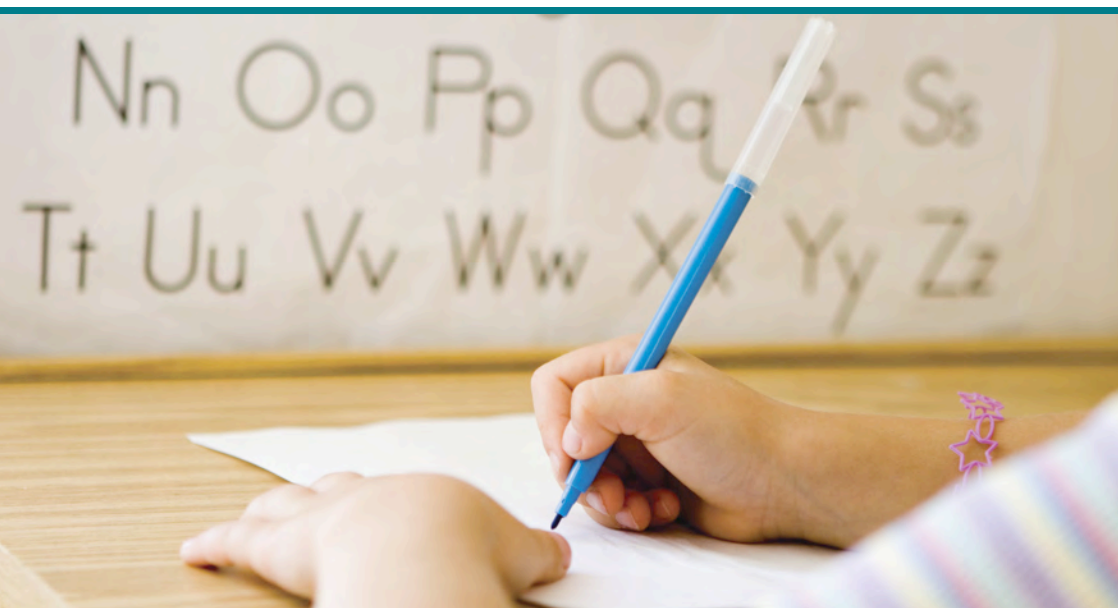


Starting school for the first time

Information about school admissions
and applying for a school place



www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Applying for a school place

When will my child start school?

All children start school for the first time at the beginning of the autumn term.

This means that all children who are five during the school year, ie born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008, start school in September 2012. This is the start of the school year following the children's fourth birthday.

Will the place be full or part time?

Children will generally be full time within the first two weeks at the beginning of the term.

What if my child is younger?

The following table shows when younger children start school:

Children born between the dates shown below:

1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009
Start school in September 2013

1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010
Start school in September 2014

1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011
Start school in September 2015

Can my child start school in the term following his or her fourth birthday?

No because the school will only admit children in the September following their fourth birthday.

Your child can attend early years provision with another provider or in a nursery class attached to a school where this exists or a nursery school.

Please contact the Families Information Service on **0800 035 0335** for advice and information on all registered providers in Milton Keynes.

These include pre-school playgroups, nurseries, childminders, before & after school care and holiday playschemes.

Information is also available at

www.childcarelink.gov.uk/miltonkeynes or childcare@milton-keynes.gov.uk

When should I apply for a school place for my child?

In September of the year before your child should start school you can collect an admission pack from your local school.

The pack contains:

- the Information for Parents booklet including how to apply online if you wish
- a letter from the council
- an application form

When should I apply?

You need to submit an online application or return the form no later than the closing date, which will be stated in the pack. The form should be returned to your local or preferred school or sent to the School Admissions Team, Milton Keynes Council, Saxon Court, 502 Avebury Boulevard, Milton Keynes MK9 3HS.

Can my child attend the local school?

Your child does not have an automatic right to a place at the local school. You must submit an application online or complete and return the application form no later than the closing date, stating your preferred schools. If you live in the school's area then your request will be given priority, along with those who also live in that area.

The council or the school will admit as many children as possible but cannot guarantee a place. There may be more applications than available places which means that some applications will not be successful.

The council and schools must also comply

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schooladmissions

with the legislation on class sizes which limits the number of children in a class to 30 for 5, 6 and 7 year olds. Your application might be refused on those grounds.

When will I know if my child has a place?

In April 2012 you will receive a letter from the School Admissions Team to confirm if your child has a place at any of your preferred schools or if an alternative has been provided.

What if I do not want my child to start school at the start of the school year in September?

Parents may wish to defer their child's admission to later during the school year for one of the following reasons:

- The child may be attending a private early years provider for whom the family may have to give a term's notice for the placement or the fees - although this should be achievable if the school place has been allocated by the beginning of April.
- The child may have special educational needs. The consensus view might be that a longer period of time in the early years provision would be beneficial.
- The child may be attending full-time early years provision and parents want continuity when the child starts school. This may be linked with childcare.

Parents must make a normal application by the closing date and include a request for a later starting date, eg January or April rather than the previous September. In line with guidance from the Department for Education it is expected that all places will be taken up during the school year. It is not possible to defer entry to the next school year. Parents must secure a place before the deferred entry request can be considered.

Any concerns about when your child should start school should be discussed with the headteacher of your preferred school. You can also contact the School Admissions and Transport Manager on 01908 253242. If the place is not required during the school year it will be offered to the next child on the waiting list. Parents will need to make a fresh application for their child's entry in the following school year.

If my child attends a nursery class attached to a school can he or she have a place at the school?

There is no automatic entitlement to a place at the school just because your child is in the nursery even if you live in the school's area.

You must make a fresh application for a place at the school, following the procedure outlined earlier in this leaflet.

Can my child have a place at the school if a brother or sister is in attendance?

There is no guarantee of a place. However, the admissions criteria give priority to children with brothers or sisters on roll at the time of admission.

If you live in the school's area as well then this means your application will be given higher priority. Most younger brothers or sisters can go to the same school as their siblings but unfortunately we cannot guarantee that in every case.

If after reading this leaflet you have any queries please contact the School Admissions Team on 01908 253450 or 253085

You can also view the admissions policies and procedures on the council's website www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schooladmissions



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502 Avebury Boulevard
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MK9 3HS

T 01908 253450