

Reasons for Refusal & Information Regarding Appeals School Admissions, September 2026

If we have not been able to offer your child a place at your preferred school, this is because there were more applications for the school than there were available places and not all requests for places could be met.

Places were allocated in line with the admissions criteria published by the relevant admission authority and your application was not ranked high enough to obtain a place. If you listed own admissions authority schools (e.g., voluntary aided or academy schools) on your application and this school was listed higher than the school offered, then the trust or the governors of the school were unable to offer a place to your child as your application was not ranked high enough against their admissions criteria.

If you have been refused a school place at a school within another local authority (LA) you should refer to the relevant LA or the school's admissions authority for information regarding refusal.

For late applicants: If we have not been able to offer your child a place at your preferred school, this is because the school has reached its admissions number (the maximum number of children that can be admitted to the year group for September 2026) from the initial round of admissions.

Reason for refusal

There are two different grounds for refusing a school place. The ground for refusal will depend on the school that you have applied for, the school's admission number and the class organisation.

Ordinary Prejudice Grounds

Admissions authorities within Bracknell Forest fully recognise the need to meet parental preference wherever possible. However, the relevant year group within the school is currently full and the point has been reached where considerations of parental preference have become outweighed by the adverse financial and accommodation consequences of admitting further pupils over the admission number. It would place

pressure on staff and existing pupils and have an impact on successful teaching and learning. It will prejudice the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources in terms of Section 86(3) of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998. Therefore, it is not possible to accede to parental preference in this case and the application has been refused.

Ordinary Prejudice Grounds applies to all school year groups from Year 3 and above. It also applies to years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 where a schools admission number is not a multiple of 30 or, if an 'excepted pupil' has been refused a school place.

Infant Class Size Grounds

Admissions authorities within Bracknell Forest fully recognise the need to meet parental preference wherever possible. However, the relevant year group within the school is currently full and the law states that for Key Stage 1 pupils, this is those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, cannot be taught in classes of more than 30 pupils to one fully qualified teacher. Therefore, a place has not been offered because to do so would be in breach of the duty to comply with the infant class size limit which is set at 30. The application has therefore been refused.

Infant Class Size Grounds applies to years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at schools where the admission number is a multiple of 30. A list of Bracknell Forest schools where this applies can be found below.

Ascot Heath Primary School	Harmans Water Primary School
Binfield CE Primary School	Jennetts Park CE Primary School
Cranbourne Primary School	St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School
Holly Spring Primary School	St Michael Easthampstead CE Primary School
King's Academy Oakwood	The Pines School
King's Academy Binfield (Primary Phase)	Wildridings Primary School
Meadow Vale Primary School	Wooden Hill Primary School
Sandy lane Primary School	College Town Primary School
St Josephs RC Primary School	Crowthorne CE Primary School
Warfield CE Primary School	New Scotland Hill Primary School
Winkfield St Mary's CE Primary School	Owlsmoor Primary School
Birch Hill Primary School	St Michaels Sandhurst CE Primary School
Crown Wood Primary School	Uplands Primary School
Fox Hill Primary School	Wildmoor Heath Primary School
Great Hollands Primary School	

There are very limited circumstances where an application can be considered as an 'excepted pupil' application. Where this is the case they may still be refused a school place however; this refusal will be under Ordinary Prejudice Grounds.

Allocation Breakdowns

For details of the number of applications received for Bracknell Forest schools and how these were ranked against the relevant admission criteria, please see [how school places are allocated](#).

Information Regarding Appeals

If we were unable to allocate your child a place at your preferred school(s), you have the right to appeal for a school place and attend the appeal hearing under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. An Independent Appeal Panel will be formed to consider your appeal convened under the School Admission Appeals Code issued by the Department for Education.

Completed appeal forms must be returned by the relevant date (confirmed below) to be heard in the summer term (prior to the beginning of the new academic year). Appeals received after this date may not be heard in the summer term (within the appeal rounds) and may have to be heard after the new academic year begins (from September 2026).

Transfer Phase

Secondary Admissions (Year 7, from September 2026)
Primary Admissions (Reception, from September 2026)
Junior Admissions (Year 3, from September 2026)

Deadline

13 April 2026
19 May 2026
19 May 2026

Appeal application forms and information packs can be obtained from the school's Appeal Clerk This is usually the admission authority of the school for which you are appealing for. If you are unsure as to which is the correct authority to contact, then please contact your home local authority's School Admissions Team for advice.

Appealing for Bracknell Forest Schools

If you are appealing for one of the following schools visit www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/appeals to complete an appeal application form.

Ascot Heath Primary School
Birch Hill Primary
Cranbourne Primary
College Town Primary
Crowthorne CE Primary
Edgbarrow School
Fox Hill Primary
Garth Hill College
Great Hollands Primary
Harmans Water Primary
Holly Spring Primary School
King's Academy Binfield

King's Academy Easthampstead Park
King's Academy Meadow Vale Primary
King's Academy Oakwood
New Scotland Hill Primary
Owlsmoor Primary
Sandhurst School
The Pines Primary
Uplands Primary
Whitegrove Primary
Winkfield St Mary's CE Primary
Warfield CE Primary
Wildridings Primary

Alternatively, you can call 01344 352000, email: customer.services@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or post; Clerk to the Appeal Panel, Time Square, Bracknell, RG12 1JD.

If you are appealing for one of the following schools, you will need to contact the school directly as the school is their own admission authority and arrange their own appeal process:

Binfield CE Primary School

St Michaels CE Easthampstead

Brakenhale School

St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School

Crown Wood Primary School

St Joseph's RC Primary School

Ranelagh CE School

Jennett's Park CE Primary School

Sandy Lane Primary School

Wildmoor Heath School

St Michaels CE Sandhurst

Wooden Hill Primary School

Appealing for Non Bracknell Forest Schools

On behalf of the admission authorities, Bracknell Forest also organises appeals for the following non-Bracknell Forest schools, and you can use the above link to complete and appeal application form.

Badgemore Primary School

Hatch Ride Primary School

Emmbrook School

The Hawthorns Primary School

Emmbrook Infant School

Shinfield Infant School

Emmbrook Junior School

St Crispin's School

Nine Mile Ride Primary School

Westcott Infant School

Oaklands Infant School

Westende Junior School

Oaklands Junior School

Appeals for Junior Schools

Bracknell Forest no longer have any Junior Schools within the borough however, if you have been refused a junior school place (Year 3) at any of the following schools then you can submit your appeal application form to Bracknell Forest using the above link.

Oaklands Junior School

Westende Junior School

If you wish to appeal against any other Junior School, you will be required to contact the relevant admissions authority for further information.

If you wish to appeal for a school that is not listed above, then please contact the school or relevant admissions authority for further information as processes and dates may vary.

Important Information regarding Infant Class Size Appeals

Appeals for places in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are treated differently because the law limits these classes to no more than 30 pupils per teacher.

This means an appeal can only be upheld in very limited circumstances. The independent appeal panel can only uphold the appeal (and therefore offer a school place) if:

1. The admission arrangements were not followed correctly, and the child should have been offered a place.
2. The arrangements themselves were unlawful; or

3. The decision to refuse a place was so unreasonable that no sensible person would have made it in the same situation.

The panel cannot allow an appeal simply because a parent prefers the school, believes it would be a better fit, or because of practical issues such as childcare or travel.

Please refer to the appeals process linked below for further information.

Appeals Process

For further information regarding the appeals process please see www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/appeals