

SWANSEA COUNCIL

SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2027-2028

1. INTRODUCTION

The admission of children to schools is controlled by an Admissions Authority. Swansea Council, the local authority (LA), is the Admission Authority for all community schools within Swansea. As admission authority, the Council determines the criteria that will be applied when allocating places at community schools.

This document sets out the admission arrangements for nursery places, year of entry for primary (Reception) and secondary (Year 7), admissions during the academic year (In-year transfers), admission outside of the normal age group, and admission to sixth form.

The document also sets out the timetables for Reception September 2027 (Appendix 1) and Year 7 September 2027 (Appendix 2), and the admission numbers for schools for the September 2027-2028 academic year (Appendix 3).

In Swansea we have Voluntary Aided church schools (these are Roman Catholic, Church in Wales). Requests for admission to voluntary aided schools will be determined by reference to admission criteria set by the governing body. The governing bodies of Voluntary Aided Schools are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements.

2. Co-ordinated School Admission Arrangements Scheme

Swansea Council, in line with requirements under The Education (Co-ordination of School Admission Arrangements and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2024 has adopted a qualifying scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all admission authorities, (local authority (LA) and Voluntary Aided (VA) schools) in the Swansea local authority area, in relation to applications for the 'normal admission rounds' at a maintained primary school (Reception) or a maintained secondary school (Year 7) in Swansea.

Applications outside the 'normal admission rounds (In-year transfer applications) will be dealt with by the relevant admission authority and not under the co-ordinated scheme.

The co-ordinated admission arrangements scheme does not affect the rights and duties of the governing bodies of the Voluntary Aided schools to set and apply their own admissions arrangements and oversubscription criteria.

The co-ordinated arrangements applies to all Swansea community-maintained schools for which the LA is the admission authority and to the admitting authorities for the following Swansea VA Schools:

Bishop Vaughan Catholic Comprehensive
Christchurch Church in Wales Primary

St David's RC Primary
St Illtyd's RC Primary
St Joseph's Cathedral Primary
St Joesph's Catholic Primary

Applications for Swansea VA schools **must** be made through the local authority's (LAs) admission application system using the 'common application form'.

Parents/carers who wish to apply for schools in areas outside of Swansea must apply to the admission authority for the school (the local authority/Council for that school).

3. Admission to Nursery classes at local authority schools 2027-2028

The local authority, the LA, is the admitting authority for all community schools (schools funded and maintained entirely by LAs) in the area. The LA has agreed that schools will undertake the administration of nursery applications on behalf of the LA.

Admission to nursery classes

Parents/carers who require a place in a nursery class will be required to submit an admission application.

Parents/carers can either apply for a place at the catchment school or express a preference for a placement at an alternative school. Support can be provided for parents who need assistance if necessary. Requests for places will be granted unless to do so would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

There is **no right of appeal** following the refusal of an application for a place in a nursery class.

The number of nursery places available may differ to the admission number for the rest of the year groups within a school (Reception to Year 6).

(a) Oversubscription Criteria – nursery classes in Community Schools

If more applications have been received for any school than there are places available, the following order of priority will apply:

1. Children who are in the care of a local authority i.e. children looked after (CLA), or previously looked after*.
2. Children who live within the school's defined catchment area. There is no guarantee of a catchment place. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.
3. Children who have a brother or sister of statutory school age attending the school at the date of their admission***. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.

4. Other children for whom a place has been requested for whom criteria 1 to 3 above do not apply. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.

* A looked after child refers to a child who is looked after by a local authority in England or Wales, (as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and Section 74 of the Social Services and Wellbeing [Wales] Act 2014) at the time the application to a school is made and who the Local Authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school. Previously looked after children: looked after children who cease to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after (as defined by the Welsh Government School Admissions Code document no. 005/2013). Evidence will need to be provided for all LAC criteria applications.

** The measurements will be taken from outside the entrance to the property (house or flat) to the nearest official school entrance. The local authority GIS computer programme is used when undertaking the measurement.

*** A brother or sister will be defined as a natural or legally adopted child of either parent living at the same address. In any circumstances in which there is one place available and the next eligible children are twins/triplets then the LA will admit both/all children. Statutory school age is defined as pupils who are between age 5 and 16 (i.e. pupils in any year group between and including Reception to Year 11).

Children who have Additional Learning Needs

The oversubscription criteria does not apply to pupils for whom the LA holds an Individual Development Plan (IDP) where the LA has named a school in section 2D.1 of the IDP, although the rights of parents to be involved in the placement of their child are protected in law. The LA in consultation with Parents/carers and schools will determine the school at which education is to be provided. The LA reserves the right to name a school which is not the catchment area school.

Schools have a duty to admit children with an Individual Development Plan (IDP) where the LA has named a school in section 2D.1 of the IDP who have been placed in a school by the LA and these pupils are counted towards the number admitted up to the admission number unless they are placed in a Special Teaching Facility with planned places.

Please note that the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of going to print, but subject to change based on new guidance / legislation being issued which was not available when published.

Voluntary Aided Schools

In Swansea we have Voluntary Aided church schools (these are Roman Catholic, Church in Wales). Requests for admission to voluntary aided schools will be determined by reference to admission criteria set by the governing body. The governing bodies of Voluntary Aided Schools are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements.

(b) Admission Procedures – nursery places in Community Schools

Parents/carers can apply for a place for their child at the catchment school or state a preference for an alternative placement using the admission application.

Requests for admission will be granted provided there are places available. Where admission requests exceed the number of places available, places will be allocated in accordance with the LA's oversubscription criteria.

The main residential address should be used when applying. Addresses which have restrictions on occupancy (such as chalets or caravans on holiday parks with seasonal restrictions on occupancy) cannot be used as a permanent address.

Children attending the nursery class of a school will not have an automatic right of admission to full time education at the same school. Parents/carers will need to apply for a reception place along with other applicants at the appropriate time. There is no guarantee of a catchment place.

Attending the nursery at any school does not guarantee a place in the reception class.

Admissions will not be determined on the basis of selection criteria involving the sitting of tests, viewing of school reports, or interviewing pupils with or without parents/carers for the purpose of assessing ability or aptitude.

Parents/Carers who reside outside of the Swansea Council Local Authority should also make an application with their own Local Authority (the Local Authority to whom they pay Council Tax) as, in the event the school(s) applied for in Swansea are oversubscribed the LA will be under no duty to offer a place at an alternative Swansea school.

Withdrawal of a place

A place can be withdrawn by the LA if information is received that suggests the application no longer meets the oversubscription criteria it was originally assessed on. Any place approved on the basis of residence will be withdrawn if the pupil is no longer permanently resident at the address at the beginning of the school term to which the application relates.

Waiting Lists

The LA, as the admitting authority, maintains waiting lists for oversubscribed schools. For all admissions, where parents/carers are refused a place for their child/ren they are automatically placed on the waiting list. Pupils' names will remain on the waiting list for the whole academic year and will only be removed if a parent/carer confirms in writing that they no longer wish their child/ren's name to remain on the waiting list. If a place becomes available it will be allocated by the LA in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

The LA will be under no duty to comply with preference expressed otherwise than in accordance with its arrangements.

4. Admission Arrangements for Primary (Reception) 2027-2028

The local authority, the LA, is the admitting authority for all community schools (schools funded and maintained entirely by LAs) in the area.

Each child about to commence full time education will be invited to apply for a place at a school maintained by the LA.

Parents/carers can either apply on-line for a place at the catchment school or express a preference for a placement at an alternative school. Support can be provided for parents who need assistance if necessary. Requests for a place will be granted unless to do so would:

- prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources, and
- for voluntary aided schools, be incompatible with the admission arrangement agreed between the governing body and the LA.

Those parents who apply on time for a place at any school will be given priority over those who have not.

(a) Admission Limits – Community Schools

All schools must admit up to their admission number in the year of entry (i.e. Reception classes in primary schools). In the year of entry a child will be refused a place once the admission number has been reached. Parents/carers who are refused a place at the school must be given right of appeal.

The admission number applies to all year groups (except nursery).

(b) Oversubscription Criteria – Community Schools

If more applications have been received for any school than there are places available, the following order of priority will apply:

1. Children who are in the care of a local authority i.e. children looked after (CLA), or are previously looked after*.
2. Children who live within the school's defined catchment area. There is no guarantee of a catchment place. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.
3. Children who have a brother or sister of statutory school age attending the school at the date of their admission.*** If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.
4. Other children for whom a place has been requested for whom criteria 1 to 3 above do not apply. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**

* A looked after child refers to a child who is looked after by a local authority in England or Wales, (as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and Section 74 of the Social Services and Wellbeing [Wales] Act 2014) at the time the application to a school is made and who the Local Authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school. Previously looked after children: looked after children who cease to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after (as defined by the Welsh Government School Admissions Code document no. 005/2013). Evidence will need to be provided for all LAC criteria applications.

**The measurements will be taken from outside the entrance to the property (house or flat) to the nearest official school entrance. The local authority GIS computer programme is used when undertaking the measurement.

***A brother or sister will be defined as a natural or legally adopted child of either parent living at the same address. In any circumstances in which there is one place available and the next eligible children are twins/triplets then the LA will admit both/all children. Statutory school age is defined as pupils who are between age 5 and 16 (i.e. pupils in any year group between and including Reception to Year 11).

The LA **will not** provide transport or make any contribution towards transport costs for children admitted from outside the school's defined catchment area. However, if the catchment area school is full in the year group, transport will be provided to the nearest school with room if that school is more than 2 miles from the home address. The LA's School Transport Policy and school transport information is available on the Council website www.swansea.gov.uk/schooltransport

Children who have Additional Learning Needs

The oversubscription criteria does not apply to pupils for whom the LA holds an Individual Development Plan (IDP) where the LA has named a school in section 2D.1 of the IDP, although the rights of parents to be involved in the placement of their child are protected in law. The LA in consultation with Parents/carers and schools will determine the school at which education is to be provided. The LA reserves the right to name a school which is not the catchment area school.

Schools have a duty to admit children with an Individual Development Plan (IDP) where the LA has named a school in section 2D.1 of the IDP who have been placed in a school by the LA and these pupils are counted towards the number admitted up to the admission number unless they are placed in a Special Teaching Facility with planned places.

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In Swansea we have Voluntary Aided church schools (these are Roman Catholic, Church in Wales). Requests for admission to voluntary aided schools will be determined by reference to admission criteria set by the governing body. The governing bodies of Voluntary Aided Schools are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements.

Although VA schools are their own admission authority, Swansea Council local authority (LA) has co-ordinated admission arrangements in place. Applications for Swansea VA schools must be made through the local authority's (LAs) admission application system using the 'common application form'. The co-ordinated arrangements apply to 'normal admission round' applications for Reception and Year 7 only.

(c) Admission Procedures – Community Schools

Parents/carers will be asked to apply on-line for a place for their child at the catchment school or to state a preference for an alternative placement using the admission application.

Requests for admission will be granted provided there are places available. Where admission requests exceed the number of places available, as determined by the published admission number, applications will be allocated by applying the LA's oversubscription criteria.

The main residential address should be used when applying. Addresses which have restrictions on occupancy (such as chalets or caravans on holiday parks with seasonal restrictions on occupancy) cannot be used as a permanent address.

Children attending the nursery class of a school will not have an automatic right of admission to full time education at the same school. Parents/carers will need to apply for a reception place along with other applicants. There is no guarantee of a catchment place.

Attending the nursery at any school does not guarantee a place in the reception class.

Although the LA permits pupils to start reception full time at the start of the academic year in which they become five, the law does not require a child to start school until the start of term following the child's fifth birthday. Therefore, if the parent of a reception age child wishes to defer entry until later in the school year a place must be allocated to this child and this place is not available to be offered to another child. Entry cannot however be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted.

Requests for admission to reception submitted on or before the administrative closing date, **15 January 2027**, will be processed collectively and places allocated according to the above oversubscription criteria. In this respect, no advantage shall be gained from the early submission of an admission request. Requests submitted after the closing date will be treated as late applications.

For requests to change a school preference after the published closing date for applications or after an offer of a place has been made on the statutory offer day, a new application will need to be submitted. A new application made will be a late application and will supersede any earlier applications received and any offers that were previously made would no longer be available.

Admissions will not be determined on the basis of selection criteria involving the sitting of tests, viewing of school reports, or interviewing pupils with or without parents/carers for the purpose of assessing ability or aptitude.

The LA will be under no duty to comply with preference expressed otherwise than in accordance with its arrangements. Parents/carers who have applied by the **15 January 2027** will be advised whether they have been allocated a place by the **16 April 2027**.

Parents/Carers who reside outside of the Swansea Council Local Authority should also make an application with their own Local Authority (the Local Authority to whom they pay Council Tax) as, in the event the school(s) applied for in Swansea are oversubscribed the LA will be under no duty to offer a place at an alternative Swansea school.

Equal Preference

All preferences from parents will be considered equally. In the event that one or more preferences can be met, the highest preference school will be offered, with all lower preferences being withdrawn.

Late Applications

Requests submitted after the published closing date will not be considered until after all on time applications received have been allocated and offered their places on the statutory offer day. Late applications are dealt with in date order of receipt. Where there are more late applications for a school than there are places available the applications will be considered in line with the oversubscription criteria. Appeals for late applications may be held after the appeals for on time applications have been held.

Right of Appeal

Parents/carers will be informed, in writing, as to whether their application has been successful. Where their application has been refused parents/carers will be informed in writing that they have right of appeal to an independent appeal panel. If they exercise that right, the appeal must be forwarded to Swansea Council School Admissions Team by **14 May 2027** (for applications that were received on time). The appeal will be considered by an independent appeal panel of 3 or 5 people comprising lay members, and persons with experience in education.

Please note: Because of the statutory class size maximum of 30, there are very restricted circumstances in which an appeal for a place in an infant class (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) can be successful. The restricted circumstances are outlined in Annex C – point C.4 of the Welsh Governments School Admission Appeals Code – document no: 001/2023.

Withdrawal of a place

A place can be withdrawn by the LA if information is received that suggests the application no longer meets the oversubscription criteria it was originally assessed on. Any place approved on the basis of residence will be withdrawn if the pupil is no longer permanently resident at the address at the beginning of the school term to which the application relates.

Waiting Lists

The LA, as the admitting authority, maintains waiting lists for oversubscribed schools. For all admissions, where parents/carers are refused a place for their child/ren they are automatically placed on the waiting list and an opportunity to meet with an independent appeal panel is offered. Pupils' names will remain on the waiting list for the whole academic year and will only be removed if they are successful at appeal or if a parent confirms in writing that they no longer wish their child/ren's name to remain on the waiting list. If a place becomes available it will be allocated by the LA in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

The LA will be under no duty to comply with preference expressed otherwise than in accordance with its arrangements.

5. Admission Arrangements for Secondary (Year 7) 2027-2028

The local authority, the LA, is the admitting authority for all community schools (schools funded and maintained entirely by LAs) in the area.

Each child about to transfer from primary to secondary education will be invited to apply for a place at a school maintained by the LA.

Parents/carers can either apply on-line for a place at the catchment school or express a preference for a placement at an alternative school. Support can be provided for parents who need assistance if necessary. Requests for a place will be granted unless to do so would:

- prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources, and
- for voluntary aided schools, be incompatible with the admission arrangement agreed between the governing Body and the LA.

Those parents who apply on time for a place at any school will be given priority over those who have not.

(a) Admission Limits – Community Schools

Availability of places is determined by reference to the school's admission number. Schools must admit up to the admission number in the year of entry (i.e. Year 7 in secondary school) and must not exceed this number. Parents/carers who are refused a place at the school must be given right of appeal.

The admission number applies to all year groups.

(b) Oversubscription Criteria – Community Schools

If more applications have been received for any school than there are places available, the following order of priority will apply:

1. Children who are in the care of a local authority i.e. children looked after (CLA), or previously looked after*.

2. Children who live within the school's defined catchment area. There is no guarantee of a catchment place. If there are more applications than places, places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.
3. Children who have a brother or sister of statutory school age attending the school at the date of their admission***. If there are more applications than places, places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.
4. Children attending a designated partner primary school but who live outside the catchment area of that school. Attending a partner primary school does not guarantee a place in the associated secondary school. If there are more applications than places, places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.
5. Other children for whom criteria 1 to 4 above do not apply. If there are more applications than places, places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.

* A looked after child refers to a child who is looked after by a local authority in England or Wales, (as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and Section 74 of the Social Services and Wellbeing [Wales] Act 2014) at the time the application to a school is made and who the Local Authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school. Previously looked after children: looked after children who cease to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after (as defined by the Welsh Government School Admissions Code document no. 005/2013). Evidence will need to be provided for all LAC criteria applications.

**The measurement will be taken from outside the entrance to the property (house or flat) to the nearest official school entrance. The local authority GIS computer programme is used when undertaking the measurement.

***A brother or a sister will be defined as a natural or legally adopted child of either parent living at the same address. In any circumstances in which there is one place available and the next eligible children for that place are twins/triplets, the LA will admit both/all children. Statutory school age is defined as pupils who are between age 5 and 16 (i.e. pupils in any year group between and including Reception to Year 11).

The LA **will not** provide transport or make any contribution towards transport costs for children admitted from outside the school's defined catchment area. However, if the catchment area is full in the year group, transport will be provided to the nearest school with room if that school is more than 3 miles walking distance from the home address. The LA's School Transport Policy and school transport information is available on the Council website www.swansea.gov.uk/schooltransport

Children who have Additional Learning Needs

The oversubscription criteria does not apply to pupils for whom the LA holds an Individual Development Plan (IDP) where the LA has named a school in section 2D.1, although the rights of parents to be involved in the placement of their child are protected in law. The LA in consultation with Parents/carers and schools will determine the school at which

education is to be provided. The LA reserves the right to name a school which is not the catchment area school.

Schools have a duty to admit children with an Individual Development Plan (IDP) where the LA has named a school in section 2D.1 of the IDP who have been placed in a school by the LA and these pupils are counted towards the number admitted up to the admission number unless they are placed in a Special Teaching Facility with planned places.

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Although VA schools are their own admission authority, Swansea Council local authority (LA) has co-ordinated admission arrangements in place. Applications for Swansea VA schools must be made through the local authority's (LAs) admission application system using the 'common application form'. The co-ordinated arrangements apply to 'normal admission round' applications for Reception and Year 7 only.

(c) Admission Procedures – Community Schools

Parents/carers will be asked to apply on-line for a place for their child at the catchment school or to state a preference for an alternative placement using the admission application.

Requests for admission will be granted provided there are places available as determined by the published admission number. Where admission requests exceed the number of places available, places will be allocated by applying the LA's oversubscription criteria.

The main residential address should be used when applying. Addresses which have restrictions on occupancy (such as chalets or caravans on holiday parks with seasonal restrictions on occupancy) cannot be used as a permanent address.

Attending a partner primary school does not guarantee a place in the associated secondary school.

Applications for admission to the relevant age group (i.e. the age group at which children are normally admitted to the school) submitted on or before the administrative closing date, **31 October 2026**, will be processed collectively. In this respect, no advantage shall be gained from the early submission of an admission request. Requests submitted after the closing date will be treated as late applications.

For requests to change a school preference after the published closing date for applications or after an offer of a place has been made on the statutory offer day, a new

application will need to be submitted. A new application made will be a late application and will supersede any earlier applications received and any offers that were previously made would no longer be available.

Admissions will not be determined on the basis of selection criteria involving the sitting of tests, viewing of school reports, or interviewing pupils with or without parents/carers for the purpose of assessing ability or aptitude.

The LA will be under no duty to comply with preference expressed otherwise than in accordance with its arrangements. Parents/carers who have applied by the **31 October 2026** will be advised whether they have been allocated a place on the **1 March 2027**.

Parents/Carers who reside outside of the Swansea Council Local Authority should also make an application with their own Local Authority (the Local Authority to whom they pay Council Tax) as, in the event the school(s) applied for in Swansea are oversubscribed the LA will be under no duty to offer a place at an alternative Swansea school.

Equal Preference

All preferences from parents will be considered equally. In the event that one or more preferences can be met, the highest preference school will be offered, with all lower preferences being withdrawn.

Late Applications

Requests submitted after the published closing date will not be considered until after all on time applications received have been allocated and offered their places on the statutory offer day. Late applications are dealt with in date order of receipt. Where there are more late applications for a school than there are places available the applications will be considered in line with the oversubscription criteria. Appeals for late applications may be held after the appeals for on time applications have been held.

Withdrawal of a place

A place can be withdrawn by the LA if information is received that suggests the application no longer meets the oversubscription criteria it was originally assessed on. Any place approved on the basis of residence will be withdrawn if the pupil is no longer permanently resident at the address at the beginning of the school term to which the application relates.

Right of Appeal

Parents/carers will be informed, in writing, as to whether their application has been successful. Where their application has been refused parents will be informed in writing that they have right of appeal to an independent appeal panel. If they exercise that right, the appeal must be forwarded to Swansea Council School Admissions Team by **26 March 2027** (for applications that were received on time). The appeal will be considered by an independent appeal panel of 3 or 5 people comprising lay members, and persons with experience in education.

Waiting Lists

The LA, as the admitting authority, maintains waiting lists for oversubscribed schools. For all admissions, where parents/carers are refused a place for their child/ren they are automatically placed on the waiting list and an opportunity to meet with an Independent Appeal Panel is offered. Pupils' names will remain on the waiting list for the whole

academic year and will only be removed if they are successful at appeal or if a parent confirms in writing that they no longer wish their child/ren's name to remain on the waiting list. If a place becomes available it will be allocated by the LA in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

The LA will be under no duty to comply with preference expressed otherwise than in accordance with its arrangements.

6. Admission during the academic year 2027-2028 (In Year Transfer)

The local authority, the LA, is the admitting authority for all community schools (schools funded and maintained entirely by LAs) in the area.

Admission to Community Schools – (Primary and Secondary)

Parents/carers who require a school place will be required to submit an admission application. Parents/carers can either apply for a place at the catchment school or express a preference for a placement at an alternative school. Support can be provided for parents who need assistance if necessary. Requests will be granted unless to do so would:

- prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources, and
- for voluntary aided schools, be incompatible with the admission arrangement agreed between the governing body and the LA.

(a) Admission Limits – Community Schools

Availability of places is determined by reference to the school's admission number. A child will be refused a place once the admission number has been reached. Parents/carers who are refused a place at the school must be given right of appeal (**there is no right of appeal for nursery**).

The admission number applies to all year groups. These arrangements apply to pupils transferring in years reception to year 11.

(b) Oversubscription Criteria – Community Schools

If more applications have been received for any school than there are places available, the following order of priority will apply:

1. Children who are in the care of a local authority i.e. children looked after (CLA), or are previously looked after*.
2. Children who live within the school's defined catchment area. There is no guarantee of a catchment place. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.
3. Children who have a brother or sister of statutory school age attending the school at the date of their admission.*** If there are more applications than

- places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.
4. Children attending a designated partner primary school but who live outside the catchment area of that school. Attending a partner primary school does not guarantee a place in the associated secondary school. If there are more applications than places, places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**.
 5. Other children for whom a place has been requested for whom criteria 1 to 4 above do not apply. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority**

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**The measurements will be taken from outside the entrance to the property (house or flat) to the nearest official school entrance. The local authority GIS computer programme is used when undertaking the measurement.

***A brother or sister will be defined as a natural or legally adopted child of either parent living at the same address. In any circumstances in which there is one place available and the next eligible children are twins/triplets then the LA will admit both/all children. Statutory school age is defined as pupils who are between age 5 and 16 (i.e. pupils in any year group between and including Reception to Year 11).

The LA **will not** provide transport or make any contribution towards transport costs for children admitted from outside the school's defined catchment area. However, if the catchment area school is full in the year group, transport will be provided to the nearest school with room if that school is more than 2 miles for primary or 3 miles for secondary from the home address. The LA's School Transport Policy and school transport information is available on the Council website www.swansea.gov.uk/schooltransport

Children who have Additional Learning Needs

The oversubscription criteria does not apply to pupils for whom the LA holds an Individual Development Plan (IDP) where the LA has named a school in section 2D.1 of the IDP, although the rights of parents to be involved in the placement of their child are protected in law. The LA in consultation with Parents/carers and schools will determine the school at which education is to be provided. The LA reserves the right to name a school which is not the catchment area school.

Schools have a duty to admit children with an Individual Development Plan (IDP) where the LA has named a school in section 2D.1 of the IDP who have been placed in a school

by the LA and these pupils are counted towards the number admitted up to the admission number unless they are placed in a Special Teaching Facility with planned places.

Please note that the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of going to print, but subject to change based on new guidance / legislation being issued which was not available when published.

Voluntary Aided Schools

In Swansea we have Voluntary Aided church schools (these are Roman Catholic, Church in Wales). Requests for admission to voluntary aided schools will be determined by reference to admission criteria set by the governing body. The governing bodies of Voluntary Aided Schools are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements.

(c) Admission Procedures – Community Schools

Parents/carers will be asked to apply for a place for their child at the catchment school or to state a preference for an alternative placement using the admission application.

Requests for admission will be granted provided there are places available. Where admission requests exceed the number of places available, as determined by the published admission number, applications will be allocated by applying the LA's oversubscription criteria.

The main residential address should be used when applying. Addresses which have restrictions on occupancy (such as chalets or caravans on holiday parks with seasonal restrictions on occupancy) cannot be used as a permanent address.

Children attending the nursery class of a school will not have an automatic right of admission to full time education at the same school. Parents/carers will need to apply for a Reception place along with other applicants at the appropriate time.

Attending the nursery at any school does not guarantee a place in the reception class.

Attending a partner primary school does not guarantee a place in the associated secondary school.

There is no guarantee of a place at a school even if you move into the catchment area for a school.

Admissions will not be determined on the basis of selection criteria involving the sitting of tests, viewing of school reports, or interviewing pupils with or without Parents/carers for the purpose of assessing ability or aptitude.

Parents/Carers who reside outside of the Swansea Council Local Authority should also make an application with their own Local Authority (the Local Authority to whom they pay Council Tax) as, in the event the school(s) applied for in Swansea are oversubscribed the LA will be under no duty to offer a place at an alternative Swansea school.

Equal Preference

All preferences from parents will be considered equally. In the event that one or more preferences can be met, the highest preference school will be offered, with all lower preferences being withdrawn.

Right of Appeal

Parents/carers will be informed, in writing, as to whether their application has been successful. Where their application has been refused parents/carers will be informed in writing that they have right of appeal to an independent appeal panel (**there is no right of appeal for nursery**). If they exercise that right, the appeal must be forwarded to Swansea Council School Admissions Team. The appeal will be considered by an independent appeal panel of 3 or 5 people comprising lay members, and persons with experience in education.

Please note: Because of the statutory class size maximum of 30, there are very restricted circumstances in which an appeal for a place in an infant class (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) can be successful. The restricted circumstances are outlined in Annex C – point C.4 of the Welsh Governments School Admission Appeals Code – document no: 001/2023.

Waiting Lists

The LA, as the admitting authority, maintains waiting lists for oversubscribed schools. For all admissions, where parents/carers are refused a place for their child/ren they are automatically placed on the waiting list and an opportunity to meet with an independent appeal panel is offered (**there is no right of appeal for nursery**). Pupils' names will remain on the waiting list for the whole academic year and will only be removed if they are successful at appeal or if a parent confirms in writing that they no longer wish their child/ren's name to remain on the waiting list. If a place becomes available it will be allocated by the LA in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

The LA will be under no duty to comply with preference expressed otherwise than in accordance with its arrangements.

7. Admission to Sixth Form 2027-2028 - Criteria for Entry

Application Closing Date

Pupils can apply for a place at a sixth form at a Swansea school in the spring term prior to them seeking a place for the following September. Closing dates for applications will be determined by individual schools.

Provisional Offer

Pupils will be offered a provisional place. This provisional place will be subject to achieving certain specified entry qualifications as published by each individual school. For further information on specific entry qualifications contact the school directly.

GCSE/Equivalent Results

When GCSE grades are published i.e. the third Thursday in August ordinarily, it will be necessary for individual pupils to contact the school of choice to confirm grades at GCSE or equivalent examination results.

Choice of Subjects

Pupils who have achieved satisfactory grades at GCSE or equivalent will be given a firm offer of a place in the sixth form at the school of choice where places are available. It must be noted, however, that it may not be possible to study all the chosen subjects at the school of choice. It may be necessary for students to link with a sixth form at another school to pursue some subject choices.

Students who have achieved satisfactory grades at GCSE or equivalent but are unable to study all subject choices at the school of choice can be offered an alternative choice of subjects being taught at the particular premises. Alternatively, these students can seek a place at an alternative venue i.e. another Swansea school sixth form or Gower College.

Pupils will not be required to sit an entrance interview.

Admission Limits – Sixth Forms

All school sixth forms can admit up to their admission number subject to students achieving the entry requirement specified by the school (details are available from individual schools). Parents and pupils who are refused a place at the school sixth form must be given the right of appeal.

Admission Arrangements

The arrangements for admission into Year 12 and 13 for maintained community schools are delegated to the establishments directly. Details on admission arrangements for Voluntary Aided Schools may be obtained directly from the establishments concerned and will form part of their admissions policies.

Waiting List

If a school sixth form is over-subscribed and the school cannot meet the demand for courses a waiting list will be maintained. Applicants who have met the entry criteria (see above) but who have been refused a place due to the limit on places available will be offered an opportunity to put their name on a waiting list. In the event that a place/s become/s available, pupil/s whose name/s are on the waiting list will be offered a place in accordance with the oversubscription criteria (see below).

Oversubscription Criteria

For pupils who achieve the specified entry qualifications, where more applications have been received for any school sixth form than there are places available, the following order of priority will apply:

1. Children looked after (CLA). Pupils who are looked after by a local authority or are previously looked after*.
2. Pupils who live within the school's defined catchment area. There is no guarantee of a catchment place. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority.**
3. Pupils who have a brother or sister of statutory school age attending the school at the date of their admission***. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority **

4. Pupils who attended the school in year 11 but who live outside the catchment area of that school. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority.**
5. Other pupils for whom a place has been requested for whom criteria 1 to 4 above do not apply. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest (shortest available walking route) receiving priority.**

* A looked after child refers to a child who is looked after by a local authority in England or Wales, (as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and Section 74 of the Social Services and Wellbeing [Wales] Act 2014) at the time the application to a school is made and who the Local Authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school. Previously looked after children: looked after children who cease to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after (as defined by the Welsh Government School Admissions Code document no. 005/2013). Evidence will need to be provided for all LAC criteria applications.

**All distances are measured electronically taking the distance from home to school by the shortest available walking route. The measurements will be taken from outside the entrance of the property (house or flat) to the nearest official school entrance.

***A brother or sister will be defined as a natural or legally adopted child of either parent living at the same address. In any circumstances in which there is one place available and the next eligible pupils are twins/triplets then the LA will admit both/all pupils. Statutory school age is defined as pupils who are between age 5 and 16 (i.e. pupils in any year group between and including Reception to Year 11).

NOTE: Pupils with Individual Development Plans (IDP) where the LA has named a school in section 2D.1 of the IDP may transfer to sixth forms in Swansea schools. The decision to transfer is made by the local authority in consultation with the relevant school. Please note that the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of going to print, but subject to change based on new guidance / legislation being issued which was not available when published.

APPENDIX 1

Schedule of Events for Primary (Reception) Admissions 2027-2028

1 December 2025	Issue of admission arrangements to schools for consultation
23 January 2026	Return of consultation responses to local authority (LA)
26 January – 6 February 2026	Period for LA to resolve queries
5 March 2026	Report of consultation to Corporate Briefing
26 March 2026	Determination of admission arrangements by Council
September 2026	Information for parents made available to schools and parents/carers on Swansea Council website or by hard copy (available on request).
7 December 2026	Parents / carers are invited to apply for a school place
15 January 2027	National deadline for applications. Closing date for Swansea Council common application forms (online or paper) to be received by Swansea Council School Admissions Team.
16 April 2027	Common offer day. Local authority notifies parents/carers of primary school place offered.
14 May 2027	Date by which parents/carers lodge an appeal.

APPENDIX 2

Schedule of Events for Secondary (Year 7) Admissions 2027-2028

01 December 2025	Issue of admission arrangements to schools for consultation
23 January 2026	Return of consultation responses to local authority (LA)
26 January – 06 February 2026	Period for LA to resolve queries
05 March 2026	Report of consultation to Corporate Briefing
26 March 2026	Determination of admission arrangements by Council
September 2026	Information for parents made available to schools and parents/carers on Swansea Council website or by hard copy (available on request).
21 September 2026	Parents / carers are invited to apply for a school place
31 October 2026	National deadline for applications. Closing date for Swansea Council common application forms (online or paper) to be received by Swansea Council School Admissions Team.
1 March 2027	Common offer day. Local authority notifies parents/carers of secondary school place offered.
26 March 2027	Date by which parents/carers lodge an appeal.

APPENDIX 3

ADMISSIONS NUMBERS 2027-2028

Primary Schools

Birchgrove Primary	60
Bishopston Primary	38
Blaenymaes Primary	37
Brynhyfryd Primary	60
Brynmill Primary	45
Burlais Primary	72
Cadle Primary	51
Casllwchwr Primary	30
Christchurch Ch. in Wales	20
Cila Primary	16
Clase Primary	49
Clwyd Primary	52
Clydach Primary	37
Craigfelen Primary	25
Crwys Primary	24
Cwm Glas Primary	36
Cwmrhydyceirw Primary	65
Danygraig Primary	37
Dunvant Primary	49
Gendros Primary	43
Glais Primary	15
Glyncollen Primary	30
Gors Community	46
Gorseinon Primary	45
Gowerton Primary	49
Grange Primary	30
Gwyrosydd Primary	58
Hafod Primary	32
Hendrefoilan Primary	34
Knelston Primary	19
Llangyfelach Primary	30
Llanrhidian Primary	20
Mayals Primary	30
Morrison Primary	26
Newton Primary	30
Oystermouth Primary	30
Parkland Primary	75
Pen y Fro Primary	30
Penclawdd Primary	30
Pengelli Primary	16

Penllergaer Primary	43
Pennard Primary	30
Pentrechwyth Primary	24
Pentre'r Graig Primary	46
Penyrheol Primary	46
Plasmarl Primary	30
Pontarddulais Primary	55
Pontlliw Primary	26
Pontybrenin Primary	45
Portmead Primary	37
Sea View Community Primary	30
Sketty Primary	63
St. David's Primary	30
St. Helen's Primary	33
St. Illtyd's Primary	30
St. Joseph's Cathedral Primary	60
St. Joseph's Primary (Clydach)	30
St. Thomas Primary	55
Talycopa Primary	30
Terrace Road Primary	44
Townhill Primary	60
Trallwn Primary	37
Tre Uchaf Primary	29
Waun Wen Primary	29
Waunarlwydd Primary	41
Whitestone Primary	27
Ynystawe Primary	24
YGG Bryniago	28
YGG Bryn-y-Mor	37
YG y Cwm	26
YGG Gellionnen	39
YGG Llwynderw	47
YGG Lon Las	75
YGG Pontybrenin	71
YGG Tan-y-lan	60
YGG Tirdeunaw	77
YGG Y Login Fach	31

ADMISSIONS NUMBERS 2027-2028

Secondary Schools

Birchgrove Comprehensive	152
Bishop Gore Comprehensive	247
Bishop Vaughan Comprehensive	219
Bishopston Comprehensive	225
Cefn Hengoed Comprehensive	191
Dylan Thomas Community	148
Gowerton Comprehensive	211
Morrison Comprehensive	244
Olchfa Comprehensive	289
Pentrefafod Comprehensive	230
Penyrheol Comprehensive	219
Pontarddulais Comprehensive	172
Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Tawe	214
Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr	206