



Warwickshire Schools Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme

2022-23



Approved by IET Board of Directors Spring Term 2021

The Inspire Education Trust, Primary has adopted the Warwickshire Local Authority Coordinated Admissions Policy for Warwickshire schools.

This Policy applies to all schools in The Inspire Education Trust - Warwickshire: Stockingford Academy.

Admissions Scheme: 2022-23

Contents Page

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Co-ordination**
- 3. Application Process**
- 4. Supplementary Information Forms**
- 5. Processing of Applications/ Evidence required**
- 6. Change of Address**
- 7. Split Family Process**
- 8. Determining Offers**
- 9. Decision Letters**
- 10. Late Applications**
- 11. Unplaced Offers/ Waiting Lists**
- 12. Admission of children outside their normal age group**
- 13. Timetable**
- 14. In Year Application Process**

Reception Coordinated Admissions process for entry in September 2022

Terms

The term '**school**', in this document, refers to maintained schools, and academy and free schools. It does not relate to special schools or private (fee-paying) schools, as these schools have their own admission processes.

The term '**parent**', in this document, refers to biological parents, all those with Parental Responsibility, and other person with primary care for a child.

The term '**own admission authority**' school, in this document, refers to state schools for whom the local authority is not the admissions authority, including; Academies; Voluntary Aided; Trust; and Foundation schools. The admission authority for such schools is the governing body or the academy trust.

The term '**infant**' school, in this document, refers to any admission authority school which admits children at the beginning of the Reception year until the end of Year 2.

The term '**junior**' school, in this document, refers to any admission authority school which admits children at the beginning of Year 3 until the end of Year 6.

The term '**primary**' school, in this document, refers to any admission authority school which admits children at the beginning of the Reception year until the end of Year 6.

Coordinated Admissions

All local authorities are required to have in place a scheme for coordinating admission arrangements for maintained schools and other mainstream state-funded schools (e.g.: academies) within their area. The term 'school' in this document refers to both maintained schools and own admissions authority schools.

Coordinated schemes are intended to simplify the admission process for parents whilst reducing the likelihood of any child being left without a school place. Coordination establishes a mechanism that ensures that, as far as is reasonably practicable, every parent of a child who has applied for a school place is sent a single offer of a school place by the local authority in which their home address falls (their 'home authority').

Under the system of coordinated admissions, parents apply directly to their home authority and make a single application for a school place. Local authorities and other

admission authorities - such as the academy trust, or the governing body of a Voluntary Aided school - then exchange application data. This is to determine which children can be offered a place at which school. Parents then receive a single offer of a school place from their home authority.

Independent (fee-paying) schools are not part of the coordinated scheme. These schools will have their own admission criteria, application process and scheme for offering places. Parents should contact the relevant school directly if they wish to apply for a place.

Only parents of children who are resident in the county of Warwickshire, or who are able to satisfy the relevant address requirements as laid out in this document, should make an application through the Warwickshire School Admissions Service.

Warwickshire residents must apply for school places through the Admissions Service. Where parents approach schools directly, the school must direct the parent to the Admissions Service. Any Warwickshire resident who does not make an application through the Admissions Service, even if they applied directly to a school, will have any subsequent application which they make through the Admissions Service considered as late, if this is then received after the relevant deadline, as laid out in this document.

The Admissions Service will manage the process of allocating schools places in line with the Coordinated Admissions Scheme. Application data relating to schools in other local authorities will be forwarded via S2S. This system is part of the DfE's Secure Access website and is designed to securely transfer data between local authorities and schools.

Admission Arrangements

All admission authorities are required to have a set of admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted. These arrangements need to include the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications received than places available at the school for the relevant entry year ('oversubscription criteria'). Admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities, in line with the School Admissions Code (2014).

In Community and Voluntary Controlled schools the local authority is the admission authority and has responsibility for determining admission arrangements. In Voluntary Aided, Trust and Foundation schools, the Governing Body has responsibility for determining admission arrangements. In Academies and Multi-Academy-Trusts, the Trust has responsibility for determining admission arrangements.

A school's admission arrangements must contain:

- The school's **Published Admission Number (PAN)** for each 'relevant age group'. This is the number of places that will normally be offered to children joining the school at the normal point of entry (for infant and primary schools this is Reception and for junior schools this is Year 3).
- The **school's oversubscription criteria**. These are used to decide which children are offered places when there are more applications than places available. Each child is assigned a criterion with places offered in criteria order to fill the school.
- **Definition of sibling**. Admission authorities must state in their arrangements what they mean by sibling (e.g.: does it include step-siblings). Where priority is given to siblings of former pupils, admission authorities must set out a clear and simple definition of such former pupils. Some schools give priority to siblings of pupils attending another state funded school. Where this is the case, this priority must be clearly set out in the arrangements.
- **Distance from school**. Admission authorities must clearly set out how distance from home to school will be measured, and make it clear how 'home address' will be determined and the point in the school from which all distances are measured. This should include provision for parents who have shared responsibility for a child.

The School Admissions Code also requires that:

- Where a child has an individual Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names a specific school, then that child must be admitted to that school.
- The highest priority in a school's oversubscription criteria must also be given, unless otherwise allowed in the Admissions Code, to Looked After Children and all Previously Looked After Children.
- 'Previously Looked After Children' are children who were looked after (i.e.: who
- were under local authority care – e.g.: placed in foster care) but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order).
- If a school is not oversubscribed, all applicants must be offered a place (except for designated grammar schools).

The admission arrangements of any school must be such as to enable relevant decisions to be made in line with the timetable of this scheme.

Information for parents

In August of each year, the Admissions Service receives data relating to children who are due to start school in September of the following year. Data is also received from

Infant schools relating to children who are due to transfer to Year 3 in September of the following year. This data is then used to distribute information about the admissions process to the families concerned.

In September of each year, information explaining the school admissions process will be made available to the families of children who are resident in Warwickshire who either:

- Have a child due to start school in Reception in the following September, *or*;
- Have a child attending Year 2 in an infant or primary school.

Important information will be available on the County Council's website. It is expected that all families following the 2022 entry coordinated admissions process, as well as all schools within the county, will have read through the information relating to this process on the website. Schools (as well as nurseries and other childcare providers, in the case of children who are due to start school) are encouraged to inform parents of the need to apply for a school place and make parents aware of the necessary deadlines.

Also available on the Warwickshire County Council website will be the local authority's Composite Prospectus (from September 2021). This incorporates the information that is available online and will also contain the full admission arrangements of each state school in Warwickshire (not independent fee-paying schools or special schools, as applications for these schools are not considered under the coordinated admissions process).

Applying for a school place

Parents apply for school places using a Common Application Form (CAF). Parents are encouraged to apply for a school place using Warwickshire's online application system. This allows parents to complete an electronic version of the CAF. The advantages of the online system are as follows:

- The process is relatively quick and easy.
- Applicants receive an acknowledgment email confirming that their application has been submitted.
- Parents applying online receive their offer of a school place from 08.30am on National Offer Day.
- The online application process allows parents to:
 - Apply for places at their preferred schools by naming these on the application. Warwickshire parents can name a maximum of six schools on their application.
 - Rank their preferred schools in the order they would like their child to be offered a place (parents should name their most preferred school(s) as their first/highest preference on the application).
 - Give reasons for each preference.
 - Give details of any siblings who will also be attending one of the preferred schools at the point of admission of the child for whom a place is being applied. *Some own admission authority schools will also consider sibling links where the sibling attends the preferred school at the time of application, rather than time of admission of the child for whom the application is being made.*
 - Give details of any parent who is a staff member at the school which has been named as a preference, in line with the oversubscription for some own admission authority schools.
 - Provide details of social or medical issues, in line with the over-subscription for some own admission authority schools.
 - Indicate if the child has an Education, Health and Care Plan.
 - Indicate if the child is in receipt of Pupil Premium (including Early Pupil Premium and Service/Military Premium), in line with the over-subscription criteria for local authority maintained schools in Warwickshire.
 - Indicate if the child is, or has ever been, classed as a Child in Need or has been subject to a Child Protection Plan through Children's Services, in line with the over-subscription criteria for local authority maintained schools in Warwickshire.
 - Confirm details in relation to faith, in line with the oversubscription for some own admission authority schools (faith schools may require additional evidence as part of the application. This should be submitted directly to the school for which a place is being sought. Further information about this can be found in the admission arrangements for each school concerned).
 - Confirm if the child falls within the classification of 'Looked After'* or 'Previously
 - Looked After'**, in line with paragraph 1.7 of the School Admissions Code (2014).

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

***'Previously Looked After' refers to a child who was looked after (as outlined above) immediately prior to being adopted or becoming subject to a Child Arrangements Order or a Special Guardianship Order.*

Alternatively, parents can contact the Admissions Service and make an application over the telephone. This allows parents to provide the same information as the online system, but in this case the offer of a school place will be sent via second class post, so may not be received as quickly as an online offer, which will be sent electronically.

Completed application forms, regardless of the method used to make the application, should be received by the home authority (Warwickshire School Admissions Service) by no later than 11:59pm on the national closing date of 15th January 2022. Completed application forms received after the closing date will be considered as late unless suitable evidence of a house move can be provided by the relevant deadline (see 'Changes of address' section below).

Amendments to the application (e.g.: an additional preference being named, or the order of the ranked preferences being changed) will be permitted prior to the closing date of 15th January 2022. Any changes made to an application after this date will be classed as late (unless they are made in line with the requirements detailed below).

Supplementary Information Forms

Some schools require parents to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) in order to assign the oversubscription criteria. If a SIF is required by the admission authority of a school, this will be detailed in the admission arrangements for the school concerned.

Where SIFs are used by admission authorities in Warwickshire, every effort will be made to ensure that only the information that is required in relation to the published oversubscription criteria is requested. This is in accordance with paragraph 2.4 of the School Admissions Code.

SIFs must not ask for any of the information prohibited in paragraph 1.9 of the

Admissions code, or:

- a) Any personal details about parents and families, such as maiden names, criminal convictions, marital, or financial status (including marriage certificates).
- b) The first language of parents or the child.
- c) Details about any disability, special educational needs or medical conditions which either the child or a parent has been diagnosed with.
- d) Require that parents agree to support the ethos of the school in a practical way.
- e) Require that both parents sign the form, or ask for the child to complete the form.

When a school receives a SIF, Warwickshire Admissions Service will not consider the parents to have applied for a place at that school unless the parent has also submitted the Common Application Form and named the school as a preference on that application. SIFs should be submitted directly to the school concerned for their consideration against the oversubscription criteria. Warwickshire Admissions Service will not process any SIFs.

When a school's admission arrangements require a SIF and one is not completed, but the parent has listed the school on the CAF and submitted this to their home local authority, the application must still be considered without the additional information. If a SIF is not received then the application can only be considered in accordance with the information available to the from the CAF, and this may result in the application being given lower priority for a place, in line with the admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for that school.

Where a SIF is required it must be returned to the school that is requesting such additional information by the application deadline of 15th January 2022. The school concerned may not process any additional information received after this date. Please contact the school you are interested in directly for further information about the additional information they require.

Evidence of the Child's Home Address

As part of the application process, documentation concerning the child's home address will be requested. If the application is made through the online portal, then such documentation will be requested at the point the application is started. Such documents can be uploaded to the parent's online account.

Acceptable documents to confirm a child's home address will include;

- 2021/2022 Council Tax Bill
- 2021/2022 Council Tax Benefit letter/notice
- Utility bill (gas, water or electric), dated within the last 6 months
- Copy of tenancy agreement or mortgage statement for the property, dated within the last 12 months
- Copy of most recent Child Tax Credits or Child Benefit letter

Addresses involved in child-minding arrangements, whether with professional child-minders, friends or relatives, cannot be considered as the child's home address, unless the child sleeps at that property for the majority of the school week (i.e. at least 3 out of 5 nights, Monday to Friday).

Where a school place is offered based on an address which is subsequently found to be different from the address where the child ordinarily resides, that place may be withdrawn. Cases will be assessed on an individual basis and in discussion with any schools named on the application that are their own admission authority.

There is an expectation that the child will be resident at the address used to allocate a place on a long-term basis, and until at least the start of the autumn term (September 2022) in relation to the coordinated admissions process.

Short-term house moves purely to secure a school place may be considered fraudulent or intentionally misleading and, in such circumstances, the place may be withdrawn.

The Local Authority (acting on behalf of the school, in some cases) may request further documents regarding the child's home address at any time. The Admissions Service operates a thorough and robust address checking process, which may include both announced and unannounced home visits.

Changes of address

School places will be allocated using the home address that is named on the Common Application Form, unless any of the following three conditions are met:

1. **House move prior to 15th January 2022:** Where the home address changes before the closing date for applications, parents must notify the Admissions Service of the change of address and will be permitted to amend their school preferences. Parents will need to contact the Admissions Service to update the application.

Some admission authorities may have additional residency requirements which parents must abide by in order for their application to be classed as on time. See each school's admission arrangements for clarification.

2. **House move after 15th January 2022, but on, or before, 1st February 2022:** Where the home address changes after the closing date for applications, but before the extended deadline for families who are moving (either within or into the county), parents should contact the School Admissions Service to make a new application, or amend an existing application. This includes notifying the service of the child's new address. Such changes will be permitted, as long as this is done before 11:59pm on 1st February 2021.

The child must be residing (living) in the new property by the deadline of 1st February 2022.

3. **House move after 1st February 2022:** Where an application is made by the national closing date of 15th January 2022, but a house move happens after this date and no evidence could be submitted by the extended deadline of 1st February 2022, then the application will be processed and considered in line with the address information and school preferences submitted as part of the application as it stood on 15th January. Such changes can be updated after 16th April 2022, when the family may contact the Admissions Service and ask them to amend the address details on the child's secondary school application and may also amend their preferences. A change of address in this case will result in the application being considered afresh for all the schools named on the application at that point and the application will, therefore, be classed as late

Proof of Address

Address details will not be updated on an application until suitable documentation has been received by the Admissions Service that shows that the family, including the child for whom the application is being made, is resident in the property.

Suitable proof of address in these circumstances can include either: a full copy of the signed tenancy agreement (which should terminate on, or after, 1st September 2022), or a letter from the family's solicitor confirming that there has been an exchange of contracts on the new property.

It is the family's responsibility to ensure that such documents are received by the Admissions Service.

All emails sent to the service will be automatically acknowledged. If you wish to send documents via post then we would strongly recommend that you use a recorded delivery method.

If you have any difficulty in submitting any of the documents stated above then please contact the Admissions Service, who can advise you further.

Where a house move has occurred after the 1st February deadline, and no application has previously been made to Warwickshire, an application must be made and suitable documentation to confirm the new address must be submitted.

In this case, the application will be classed as late and will not be considered in the first round of offers, which will be released on 16th April 2022. However, the application will be given consideration in one, or both, reallocation rounds (depending on when the application is received), if both the application for a school place **and** suitable proof of the new address are received by the relevant reallocation round deadlines.

Applications received after 11.59pm on 12th May 2022 will be processed on an ad hoc basis.

Applications for schools in other local authorities and applications for Warwickshire schools from families living in other local authorities

Applications for schools in other local authorities, and any relevant additional / supplementary information, will be electronically forwarded to the relevant coordinating local authority, in line with the timetable found at the beginning of this document.

Warwickshire School Admissions Service will also receive applications from other local authorities in line with the timetable found at the beginning of this document. These will be recorded and passed to admission authorities, as appropriate. If the application is for a Community or Voluntary Controlled school then the Admissions Service will give consideration for places alongside other applicants, in line with the relevant oversubscription criteria.

Multiple applications made by the same parent / household

If more than one application is made prior to the closing date of 15th January 2022, by the same parent / household, then only the newest application will be processed (i.e.: the last application made before the deadline). Any applications made previously will not be processed.

If the newest application is submitted after the closing date then it will be treated as a late application (unless there has been a change of address, in line with the requirements detailed above) and will not be processed until after 16th April 2022.

Following National Offer Day, the School Admissions Service will accept new applications and, if required, further amendments to existing applications. If a child has an existing offer of a place, this will not be withdrawn until confirmation of an offer from the new/amended application can be made.

Where a school place has been offered, the applicant must choose either to accept the offer or not. Where an offer is not accepted within a reasonable time, it may be withdrawn by the Admissions Authority. If an applicant choose to make a further application after having received the offer of a place, this application can only be processed where the applicant has declined to accept the place that has been offered.

Any further application will be classified as a late application, and will be processed after all of the first round offers have been made to applicants who applied on time. If it is possible to offer the applicant's child a place at the school which is the subject of the further application, a place will be offered.

Parents who have received the offer of a place but who decline the offer in favour of making a further application risk not being offered a place a place at the school which they have applied to subsequently. In these cases, the local authority may offer a place at any maintained school which has vacancies.

Multiple applications made by Separated Parents

The Admissions Service will not become involved in disputes between parents, or parties, regarding applications for school places.

Where parents cannot agree on either the home address or the school preferences to name on an application (or both), the Admissions Service will contact both parents to inform them of the situation and to request that they confirm between themselves, and to the local authority, which application and school preferences to take forward. This may require the involvement of the courts, if necessary.

If this fails to resolve the matter then the Admissions Service reserves the right to consider only the application made by the parent with whom the child resides for the majority of nights during the school week.

Where the child spends 50% of their time with each parent, and a decision cannot be reached by the relevant closing date for the submission of applications, the local authority will intervene and act on their behalf. The local authority uses a computer 'random generator' to select either parent A or parent B's application. This process is carried out by two Admissions officers in the presence of a local authority solicitor. Parent A and B are advised which application will be processed.

How offers are determined

Subject to the above, admission authorities must consider all applications. If there are more applications received for a school than there are places available, then the relevant oversubscription criteria for the school will be assigned to each application.

If a school is oversubscribed then the admission authority must produce an intake list, in ranked order, which must include all those who have expressed a preference for the school. The ranked list must be returned to Warwickshire Admissions Service. Where it has been agreed that the Admissions Service will carry out this function for an own admission authority school, it is the admission authority's responsibility to ensure that they agree with the intake list. Any issues must be raised with the Admissions Service by the date set out in the timetable at the beginning of this document.

In the case of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, the Admissions Service will apply the oversubscription criteria.

In most cases, and where possible, the aim will be to offer a place at the school named as the highest preference. Where it is possible to offer a place at more than one of the preferred schools named on the application, a place will be offered at the school listed as the highest preference out of the

schools where an offer can be made. Any applications for schools which are listed as lower preferences than the school offered will then be automatically withdrawn.

Where the Admissions Service is unable to allocate a place at any preferred school, a place will be allocated at the next nearest school which has availability. This includes schools who are classed as their own admission authority, who are not maintained by Warwickshire County Council, and may include academies, free schools, and faith schools. The next nearest school with availability will be identified based on distance, calculated as set out below.

A single school place should be identified for each child by the end of the coordinated admissions process.

Distance

Distance will be calculated by a straight-line measurement from the address point location coordinate of the applicant's home address to the centre point ('centroid') of the school in question. The centroid is a pre-determined point set by Warwickshire County Council and all distances are subject to changes which may occur with updates of mapping data. *

**Mapping data is subject to change at any time, utilising information from sources such as (but not limited to); Map X, the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG), Royal Mail, Ordnance Survey, and the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG).*

Published Admission Number (PAN)

Where schools have more applications to consider than there are places available, offers will be made in accordance with the school's Published Admission Number (PAN), as part of the coordinated admissions process. Where an admission authority wishes to admit over its PAN, as part of the coordinated process, the process outlined in the following paragraph – 'Offers over PAN' - should be followed.

Offers over PAN

Where an admission authority wishes to admit children over and above their PAN, as part of the coordinated admissions scheme, they must make this request in writing to the Admissions Service by no later than the end of the Autumn term prior to the relevant entry year (i.e.: 18th December 2021 for September 2022 entry). The Local Authority will agree to such requests, where the request is received in good time (i.e.: by the above deadline), where the admission authority can show that the school has capacity and finances to support admitting over PAN, and where admitting over PAN would not adversely affect offers made for other schools in the local area.

Where such a request is received after the date outlined above then the determined PAN will be honoured, in relation to the coordinated admissions scheme, and offers made up to PAN (where possible) in line with National Offer Day – 16th April 2021. The request will then be taken into account in line with the specified reallocation dates, where possible to do so, and only where the admission authority can show that the school has capacity and finances to support admitting over PAN, and where admitting over PAN would not adversely affect offers made for other schools in the local area.

Where further capacity is required to provide every child in Warwickshire with an appropriate school place, a discussion will be held with relevant schools by members of the Admissions team and officers in School Place Planning to reach an agreement on offering additional places above PAN. This will include

the local authority approaching own admission authority schools to take additional pupils, over and above their PAN.

Notification of offers

National Offer Day is 16th April 2022.

Warwickshire Admissions Service will communicate to all parents who are resident within the county, who have made an **on-time** application (i.e.: by the deadline of 15th January 2022 or the extended deadline for a house move), regarding the school place that has been offered. This applies to schools offered within either Warwickshire or another local authority and will give the reason as to why schools that were named as higher preferences have not been offered, if applicable.

All applicants who made an on-time application online will receive notification of the school place offered, **after** 8.30am on 16th April 2022. These offers will be available to view via the online parent portal system.

Offer letters will only be sent to applicants who completed an application over the telephone or via paper copy. Letters will be sent second class, with the intention of them being received by the recipient **after** 16th April 2022.

When an applicant is not offered their first preference school, they will be provided with (or directed to) the following information. This may be via an electronic link to such documents, where the offer is sent by email:

- a) Information about their right of appeal against any refusal of a place,
- b) A breakdown of the offers made for each school,
- c) Information about the waiting list process.

Appeals

Where applicable, parents will be informed of their statutory right of appeal when they receive the outcome of their application. Parents can appeal for any preference where they have received a refusal. However, applicants cannot appeal for a place at a school listed as a lower preference than the school place offered. This is because the application will not have been considered for the school listed as a lower preference than the school offered and will have been automatically withdrawn.

Appeals for places at Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools can be lodged on the Warwickshire County Council website. For other schools which do not have Warwickshire County Council as its admission authority, such as academies and voluntary aided schools, parents should contact the school directly for details of the appeals process. A list of these schools is available on the Warwickshire County Council website.

Late applications

Every effort will be made to remind parents to submit their application by the closing date of 11.59pm on 15th January 2022. However, if an application is received after this deadline then it will be classed as late (unless the rules on a change of address prior to 1st February 2022 apply). Late applications will not be processed until **after** National Offer Day on 16th April 2022.

Late applications will be considered as part of the relevant reallocation round, depending on when the application is received. Late applications will be considered on the reallocation dates listed in the timetable at the beginning of this document.

If the applicant requests that new preferences are added to the application, and the 15th January 2022 deadline has passed, such amendments will be classed as **late**. Any schools named on the application prior to 15th January 2022 deadline will not be affected and will remain as on time.

Each application will be limited to a maximum of six active preferences at any one time during the coordination admissions process. Where adding a further school preference, at the request of the applicant, would cause the application to contain more than six preferences, then a preference of the applicant's choosing must first be withdrawn from the process, otherwise the new preference school will not be added to the application.

In respect of own admission authority schools, information about late applications will be made available through SAM (School Access Module) after National Offer Day, for consideration as part of the reallocation rounds. The admission authorities will be required to assign relevant oversubscription criteria, as well as carrying out any relevant checks, and they will also be made aware of any offers made through the reallocation process.

In the case of a late application, where it is possible to offer a place at more than one of the preferred schools through one of the reallocation rounds, a place will be offered at the school listed as the highest preference on the application.

'Unplaced' offers

Where the local authority is unable to allocate a place at any of the preferred schools named on the child's application, either on National Offer Day or through any of the reallocation rounds, a place will be allocated at the next nearest school which still has availability at that time. The next nearest school with availability will be identified based on distance calculated by straight line measurement. This school offer will be referred to as 'unplaced' as it will be an offer for a school which the family did not name – 'place' - on their application.

Waiting lists

Where a school is offered on National Offer Day, and this was named as a lower preference school on the application than a re-offer that can be made as part of one of the reallocation rounds (or any point afterwards), the parent who made the application will be notified that a higher preference school can offer a place and a set period of time will be given to consider whether they wish to accept the new offer. This will usually be 5 working days.

If the parent does not confirm their decision as to whether they accept the re-offered school within the time period set by the Admissions Service, then that re-offer will be released and re-offered to the next child on the waiting list. The school place offered previously, and accepted by the parent, will not be affected.

Where the re-offered, higher preference, school is then accepted by the parent, the previous school offered will be automatically withdrawn. Only one school place can be offered and accepted as part of the coordinated admissions process.

Children will automatically be added to the waiting lists of any non-selective schools listed as a higher preference than the school at which a place is initially offered.

The waiting lists for Warwickshire schools will not order children based on the date the application was received, so there will be no distinction between on time applications and those which have been classed as late. Waiting lists will be held in the order of the admission authority's oversubscription criteria.

Waiting lists will be re-ranked prior to each reallocation round, and when a new application is received thereafter. Admission authorities will be required to assist the local authority in assigning oversubscription criteria and carrying out relevant checks, where new applications are received, or when a previous application is amended (e.g.: a change of address).

The local authority will continue to operate the coordinated admission scheme, in relation to processing new applications and allocating places, where this is appropriate, up to and including 31st August 2022.

For every over-subscribed infant, primary and junior school, Warwickshire Admissions Service will retain a waiting list until the end of the Autumn term (31st December 2022).

At that point, all waiting lists for community or voluntary controlled schools (where the local authority is the admission authority) will be cleared and all applicants will be removed from the lists. If a parent wishes for their child to be added back on to the waiting list after this period then they will need to complete and submit a Change of School application, which can be done on the online parent portal, through the County Council's website.

Where an infant, primary or junior school is an own admission authority school, it will be the decision of the school to determine if they wish to keep a waiting list for the remainder of that academic year, and if they wish for a waiting list to be held either with school directly or with the local authority, on the school's behalf.

Accepting the school place offered

Warwickshire parents will be asked to respond to the offer of a school place by the deadline of 30th April 2022. Acceptance of the place can be done through the online application portal, or via email, or over the telephone through the Admissions Service.

Failure to respond to the offer by the deadline stated above will result in a letter being sent to the family on, or around, 4th May 2022, giving a further deadline to respond and confirm acceptance or a decline of the school place offered.

Failure to respond to this further correspondence may then result in the school offer being withdrawn from the child. Parents will continue to receive correspondence from Warwickshire County Council regarding the child's school destination for September

2022 and may also be referred to Warwickshire's Attendance Service (WAS), who may take legal action against a parent, where deemed necessary.

Where an offer is made through one of the specified reallocation rounds, or thereafter, the family will be notified, in writing, of the deadline to accept or decline the offer. Failure to comply may result in the offer being withdrawn and the child will retain their previous offer of a school place.

Declining the school place offered

Where a family wish to decline the place offered, this cannot be done via the online portal and must be done either over the telephone or via email through the Admissions Service.

The Admissions Service will not process a decline for a school place unless suitable alternative provision can be confirmed by the parent, for example, a school place has been secured for the child at a private school. Evidence of such may also be requested.

Coordination after National Offer Day

The School Admissions Code makes it clear that parents must continue to apply through their home authority for school places as part of the coordinated admissions scheme (i.e.: between 16 April and 31 August for Reception, Infant and Junior transfers). This will ensure that, as places become available, they are re-allocated effectively and duplicate offers are avoided. All admission authorities must continue to follow the coordinated scheme until 1st September 2022 and not begin allocating school places themselves during this period.

Cooperation between admission authorities will ensure that each child is offered only one school place and that it is the highest preference possible that can be offered from the child's application.

From 1st September 2022 the coordinated scheme will cease, and the In-Year Admissions process will begin.

Applications from overseas residents

UK Military families/Crown Servants

For families of UK Service Personnel with a confirmed posting within the county, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in the county, admission authorities:

- **Must** allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area, provided

- the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address when considering the application against their oversubscription criteria. This must include accepting a Unit postal address or quartering area address for a service child.
- **Must** ensure that arrangements in their area support the Government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children. Arrangements must be appropriate for the area and be described in the local authority's composite prospectus.
- **Must not** refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area, or cannot provide documentary evidence of residence at a particular property
- **Must not** reserve blocks of places for these children.

The application will follow the coordinated admissions process in all other respects, as outlined in this document.

Families moving to, or back to, the UK (Non-Military)

There is no legal requirement to process applications from other families coming from overseas who are not yet resident within Warwickshire, except as set out above.

Applications from overseas families in all other cases will therefore only be processed in line with the coordinated scheme once the family, including the child for whom the application is being made, can show evidence that they will be residing in Warwickshire imminently. Proof of residence may be requested at any time during the application process and the application will only be processed once enough documentation, that confirms a Warwickshire address, has been provided to the Admissions Service.

Where both an application for school places AND documentation relating to the family's new address is provided by the extended deadline of 1st February 2022 for families moving into the county, then the application will be treated as on time and processed alongside all other applications. Applications and/or enough residency documentation received after this deadline will be treated as late and will not be processed until after 16th April 2022.

Where schools are their own admission authority, they may operate additional residency requirements, but this will be stated in the admission arrangements for those schools concerned.

As part of the local authority's coordinated admissions scheme, for entry into Reception (or Year 3, if transferring to a junior school), in September 2022, there is an expectation that the child and applicant will still be in residence at the address used on the application from the start of term in September 2022, at least. Short-term house moves purely to secure a school place may be considered fraudulent or intentionally misleading and, in such circumstances, the place may be withdrawn, even if the child has started at the school concerned.

Deferred entry into Reception and Starting school on a part-time basis

As required by the School Admissions Code, Warwickshire County Council operates a process for the admission of all children to start school in Reception in the September following their 4th (fourth) birthday. However, legally,

a child does not have to start attending school until they reach what is known as ‘Compulsory School Age’ (CSA). Children can also start school but attend on a part-time basis until they reach CSA.

Compulsory School Age is defined as the start of the term after the child’s 5th (fifth) birthday, as indicated in the table below. Once a child has reached CSA, they must be attending school on a full-time basis, or be receiving full-time schooling through Elective Home Education.

Children born between:	...will reach Compulsory School Age (CSA) by the beginning of the:	...and must be attending school on a full-time basis by:
1 st September 2017 and 31 st December 2017	Spring Term 2023	Wednesday 4 th January 2023**
1 st January 2018 and 31 st March 2018	Summer Term 2023	Wednesday 19 th April 2023**
1 st April 2018 and 31 st August 2018*	Autumn Term 2023	Friday 1 st September 2023** (or the next school day, if the 1 st has been designated as a Teacher Training Day)

*Where a child who is born between April and August is offered a Reception place as part of the 2022 entry coordinated admissions process, the child must have taken up that place and started at the school by the beginning of the Summer term. If they do not, then the parent will have to make a new application for the child to start school in Year 1 in September 2023. There is no guarantee that the same school, or any other preferred school, will be able to offer the child a place at that stage.

**Term dates to be confirmed in due course.

Therefore, parents can decide to defer their child’s start in Reception until later in the academic year, but not beyond the point at which the child reaches Compulsory School Age. Parents will retain their free entitlement to early years’ provision throughout the period that the child has not started to attend school.

Parents can also decide that their child will attend school on a part-time basis until they reach Compulsory School Age. However, if parents decide to send their child to school on a part-time basis and then send that child to an alternative childcare provider – for example, a nursery – for any other portion of the school week, then the child’s free entitlement will end, as that funding will be automatically allocated to the school that the child is attending. It will be the responsibility of the parents to cover any costs incurred through their child attending the alternative childcare provider.

In either case, an application for a school place must be made in line with the 2022 entry coordinated admissions process, and all relevant deadlines adhered to, so that a school place can be offered for the child to start either in September 2022 or later on during the 2022/2023 academic year. Once the offer has been accepted, the parent should speak to the head teacher of the school concerned about their decision to defer their child’s admission to school until later in the school year, or for them to initially attend on a part-time basis. The relevant admission authority of the school will also be informed of the parent’s decision in such cases so that suitable arrangements can be put in place, where required.

In the case of children born between 1st April and 31st August, who wish to defer their entry to school, the school place offered as part of the 2022 entry coordinated admissions process can only be held up to the beginning of the Summer term in April 2023. If the child has not taken up that place by the first day of the summer term, then the parent will have to make a new application for the child to start school in Year 1 in September 2023. There is no guarantee that the same school, or any other preferred school, will be able to offer the child a place at that stage. An application for a Year 1 place, to start in September 2022, should be made through the local authority's 'In-Year Admissions' process, as outlined on our website. The application can also be completed online at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions

Summer-born children

Additionally, in the case of a child defined as 'summer-born' (ie: those with dates of birth from 1st April to 31st August), Compulsory School Age would fall in September 2023, when they would be due to start Year 1. This is a whole year later than when peers in their normal age year group would have started school in Reception, in September 2022.

The parents of a summer-born child can choose not to send that child to school until September 2023; the beginning of the term after the child's 5th (fifth) birthday and may request that the child is admitted into Reception at that point rather than Year 1.

Whilst parents have a legal right to decide not to send their child to school until they reach Compulsory School Age, they cannot insist their child is admitted to a particular year group. Therefore, the local authority (who coordinate the admissions process for entry into Reception for all Warwickshire state schools) operates a specific process in relation to summer-born children. Where parents have decided that their child will not start school until they reach Compulsory School Age in September 2023, this process offers parents the opportunity to make a request for their child to start school in

Reception at that time rather than Year 1. If the request is agreed to, then the child will be classed as being 'educated out of year group' when they start school.

How to make a request for a summer-born child to start in Reception at Compulsory School Age rather than Year 1

Requests for a summer-born child to be educated out of year group must be made in line with the relevant deadline for making a school application: 15th January 2022. Requests received after this date may not be given consideration until after National Offer Day for the normal year of entry: 16th April 2022.

Parents should also submit a 2022 entry Reception application for their child, as this will ensure that the child does not miss out on a school place in the normal age group if the request is not agreed by the relevant admission authority (or authorities, where the request concerns more than one school).

As part of this process requires the view of the head teacher to be considered, for each of the schools concerned in each individual case, parents should take all reasonable steps to ensure that they have discussed their request with the head teacher of each of their preferred schools. A specific section within the formal request form is

available to then be completed by each head teacher and given back to the parent, who should then send the full, completed form to the Admissions Service by the deadline of 15th January 2022 to be processed. It is unlikely that an incomplete request form will result in a request for a child to be educated out of year group being agreed.

An agreement for a child to be educated out of year group is **not** a guarantee of an offer at a school. Rather, where such a request is agreed, parents will be eligible to apply for a Reception place for their child as part of the 2022 entry coordinated admissions process. Further information about this process will be sent to families in September 2021.

Parents do not need to seek additional evidence other than that which they may already have, however, if they choose to do so, then it is important that parents, head teachers, medical professionals, educational professionals - and any other parties or persons who will be involved in the request for the child to be educated out of year group - read the local authority's guidance related to such before completing the request. This is available on our website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions

The form for parents to complete in order to request that their summer-born child be considered for entry into Reception in September 2023, rather than Year 1 (due to the parents taking the decision that the child will not start school until they reach Compulsory School Age) can also be found on our website.

Such requests will be considered on an individual basis by a panel of colleagues from within Warwickshire County Council, from services including (but not limited to): School Admissions, Statutory Assessment, the Integrated Disability Service and Early Years.

Whilst all final decisions will be at the discretion of the admission authority of each of the schools consulted with as part of the parents' request, the factors below will also be considered as part of the local authority's process in order to assess the child's individual needs and abilities and to consider whether these can best be met in reception or year one. It will also involve taking account of the potential impact on the child of being admitted to year one without first having completed the reception year. The views of the head teacher will be an important part of this consideration.

- If the child shows a delay and/or slow progress in their personal and emotional development;
- If the child has social skills that are not appropriate to their chronological age group;
- If the child shows delay and/or slow progress in intellectual development/educational skills across the subject area, to an extent that it is not reasonable to expect curriculum differentiation within their chronological year group to be successful;
- Whether the child is a summer-born child (in particular, but not exclusively, whether the child was also born prematurely and would otherwise have been placed in the subsequent chronological year group);
- If there is agreement from parents, and any professionals involved - including the head teacher of any preferred schools - that it would substantially increase the probability of successful inclusion, in the short, medium and long term, if the child was educated outside of their normal year group, and there is clear evidence of this;
- In accordance with the DfE's advice on the admission of summer born children (December 2014), that regardless of which year group the child is educated in, that they will have the opportunity to take full advantage of the Early Years Foundation Stage, whether delivered in a school or an early years setting, with an emphasis on learning through play.

- In relation to all of the above, the Admission Authority will seek views of the child's parents and also request to see any evidence that may exist concerning these factors. In all cases 'best interests' decisions will be based on the factors highlighted above and whether it appears on the balance of probabilities that the child will be better able to progress if placed out of their chronological year group.

However, the process will not be limited to just the factors outlined above, and any additional information and/or evidence provided to support such requests will also be considered as part of this process.

Parents will be notified once a decision has been reached, along with the reasons for the decision. Where such requests are submitted by the deadline of 15th January 2022, parents will be notified, in writing, of the decision made in their case by the end of February 2022.

The decision letter will also provide further information that parents should be aware of if their request is agreed. This may include:

- Information relating to early year's provision;
- The process that will need to be followed in relation to applying for school places;
- What to do if a parent changes their mind about their child starting school at CSA;
- What will happen when the child moves schools, including the fact that the admission authority of any new school will be responsible for deciding which year group the child will be placed in.

Home-to-School Transport Assistance

An offer of a school place does not necessarily mean that home-to-school transport assistance will be automatically provided to the child.

Applications for home-to-school transport assistance – usually in the form of a free bus pass – are assessed in line with the relevant Transport Policy. The criteria set out in that policy is different to the criteria and policy which is followed in relation to the school admissions process, and the time of making an application for transport assistance can also have an impact on the outcome, as this will not necessarily correlate with the school admissions process.

If transport assistance has been approved, but an alternative school can be offered from a waiting list, then this assistance may be stopped if the place from the waiting list is not taken up. Where transport assistance is requested in the case of a child who has been given an 'unplaced' school offer, such cases will be considered on an individual basis.

It is important that parents consider their child's transport options to and from school when making an application for school places. Where families are not eligible for home-to-school transport assistance then it is the legal responsibility of the parent / carer to ensure that the child gets to and from school each day, not the local authority and not the school that the child will be attending.

Information on applying for transport assistance, and the criteria used when assessing applications, can be found on the Warwickshire website at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schooltravel