

## Applying for a school place

**Primary:** In Gloucestershire, children can start reception full-time in the September after their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. If your child is not ready to start school, you can defer entry. Your child must start full-time education once they reach compulsory school age (the term that follows their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday). An application should be made to the county council online or via a paper form. Full information can be found here: [School Admissions | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

**Secondary:** In Gloucestershire, most children will transfer from primary school to secondary school at the age of 11 when they have finished Year 6. An application must be made to the county council online, or via a paper form. If you applied for a school place online, you will be notified of the outcome via email.

If you are considering applying to a **grammar school**, children will be required to take an Entrance Test. Further information regarding this process can be found here: [Grammar schools | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Where a child has an **EHCP**, there is a different process for transferring from primary to secondary school. This should be discussed with your child's primary school and SEN caseworker from the local authority.

**In-year admissions:** If you are applying for an in-year admission, you will need to apply directly to the school rather than through Gloucestershire County Council. For more information visit: [Applying for a school place during the school year | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Some children, including previously looked after children, and children in formal kinship arrangements, are eligible for the **Fair Access Protocol**. This may enable them to secure an in-year school place when they are unable to via other means. To find out more see: [Fair Access Protocol](#) and [Admissions](#).

**Priority admissions:** Some children, including previously looked after children, receive priority for school admissions, where there is oversubscription for places. All schools must publish their admissions criteria/policy, which should be available on their website. Do check individual school details.

## Special Educational Needs



If your child has, or you feel they may have additional needs that need to be explored, speak to their class teacher, or the schools Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCo) in the first instance.

Gloucestershire's Local Offer has information on support and services available, for children and young people with additional needs: [Gloucestershire's Local Offer](#)

The Graduated Pathway is Gloucestershire's response to ensuring Early Help is available to all children, young people, and their families with additional needs, whether these are educational, social or emotional needs, or a disability. This pathway includes My Plan, My Plan+ and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's). More information on the Graduated Pathway can be found here: [Graduated Pathway](#)

## Things to consider when choosing a school

When making a decision on which school to apply to, try researching schools by visiting their website, attending open days or evenings, considering their Ofsted rating, and thinking about practical arrangements such as transport.

For suggestions of questions that could be asked when viewing a school or meeting with staff, please visit [Gloucestershire Virtual School](#)

## School Assessments

In mainstream settings, during Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2), children will complete a phonics check at the end of Y1, and will be assessed at the end of Y2 in reading, writing and maths. In Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6), children will complete a times table check, and end of Year 6 assessments, known as SATs.

Depending on the type of setting a child attends, in Year 8 or Year 9, they will choose which subjects they want to study for their GCSE's. In Year 11, students will complete their final GCSE exams, and will be supported by their school to consider post-16 options such as college, sixth form or apprenticeships.

Some children may require additional support with anxiety or stress around times of assessments. There are a great range of resources available online to support your child, one of which can be found here from charity Mind: [Exam Stress | Mind.org](#)

## Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. To view eligibility criteria, or to apply, please see: [Free School Meals | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Pupil Premium (PP) funding is allocated to schools for eligible pupils in reception to Year 11, supporting children who may be disadvantaged to achieve their full potential. This is not a personal budget for individuals, but can be used to benefit groups of students. If a child was previously in care, they are likely to be eligible for Pupil Premium Plus. It is advantageous to let the school know if your child was previously in care, as not only will this help ensure the right support is provided to your child, it will also enable the school to access Pupil Premium Plus funding.

Schools are required to publish their Pupil Premium policy detailing how Pupil Premium is spent, which can often be found on their website. General information on Pupil Premium can be found here: [Pupil Premium](#)

## Virtual School Website

Further information and resources can be found on the Gloucestershire Virtual School website by following this link: [Gloucestershire Virtual School](#)