Warwickshire County Council
Consultation for 2026/2027 School Admission Arrangements

Included:

- **2026 Entry Coordinated Scheme**
- **2026/27 Admission Arrangements for voluntary controlled and community schools in Warwickshire**
- **2026/27 Coordinated in-year process**

Consultation and coordination

Warwickshire County Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools within Warwickshire. As the admission authority, Warwickshire County Council is required to set the admission arrangements for its schools that clearly sets out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places.

The local authority is also required to formulate and publish a scheme to coordinate admission arrangements for the normal admissions round, and late applications, for all publicly funded schools within the area. The scheme enables Warwickshire residents to make a single application for places at their preferred state funded school(s) regardless of whether it is in the local authority area in which they live. Offers are sent by the home local authority ensuring each child, for whom an application has been received, receives the offer of only one school place. This may not be at one of the schools listed as a preference if there are more applications than places available.

The local authority also coordinates the in-year applications for the majority of schools in the area. The local authority is required to publish the process for making in-year applications and how these will be dealt with.

Warwickshire County Council is undertaking a consultation relating to the admission arrangements for the 2026/27 academic year. As required by the School Admissions Code (2021), admission authorities must consult on their proposed admissions arrangements for 2026 entry for a minimum of 6 weeks between 01 October 2024 and 31 January 2025.

The consultation period for Warwickshire County Council's proposed admission arrangements for 2026/27 academic year, will therefore operate between:

00:00 on Monday 25 November 2024
until
23:59 on Sunday 19 January 2025

The proposed changes being consulted on for the 2026/27 academic year are:

- the reduction of the published admission number at a local authority maintained junior school;
- the inclusion of the process for dealing with applications where there is parental dispute;
- who can apply for a school place;
- clarification on the processing of applications for UK Service Personnel under the military covenant;
- clarification on the processing of applications for children from overseas;
- updated processes for education out of year group requests.

Proposed reduction to the published admission number at Boughton Leigh Junior School

Boughton Leigh Junior School is a four-form entry Junior school in the North of Rugby.

Currently the school is partnered with Boughton Leigh Infant School and Brownsover Community School. Boughton Leigh Infant School has a PAN of 90 and Brownsover Community School has a PAN of 30.

However, Brownsover Community School is going through an age range change, having recently moved from a two-form entry infant school, down to one form of entry in preparation for its transition to a one-form entry primary school, from 2026 when it will open its first year 3 class.

The request to reduce the PAN at Boughton Leigh Junior School from September 2026 is directly linked to the changes taking place at Brownsover Community School as there will be 30 less children requiring a junior school place.

If agreed, a reduction to the number of places available on entry to 90 will support the school's ability to plan, budget and organise for the children moving up from Boughton Leigh Infant School and create a sustainable financial position.

The forecast supports a PAN reduction for 2026 entry. However, there is no proposed reduction to the physical capacity of the school buildings as it is expected that further housing growth in the area will necessitate the need to increase the PAN in the future.

The proposal would enable the school to support short term sufficiency need in the area by providing additional places at Key Stage 2 when in-year pressures require bulge classes.

Proposed inclusion of the process for dealing with applications where there is parental dispute

Following a number of recent parental disputes regarding address and school preferences, it is proposed to formalise the process for resolving such disputes where parents cannot agree and in the absence of a court order. The proposal would enable Admissions to use a random number generator to determine which address or application to process.

Proposed inclusion of the definition of who can apply for a school place

It is proposed to include the Education Act's definition of a "parent".

Proposed clarification on the processing of applications for UK Service Personnel under the military covenant

Following the recent signing of the Armed Forces Covenant, it is proposed to provide further detail for processing applications from military families with a confirmed posting in advance of the family moving to the area even if they do not have an intended address at the point of applying.

Proposed clarification on the processing of applications for children from overseas

Following a number of recent cases, it is proposed to clarify the address families moving from overseas should use on their school application. This will avoid places being offered where children are not yet in the country and enable offers to be withdrawn where it is deemed the place was fraudulently or misleadingly obtained.

Proposed updated processes for education out of year group requests

The local authority has recently updated its guidance on dealing with education out of year group requests. It is proposed that the admission arrangements are amended to reflect these changes.

Copies of the proposed arrangements are available online

https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissionarrangements2026-27

Or, upon request to Nikki Daly, Commissioning Manager (Education Sufficiency), using the contact details below.

Please note that there are other important dates stated in the School Admissions Code regarding the consultation process, which must be complied with. While some of these dates are referenced in the proposed admission arrangements, the full version of the Code can be found using the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001050/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf

Where changes are proposed, admission authorities **must** consult with the following:

a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen,
b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions,
c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools),
d) the governing bodies of voluntary controlled and community schools
e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority; and
f) in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.

In-Year admissions

While there is no longer a requirement for local authorities to co-ordinate in-year admissions, we are proposing that Warwickshire's School Admissions Service continue to receive these applications for the 2026/27 academic year. This will apply to all Warwickshire Schools where the local authority is the admission authority, but we would also encourage own admission authority schools to adopt such an approach.

When the local authority coordinates in-year admissions, parents are able to make a single application for a school place and it makes it far easier for the local authority to track vulnerable groups of children.

Determination

Following the consultation period, the arrangements will then be considered by Cabinet, before being determined by the deadline of 28 February 2025 (as required by the School Admissions Code).

Once the arrangements have been determined, Warwickshire County Council will publish the final version of its 2026 entry coordinated scheme, the admission arrangements for voluntary controlled and community schools for this entry year, and the 2026/27 in-year arrangements, as well as the admission arrangements for all own admission authority schools, on the WCC website, by the deadline of 15 March 2025.

Comments and Feedback

Any comments or feedback on Warwickshire County Council's proposed admission arrangements for September 2026 entry, and the 2026/27 academic year, should be sent, in writing, for the attention of:

Nikki Daly
Commissioning Manager (Education Sufficiency)
Either by post, using the following address:

Education Services
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL

Or via email:
schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk