



Apply for a secondary school place

**Everything you need to know
about school admissions**

Apply by 31 October 2026

If your child will be 11 by 1 September 2027, you must apply for a high school place by 31 October 2026.

See overleaf for more information.

**[www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/
apply-online-school-place](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/apply-online-school-place)**

Do you know that in Bolton...

...most of the high schools will receive more applications each year than there are available places. In some cases, more than three times.

This means that some children applying for a high school place won't get in because there aren't enough places in that particular high school for everyone who applies.

**Bolton
Council**

It is best to apply for the high school nearest to where you live. If you apply for a high school a long way from your house, you may not get a place.

Make use of the full three preferences in your application, so if you don't get into your preferred high school, you have a back-up.

Schools publish their Admissions Policy on their website, which sets out the order that places are allocated until all available places are filled. This is particularly important for faith based schools.

You can also find out more about admission policies and how each school allocated their places in the last two years on the Bolton schools directory **www.bolton.gov.uk/directory/4/school-directory**.

This will give you an indication of how successful your application to that school may be.

Apply by 31 October 2026

If your child will be 11 by 1 September 2027, you must apply for a high school place by 31 October 2026.

Pupils are not automatically allocated a secondary school place based on their primary school and if you miss the deadline, you have less chance of getting a place in the school you want to go to.

After 31 October, your application will be classed as late and will only be considered after all the applications received on time have been processed.

You may not receive an offer of a school place until after 1 March 2027 and for some heavily over-subscribed schools, even later.

Apply for school places via the Citizen's Portal

More information is available on the Bolton Council website about applying for a school place. Go to **www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/apply-online-school-place**. Please note, all school applications in Bolton are submitted via the **Citizen's Portal**.



Visit Bolton's **Citizen's Portal** to find out more and apply for your school place.