

Apply to start secondary school

Starting secondary school

To get a place for your child to start secondary school in year 7 you need to apply, even if you live in the catchment area of your preferred school.

The only exception to this is when your child is in year 6 and attends an 'all through school' at:

- Atam Academy
- Isaac Newton Academy
- Loxford School
- Seven Kings School

Use this application process if you live in Redbridge and your child was born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016.

If your child has already started school you can [apply to change schools](#).

If you're moving to Redbridge before your child starts school you need to apply for a school place where you live now. Then transfer your application to Redbridge when you move.

Your preferred schools will only offer you a place if one becomes available. If none of them can offer you a place, you'll be offered a place at the closest school to your home with a vacancy.

School places for children with special needs (SEND)

School places for children with special educational needs use a different admissions process.

These are called SEN schools.

See [school places for children with special needs \(SEND\)](#)

Apply for a school place

[Sign in or create an account to apply for a school place \(eAdmissions\)](#)

The website form guides you through information you need to enter.

What you need

To apply for school places, you need:

- your address in Redbridge. You'll be asked for proof of this
- up to six schools in or outside of Redbridge you want to apply to

Proof of address documents

To get an offer from one of our schools you need to provide proof that you live in Redbridge.

We need proof before we can decide if your child has priority for a school. This is especially important for schools that receive more applications than places available.

You can still apply, but we may not be able to consider your preferred school until we receive proof of your address.

If we do not receive proof by the date school places are offered, we may give your child a place at another school that still has spaces.

You'll need two proofs:

- your council tax reference number

And either:

- a rent book
- a tenancy agreement
- your TV license
- a full UK driving license
- a home utility bill from the last three months

We'll not accept:

- business addresses
- a landlord's or tenant's address
- a childminder's address
- future addresses
- second homes with short-term leases

You can add your proof when you apply.

Choosing schools

You can apply for a place in up to six schools in Redbridge. This will be your 'preferred list' of schools. You can select any schools inside and outside of Redbridge. We'll work with any other local authority for the schools you select.

[Find a school](#)

Advice for choosing schools

Demand for places at our schools is very high.

We recommend putting the schools closest to your home in your preferred list. They are much more likely to offer your child a place.

See how [school places were offered for September 2026](#)

How to list your preferred schools

Put your first choice of school first in your application, followed by your second choice, and so on.

When you get an offer from a school, you'll be taken off the waiting lists of the schools below that on your list.

For example, if you are sent an offer by the second school on your list, schools three to six will be taken off your list. After that, those schools cannot offer a place unless you request to go back on their waiting list.

Be truthful on your application

Applications made with false information are rejected. It'll slow down the admissions process for everyone.

Every child is given a place in a school, even if your preferred schools cannot be offered.

Report a fraudulent school application

[Report a fraudulent school application](#)

You do not need to give us your name if you do not want to.

How our schools offer places

You'll only be offered a place at a school if you meet their admissions criteria.

Admissions criteria

How close you live to the school is usually the most important thing considered.

Schools have other criteria's which mean they may offer places to some children first.

Some schools, such as faith schools, have their own admissions criteria. Make sure you find out what a school's criteria are before you apply.

[Find school's contact information](#)

Applying to grammar schools

To be offered a place at a Grammar school your child must meet their admissions criteria and pass an 11 Plus exam.

See [Redbridge 11 Plus](#)

Applying to faith schools

To be offered a place at a faith school, you need to send them a Supplementary Information Form (SIF).

You can either:

- fill out a SIF when you apply
- download a SIF from the school's website and send it later

Send your completed SIF to your preferred school by 31 October.

What happens next?

You'll get a confirmation email with a reference number from eAdmissions.

On time applications (made by 31 October)

The schools on your preferred list will consider your application before 1 March (National Offer Day).

Getting an offer

You'll get an email with your offer on the evening of 1 March.

You'll then have two weeks to accept the offer.

[See more information on what happens on offer day](#)

If your address changes

All offers are based on the address you used to apply.

If your address changes before the application deadline, you must sign in to eAdmissions and update your details with the new address.

If your address changes after the application deadline, you need to [complete the online change of address form](#).

Late applications (made after 31 October)

You'll be placed on the waiting list for the schools you applied to.

Your position in a school's waiting list could go up or down as we receive new applications.

[See where you are on a school's waiting list](#) (login or create a My Redbridge account)

Your preferred schools can only offer you a place if one becomes available. If none of them can offer you a place, you will be offered a place at the closest school to your home with a vacancy.

Appeal a decision

You can appeal a decision if you're not offered a school on your preferred list. Follow our [guidance on school appeals](#).