup (English or Welsh), a private day nursery, a 'network' childminder or school nursery class. Applications for early entitlement are made directly to the setting. Forms are available all year.

Notes:

- 1. Admission to an Early Entitlement setting at a particular school does not guarantee subsequent admission to nursery at that school. A fresh application will be required.**
- 2. No transport is provided.**

For further information on approved settings please contact:
Family Information Service Tel: 01352 703500.

8.2 Nursery

Local Authorities in Wales have a duty to provide sufficient nursery places in their area. A child becomes eligible for a place at a nursery class in the September following the child's 3rd birthday. Nursery education is not compulsory and parents have no right of appeal regarding nursery admissions under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Nursery schooling in all schools/units will be provided on the basis of 5 x 2.5 hour sessions per week for each child. Places are available in Nursery classes at all Flintshire primary schools, up to the Admission Number for each school.

Parents may express a preference for any nursery irrespective of where the child's home is in relation to the school. However, expressing a preference does not guarantee a place at that nursery. In the event of oversubscription, applications for nursery places will be dealt with by applying the oversubscription criteria in respect of primary schools as set out in this Guide.

Notes:

- 1. Admission to a nursery class at a particular Primary School does not guarantee subsequent admission to reception class at that school. A fresh application will be required.**
- 2. No transport is provided.**

8.3 Primary

The Authority will admit a child to a maintained primary school at the beginning of the school year if the child has achieved his/her 4th birthday on or before August 31st of that calendar year.

Once a reception place has been offered and accepted, parents may defer their child's entry until the start of the term following the child's 5th birthday. Parents are not able to defer entry beyond this point, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted.

In accordance with legislation, infant class sizes (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are restricted to a limit of no more than 30 per school teacher. In respect of junior classes (Year 3 to Year 6), the target is no more than 30 per school teacher.

8.4 Secondary

Pupils will normally be transferred from a primary to a secondary school in the September following their 11th birthday.

9. Oversubscription Criteria

All pupils will be admitted if the Admission Number has not been reached. However, if the Admission Number has been reached, applications will be considered against the oversubscription criteria, which are listed in priority order.

Criteria to be applied in order of priority by the Local Authority for admission to Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools:

- a) Looked after children (children in care) and previously looked after children;
- b) pupils for whom the preferred school is the nearest appropriate school to the pupil's home address;
- c) pupils who will have a sister or brother attending the preferred school on the expected admission date. The 'sibling rule' will only be applied for the statutory period of education i.e. up to Year 11;
- d) pupils for whom the preferred school is not the nearest to their home address. Pupils will be admitted in order of proximity to that alternative school and up to its Admission Number.

Tie-breaker

If there are more applicants than places in any of the above categories, priority will be given to applicants living nearest the school, measured from the child's home address to the recognised main entrance of the school.

If the authority is unable to comply with the parental preference(s) expressed then the parent will be asked to consider available places at alternative schools.

Where a school is named in a Statement of Special Educational Needs, the local authority has a duty to admit the child to that school.

For the allocation of places, the nearest appropriate school is interpreted as:

- (a) the school nearest to the child's home measured from child's home address to the centre point of the school building;**
- (b) the nearest Welsh medium school where parents wish their children to receive their education through the medium of Welsh;**
- (c) the nearest Denominational school where parents wish to have their children educated in a denominational school.**

When making a decision about the 'nearest suitable school' the Local Authority will accept only the pupil's home address and not that, for example, of childminder or grandparents.

10. Definitions

10.1 Home Address

The address on the application form must be the child's current permanent place of residence.

Permanent means where your child physically resides and sleeps for the majority of the week. This will usually be the Parents' address.

PLEASE NOTE: only the person(s) with parental responsibility for a child ("Parents") can apply for admission. Where there is shared parental responsibility all Parents should be in agreement about the preferences listed in the application. It is the Parents' responsibility to come to this agreement. If there is equal, shared custody of the child, it is left to the parents to decide which address to use but we may ask to see a valid Court Order or other evidence to confirm this arrangement exists. If you cannot agree which school your child should attend with another Parent, you should immediately take your own legal advice regarding making an urgent application to the Court.

Addresses may be checked against records held on the Council Tax Database. In addition, Parents may be asked to prove residency at an address using, for example, any of the following documentation: Solicitor's correspondence confirming that completion has taken place on the purchase of a property, Tenancy Agreement, Mortgage Statement, Council Tax correspondence, Utility Supplier correspondence or such other evidence as the Local Authority deems appropriate. Please note any documents provided must be relevant, current and relate to the address noted on the application form. The documents must also identify you by name and must be the most recent ones available and no older than 3 months when stated.

It is strongly recommended that photocopies of documents are provided in all cases as the Council cannot guarantee the safe return of original documents through the return post.

If the Local Authority is not satisfied with the evidence provided including, but not exclusively, if you have not followed the terms of this policy then your child's application will not be accepted and will be withdrawn.

Parents are advised that a school place may be lawfully withdrawn if the information given on their application form is fraudulent and/or misleading. Please be advised that intentionally providing false information on an application form can be a criminal offence under the Fraud Act 2006. All applications where there is doubt about the address being given will be investigated by the Local Authority. The responsibility lies with the Parents to provide sufficient documentary evidence to support permanent residence at the address used. The use of false, misleading, or inaccurate information including omissions may lead the Local Authority to also withdraw an offer of a place in the event an offer had previously been made.

Should you move after applying but during the allocation period you must provide us with proof of your new address. Acceptable evidence includes for example: a solicitor's letter confirming that completion has taken place on the purchase of a property, or a copy of the current rental agreement, signed by both the Tenants and the Landlords, showing the address of the property and the start date of the tenancy. Please note any documents provided must be relevant, current and relate to the address noted on the application form. The documents must also identify you by name and must be the most recent ones available and no older than 3 months when stated.

10.2 Distance

The Council uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) to calculate the shortest home to school distance in miles. This is integrated into the Capita ONE software. The co-ordinates of an applicant's home address are determined using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and Ordnance Survey (OS) Address Point Data. The starting point for a route assessment is determined as the nearest point on the walking route network from the pupil's address (usually the main entrance to the property), to the centre point of the school building. The network is updated annually.

It should be noted that transport will only be provided in accordance with the Council's Transport Policy. Where, as a result of parental preference, a pupil attends a school other than the nearest appropriate school, as recognised by Flintshire County Council, it must be understood that parents accept full responsibility for transport costs and arrangements.

10.3 Sibling (brother/sister)

A sibling is defined as a full, half, step, foster or adopted brother or sister living together as one household at the same address and where the elder sibling is of statutory school age and will still be registered at the preferred school when the younger child is eligible to attend. In considering siblings, first priority will be given to applications from multiple birth children.

10.4 Multiple Birth Children

Twins, triplets, quadruplets, etc, residing at the same address and applying for places in the same year group will be given priority for admission in the main admissions round under the 'sibling' criteria. If it is not possible to offer places to all multiple birth children residing at the same address and applying for places in the same year group, the Authority will offer places for all of those multiple birth children at the next nearest appropriate school with available places.

11. Admissions to schools other than those maintained by the Local Authority

Parents wishing to express a preference for a school in a County other than Flintshire should still use the Flintshire preference form and it will be passed to the relevant Local Authority, with the exception of Cheshire West and Chester Council who request you contact them directly. Please be aware of each Authority's admission time table and closing dates.

12. Notifying Parents

The outcome of an application for admission will be notified to parents in writing by letter/email. Where the application has been refused, the letter/email will set out the reasons for the decision and the right of appeal and a return proforma will be sent. Parents will be asked to decide by a specified date one or more of the following options:-

- Place child's name on a waiting list;
- proceed to appeal and place child's name on a waiting list;
- accept the place offered at an alternative school for which preference has been expressed;
- make a new application for an alternative school.

13. Waiting Lists

Waiting lists for oversubscribed schools will consist of those children whose parents have specifically requested in writing, preferably email, to be placed on the school's waiting list and those for whom an appeal form has been received. Waiting lists will be maintained until 30 September in the school year concerned. After that date, any parents still wishing to be considered for a place must specifically request in writing to remain on a waiting list. If places become available they will be allocated according to the oversubscription criteria and not according to the date when the application was submitted or when a child's name was added to the waiting list.

In the main admissions round, waiting lists will be prepared and any secondary places which become available after 1 March (offer date) will be allocated after 1 April. The waiting lists will then be updated and any further places which become available will be allocated after 1 May. For primary, any reception places which become available after 16 April (offer date) will be allocated after 16 May. The waiting lists will then be updated and any further places which become available will be allocated after 16 June.

Where applications to transfer between schools outside the normal admission stages are refused, the Local Authority will, in agreement with the parent, place the child's name on a waiting list which will remain open until the end of the school term* for which the application was made. After that date, parents must specifically request that their child's name remains on the waiting list for an additional school term otherwise the name will be removed.

*If the application is made at the end of a school term, the child's name may remain on the waiting list until the end of the following term.

14. Admission of Pupils from outside Flintshire

Pupils applying for admission to a school in Flintshire who do not reside in Flintshire will be offered a place at a school in accordance with the admissions policy.

15. Change of School within Flintshire during the year

Schools in Flintshire have agreed a protocol with the local authority for transfers from one nominated school to another other than at the normal transition point (Reception and Year 7). A parent seeking such a transfer should initially speak to the headteacher of the child's current school to discuss the reasons for that transfer. If, following this discussion, the parent wishes to continue the process, the parent must make an online transfer application. If the admission number for the year group in the requested school has already been reached, the application may be refused and parents will be offered a place at an alternative school. In such circumstances a parent would also have the right of appeal, as outlined below.

16. Admissions other than in September each year

For pupils moving into the area at times other than the normal admission round (September of each year), the Local Authority will endeavour to meet parental preferences as far as possible. Where a school is oversubscribed, parents will be offered a place at an alternative school. The parent may then accept the alternative placement, or may give notice of appeal.

The Local Authority does not encourage transfers between schools, and a change of school mid-term can seriously disrupt the continuity of a child's education. If parents feel that a problem at school is so serious as to necessitate a change they are urged to take all reasonable steps to resolve the issue with the school first and then to seek advice from the Admissions Team if necessary before applying for a transfer. In cases involving school transfer requests that do not involve a house move the Local Authority reserves the right to arrange for the child to start the new school at the beginning of the next half term to minimise disruption to their own and other children's education. All secondary schools have mid-year transition programmes that will support pupils who are undertaking a mid-phase transfer. The programmes include extended visits to school by parents/carers and pupils.

17. Appeals Procedure

If the Authority is unable to comply with the parental preference the parent will be given the reason in writing and advised about available places at an alternative school. The parent may then accept the alternative place and may give notice of appeal. Information on how to appeal will be provided. Details describing the appeals procedure are also available on www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions. Alternatively, please contact the Admissions Team via the email address - admissions@flintshire.gov.uk

Appeals must be made in writing giving reasons, and sent to the Admissions Team. Appeals will be heard within 30 school days of the appeal being received in writing (or within 30 working days if received during the school summer holidays). Every effort will be made to hear appeals as quickly as possible. The parent, accompanied by a friend if desired, will be given an opportunity to appear before an Independent Appeal Panel. The decision of the Independent Panel will be notified to the parent in writing and is final and binding on all parties.