

Starting Secondary School September 2027

Information for Parents

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Information for parents

- Admissions booklet containing details on how to apply will be available online in September 2026
- Application period runs from 1st September to 31st October 2026
- School open days / evenings will run during September and October 2026
- Open day/ evening dates will be published by schools early in the Autumn term

How to apply for a secondary school place

- Refer to the 'Admission to Secondary Schools in Bexley' booklet (from September) for information on Bexley schools and look at their admission criteria
- Refer to individual council websites for schools in other boroughs
- Complete application online at www.eadmissions.org.uk between 1st September and 31st October 2026
- Paper forms can be requested from the school admissions team schooladmissions@bexley.gov.uk

How to apply

- Apply to your home council regardless of where your preferred schools are located
- Bexley residents can list up to six preferences for any type of school in any area in order from 1-6
 - You do not have to list 6 schools, but the more you list, the more likely you are to be allocated a school of choice
 - Schools do not know where you have placed them as preferences on your application

How to apply

- Include evidence of medical conditions or other requests for priority with your application
- You **must** provide evidence of:
 - address
 - child's date of birth

For online applications, evidence can be scanned and uploaded.

Copies can also be sent by email or post to the admissions team. Details on how to do this can be found in the admissions booklet.

Note - Some schools do not give priority to siblings or for medical reasons.

How to apply

- Additional supplementary information forms (SIFs) must be completed for some schools:
 - St Catherine's Catholic School for Girls
 - St Columba's Catholic School for Boys
 - Trinity Church of England School

The closing date for supplementary forms may be different to the general application deadline – make sure you check this.

Banding

- Some schools divide applicants into ability bands before allocating places. They will ask children to sit a non-verbal reasoning test in November / December 2026.
- Banding is not a pass or fail test – the test is used to ensure the school admits a balanced intake of children of all abilities.
- Schools using banding tests:
 - Hurstmere School for Boys
 - Blackfen School for Girls
 - Harris Garrard Academy
 - Harris Academy Falconwood

Banding

- Check each school's oversubscription criteria to see how many bands there are and how places are allocated in each band.
- Children living quite close to a school may not get a place if their band is filled with other children living even closer, or if the school uses random allocation to offer places (Harris Academy Falconwood).

The offer process

- All the secondary schools in Bexley are Academies and consult on their own admissions criteria, which the Local Authority follows when allocating places
- The School Admissions Team exchanges information with the schools in Bexley and other local authorities
- Schools put all applicants into rank order according to the school's oversubscription criteria (eg children in care, medical and social needs, siblings, home to school distance)

The offer process

- If a child can be offered a place at more than one school, the one that is listed highest on the application will be offered. The other places can then be offered to children lower on the list for that school
- The offer of a place will come from the local authority where you live, even if you are being offered a school in another area
- You will have one offer only. You cannot hold offers of more than one place

Offers of places

- If you applied online, you will be sent an email on Monday 1st March 2027, in the evening, with the name of the school your child is being offered
- If you apply on a paper form, you will be sent a letter on 1st March with details of the school offered
- All applicants who are not offered their first preference school, will be notified of their right to appeal

Offers of places

- You will be asked to accept or decline the offer by 15th March 2027 either online or by returning a paper slip
- If we cannot offer one of your preferred schools, a place will be offered at the nearest school, or one within a reasonable travelling distance to home, with a vacancy
- You can ask for your child to be put on waiting lists for higher preference schools than the one offered. Children will automatically be added to waiting lists in Bexley Schools.

September 2026 offers

- In 2026, 68% of Bexley children were offered their first preference school and 95% one of their six preferences
- Examples of parents not being offered any of the schools listed on their application were:
 - Only listing grammar schools when the child was not deemed selective
 - Only listing faith schools and not submitting the SIF or not having a Church connection
 - Not applying for schools near the home address or only listing schools that use the banding process
 - Only listing one or two preferences for schools, sometimes a distance away from the home address

Online applications

- The site is easy to use
- You can apply up until the deadline of 11.59pm on 31st October 2026 – make sure you press the submit button.
- You can go back in and change details up until the deadline

Remember:

- Complete all fields on the application
- Add full names and dates of birth of any siblings in the correct field
- Add requests for priority in the correct field
- Scan and upload supporting evidence or send copies to the admissions team clearly marked with your application reference number

Online applications

- You will receive an email receipt if the application has been submitted . Without the receipt the application may not be valid
- If you change anything, make sure your application details are correct before re submitting.
- Please do not change your email address during the process

Timetable

1 st September 2026	Online application window opens
September / October 2026	School open days / evenings
31 st October 2026	Closing date for secondary school applications
November / December 2026	Banding tests
1 st March 2027	Offers sent by email to online applicants Letters posted by first class post to other applicants

Checklist

- Visit school open days in September and October
- Check over subscription criteria – make sure you know how schools allocate places
- Wait for selection test results before making final preferences
- Complete and return supplementary information forms to faith schools by their published date
- Apply online by 31st October 2026
- Make sure you apply on time – late applicants will miss out on preferred schools

Key contacts

- School Admissions web pages:
www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions and
www.bexley.gov.uk/selectiontests
- Contact the School Admissions Team – 020 8303 7777 or email
schooladmissions@bexley.gov.uk