



Great Bradfords Infant & Nursery School

Admissions Policy for School 2026-2027

To Be Ratified by the Governing Board: 2nd December 2024

Signed Headteacher: _____

Chair of Governors: _____

Review Date: October 2025



Great Bradfords

INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Great Bradfords Infant and Nursery School

Admissions Policy for School 2026/27

Essex County Council is responsible for allocating Great Bradfords Infant and Nursery School places. Parents must apply for a primary school place by completing the Common Application Form. This must be completed online at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions by the closing date of 15 January 2026. Essex County Council will notify you on 14 April 2026 as to where your child will be placed. For more details and further information on the admission process please go to the Essex County Council website (www.essex.gov.uk/admissions) or alternatively, you can contact them on 0845 603 2200 or email admissions@essex.gov.uk.

If you would like to visit Great Bradfords Infant and Nursery School and meet the Headteacher and staff, please come along to one of our Open Days. These days will be held on a Saturday from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Actual dates to be released September 2025. There is no need to book.

At Great Bradfords Infant and Nursery School all children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 will be admitted in full time education in the Autumn Term of 2026.

Our intended published admission number for 2026/27 is 90.

There is no guarantee of a place for children living in the priority admission area. In the event of oversubscription any remaining places will be allocated using the following criteria in the order given:

- 1) Looked after children and previously looked after children (as defined below);
- 2) Children with a sibling attending Great Bradfords Infant School or Great Bradfords Junior School;
- 3) Children living in the priority admission area;
- 4) Remaining applications.

In the event of oversubscription within any of the above criteria, priority will be determined by straight line distance from home to school, those living closest being given the highest priority. Exceptional medical circumstances (supported by medical evidence) may override the above (other than looked after children and previously looked after children).

Priority Admission Area There is no guarantee of a place to children living in the priority admission area of a particular school. Parents can check whether a specific address sits within the priority admissions area of the school (if any) using [Essex County Council catchment finder](#).

Key Definitions

Looked after Children (LAC):

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but, immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order will be given first priority in oversubscription criteria, ahead of all other applicants in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (as defined in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Children with Education and Health Care Plans:

Children with EHCPs that name the school on the plan are required to be admitted to a school regardless of their place in the priority order.



Great Bradfords

INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Age of Admission:

Essex County Council's policy is that children born on and between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 would normally commence primary school in Reception in the academic year beginning in September 2026.

As required by law, all Essex infant and primary schools provide for the full-time admission of all children offered a place in the Reception year group from the September following their fourth birthday. Therefore, if a parent wants a full-time place for their child from September (at the school at which a place has been offered) then they are entitled to that full-time place.

Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in the school year. The law does not require a child to start school until the start of the term following their fifth birthday. Compulsory school age is reached at that point.

Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. The parent would not however be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted.

Parents can also request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. Any parents interested in taking up a part-time place initially should contact the school for further details as to what this would entail.

Where parents choose to defer entry, a school may reasonably expect that the child would start at the beginning of a new school term/half term. Where a parent of a 'summer-born' child (1 April – 31 August) wishes their child to start school in the autumn term following their fifth birthday, they will need to apply for a place at the correct time for the normal admission round for the following academic year. The process to be followed is defined in detail in the 'Primary Education in Essex' booklet. Supporting evidence from relevant professionals working with the child and family stating why the child must be placed outside their normal age appropriate cohort should be submitted.

The County Council will decide whether the application for a Reception place will be accepted or whether it will be treated as an application for a Year 1 place, the child's normal age appropriate cohort. Further details are provided in the ['Primary Education in Essex'](#) booklet.

If the application for a Reception place is not accepted this does not constitute a refusal of the place and there is no right to an independent statutory appeal.