

NewsRelease



10 November 2025

Apply now for 2026 primary school places

Essex parents and carers are reminded to apply online before the closing date of 15 January 2026.

Parents and carers in Essex can now apply for primary (reception) school places. The application window is open between 10 November 2025 and 15 January 2026.

Children are entitled to start primary school in the September after their fourth birthday. Parents and carers of children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 can apply now.

Applications can be made online at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Those received after the 15 January deadline will only be considered once all on time applications are determined.

This means applying late could reduce the chance of parents getting a place for their child at their preferred school.

Councillor Tony Ball, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability, said: "Starting primary school is an exciting time for children and their families. The application process is the first step.

"Applying on time and making sure you use all of your preferences will help to ensure there is the best possible chance of securing a place at your preferred school next September.

"It is also important that parents consider how they can best prepare their child to start in reception. I would like to take this opportunity to signpost parents to www.startingreception.co.uk which has a range of resources that may be helpful."

Further information about the admissions process and individual schools can be found at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

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