Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2026/27

Community Infant Schools

This policy will apply to all admissions for the academic year 2026/27 including in-year applications. For details of Published Admission Numbers (PAN's) for each school, please refer to the list of community infant schools at the end of this document.

If the school is oversubscribed, applications will be considered first according to the priorities in the order set out below: -

1. Looked after Children and Previously Looked After Children- These are defined as Looked after Children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order. Please see "Additional Information".

2. Children or families who have a significant medical, physical, psychological or social need. Evidence must be attached with the application form. Applications under this criterion must be supported by written evidence from an appropriate professional involved stating clearly why the preferred school is the most appropriate for the child and reasons why other schools in the city are inappropriate. Please see "Additional Information" below.

3. Children living within the school's designated catchment area. (If the school cannot admit all applications from the catchment area, applicants will be ranked within this category in accordance with priorities in 4. below.)

4. Children living outside the school's catchment area in the following priority order: -

   i) children who have a brother or sister (living within the same household) at the school or a linked junior school who will be still attending the school the following academic year.

      Note – this category includes step-brothers/step-sisters adoptive brothers/sisters living within the same household or children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household.

   ii. children eligible for service premium

Note - service premium is paid to schools for eligible children of armed services personnel under S14 of the Education Act 2002.

Pupils are eligible for service pupil premium if they meet one of the following criteria:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service)
- they have been registered as a 'service child' on a school census in the past 6 years (see below the 'DfE's ever 6 service child measure')
- one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme
- one of their parents is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England."

iii) children of staff employed at the school (or school on an adjacent site)

a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for 2 or more years at the time at which the application is made, and or b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a skill shortage.

iv) children who live closest to the school, based on the shortest distance from home to school, measured on a straight line 'as the crow flies'(This distance will be used where necessary to prioritise applications). Should there be two or more identical distances requiring prioritisation, this will be done by random allocation. Please see "Additional Information" below.

Note: should the school be oversubscribed from within any of the criteria above then any additional criteria will be used to prioritise applications within these categories.

Community Infant Schools

Infant Schools	**Published Admission Number 2026/27**
Bramble Infant	60
Cumberland Infant	60
Devonshire Infant	60
Manor Infant	60
Southsea Infant	60

All other maintained infant schools are academies. For details of their policies and PAN please visit the relevant school website.

Additional Information

Pupils with a statutory education, health and care plan

The Admissions code states "*all children whose Education Health and Care (EHC) plan names the school must be admitted".* These children will have priority for admission over and above all other admission applications and will be included in the admissions allocation process.

Co-ordinated Scheme

The admission and application process including key dates are outlined in the Co-ordinated Scheme 2026-27.

Looked after children

A "looked after child" is a child who is in a) the care of a local authority, or b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A child is regarded as being in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12 Adoption orders) and children adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002(Section 46 adoption orders).

Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act, as amended by Section 12 of the Childrens and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22/4/14 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a "special guardianship order" as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian/s.

Medical, physical, psychological or social need

If a child or a family member has a significant medical, physical, psychological or social need that you would like taken into account when places are allocated, applicants should tick the relevant box on the application form and submit supporting evidence to support their request. The evidence must be in writing from a doctor or other appropriate professional involved with the child/family member's health, wellbeing or specific family circumstances. In all cases evidence must show why it is appropriate that the child attends the preferred school and why other schools in the city are inappropriate

Catchment Areas

A catchment area is a geographical area defined by the council. The idea of having a catchment area is to give some priority for the admission of children living in the local area of the school. Please note - living in the catchment area does not guarantee a place at the school. The catchment area determined by the home address (the child's permanent residence). Catchment areas for individual addresses area can be looked up on the council's website or catchment maps for individual schools can be obtained by contacting the Admissions Team.

Sibling link

A sibling link is defined as a child's brother or sister (living in the same household) already on roll and attending the school you have applied to or at a linked feeder junior school and who will still be attending the school the following academic year. This category includes step-brothers/step-sisters; adoptive and foster brothers/sisters living in the same household or children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household. This does not include siblings who live in a different household. Twins, triplets and other children of multiple births will be admitted above the admission limit of a school if the limit has been reached by admitting one of the multiple birth children. A sibling link at the school does not guarantee admission to the school.

Feeder Junior School

Every infant school has a linked feeder junior school. Please see list below.

Children eligible for service premium

Service premium is paid to eligible children of armed services personnel under S14 of the Education Act 2002. The service premium is designed to support children with parents serving in the regular British armed forces. Pupils attract the premium if they meet the following criteria:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service)
- they have been registered as a 'service child' on a school census in the past 6 years (see below the 'DfE's ever 6 service child measure')
- one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme
- one of their parents is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England.

Children of Staff employed at the school

a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for 2 or more years at the time at which the application is made, and or
b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a skill shortage.

Distance measurement

Where it is necessary to prioritise applications, the criterion will be prioritised based on the shortest distance from the child's home to school, measured in a straight line 'as the crow flies'. Distances will be measured using the council's Geographical Information System (GIS) department. The Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) unique property

reference co-ordinates will be used to represent the school, whilst home co-ordinates will be primarily derived from the LLPG, with Ordnance Survey's ADDRESS-POINT® product used as support. Only distances measured by GIS will be taken into account for the purposes of the distance criterion. Should there be two or more identical distances, the prioritisation will be done random allocation.
Shared residency arrangements- 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.

Appeals

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 at Portsmouth City Council.

Waiting lists

All parents who have been refused a place at the school will have the option to remain on the waiting list 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 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 2027.If parents/carers want their children to be on the waiting list for the following academic year, they must reapply.
The Admissions team may also write to applicants on the waiting list during the academic year to confirm if they wish to remain on the waiting list.

Starting a child in school

Parents who are allocated a place via the Starting School application process can start their children in September.
They can also 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 (which is the term following their 5th birthday) 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. Any such requests should be discussed and agreed with the allocated school following confirmation of their allocation.
For parents wishing to delay the whole of year for a summer born child, please read the following information on this webpage: Apply to start school - Portsmouth City Council

Admission out of chronological year group

. 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.

Fair Access Protocol

The Local Authority operates a Fair Access Protocol which prioritises admissions certain categories of school age children. This protocol relates to admission applications during the year but does not apply to children applying in the normal admissions round. The protocol takes priority above the school's admission policy for those on a waiting list and the LA may require the school to admit above their published admission number.

Feeder Infant/Junior Schools 2026/27

Court Lane Junior (Academy)

Court Lane Infant (Academy)

Craneswater Junior

Southsea Infant

Cumberland Infant

Bramble Infant

Fernhurst Junior

Devonshire Infant

Bramble Infant

King's Academy College Park Junior (Academy)

King's Academy College Park Infant (Academy)

Meon Junior (Academy)

Meon Infant (Academy)

Moorings Way (Academy)

Penbridge Infant (Academy)

Penbridge Junior (Academy)

Manor Infant

Penhale Infant (Academy)

Moorings Way Infant (Academy)

Meon Infant (Academy)

King's Academy Northern Parade Junior (Academy)

King's Academy Northern Parade Infant (Academy)

Solent Junior (Academy)

Solent Infant (Academy)

Stamshaw Junior (Academy)

Stamshaw Infant

Wimborne Primary (has 20 Junior places to offer external applicants)

Cumberland Infant

Linked feeder infant/junior schools are also used for sibling links E.g. a child attending Devonshire Infant will have sibling link applied if their sibling attends Fernhurst Junior.