

Statement of options

2024-25



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Accepting the offer

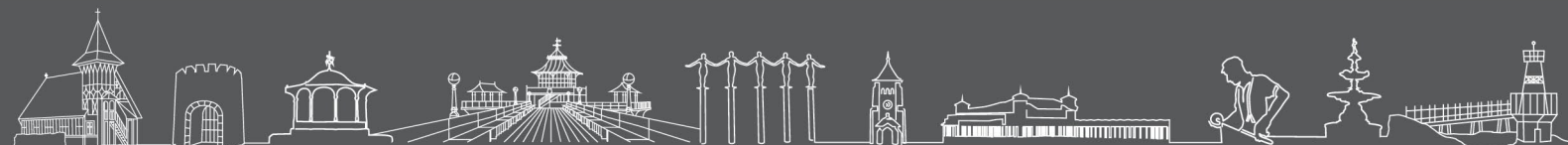
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Responding to your outcome

If you have been offered your first preference school

- you can [accept the offer](#),
or
- you can [reject the offer](#),
and/or
- you can submit a [new application](#).

You **cannot** be added to the waiting list, or appeal, for your second or third preferences as you have been offered a higher preference school.

If you have been offered your second preference school

- you can [accept the offer](#),
and/or
- you can go on the [waiting list](#) for your first preference school,
and/or
- you can [appeal](#) for a place at your first preference school,
and/or
- you can [reject the offer](#),
and/or
- you can submit a [new application](#).

You **cannot** be added to the waiting list, or appeal, for your third preference as you have been offered a higher preference school.

If you have been offered your third preference school

- you can [accept the offer](#),
and/or
- you can go on the [waiting list](#) for your first and/or second preference school(s),
and/or
- you can [appeal](#) for a place at your first and/or second preference school(s),
and/or
- you can [reject the offer](#),
and/or
- you can submit a [new application](#).

If you have been offered a school that wasn't a preference

- you can [accept the offer](#),
and/or
- you can go on the [waiting list](#) for your first and/or second and/or third preference school(s),
and/or
- you can [appeal](#) for a place at your first and/or second and/or third preference school(s),
and/or
- you can [reject the offer](#),
and/or
- you can submit a [new application](#).

Online Applicants – how to respond to the school place offer

- Go to our [online admissions website](#) and log in;
- Click on ‘School Places’
- Click on ‘View & respond to offer’
- Select the response you wish to make for the preference
 - To [accept the offer](#) select ‘Accept’ from the drop down menu.
 - To go on the [waiting list](#) select ‘Waiting list’ from the drop down menu.
 - To [appeal](#) select ‘Other decision’ from the drop down menu and write ‘Appeal’ in the text box. You **must** also submit an appeal statement form. Please do not write your reasons for appealing in this box.
 - To [reject the offer](#) select ‘Reject’ from the drop down menu.
- Select the response(s) for the rest of your preferences, if relevant.
- When you have finished, click ‘Done’ to submit your response.

Paper Applicants – how to respond to the school place offer

If your outcome was sent by post please complete the response form and either email or post your completed response form back to us.

If your outcome was emailed to you please email us your response from the options given in your email.

Accepting the offer

Accepting the offer will secure the school place. If applicable, you can still be added to the waiting list(s), appeal, submit a new application, or a combination of those.

Rejecting the offer

Rejecting the offer will mean that the place will not be held for your child and may be offered to another applicant. If you reject a school place we strongly encourage you to submit a new application and/or go on to waiting lists.

We will not automatically offer an alternative school place unless a new application is received. By offering a school place, we have fulfilled our statutory duty, and it is the parent/guardian’s legal responsibility to ensure that their child is in receipt of education.

Waiting list

You can ask to be added to the waiting list for any school that you have applied for and been refused a place at. If you would like to be added to the waiting list you must let us know, **you are not added automatically.**

We are unable to give out waiting list positions until three weeks after the national offer day (which is 1 March for secondary schools and 16 April for primary schools).

Waiting lists are held until 31 December. If you wish to remain on the waiting list after this, you will need to renew your interest before the start of the Christmas school holidays, and again before the start of the Easter school holidays. If you wish to remain on the waiting list for the new academic year you will need to re-apply, which can be done from 1 June. No reminders will be sent.

Priority will not be given on a 'first come, first served' basis, nor for how long someone has been waiting. Only the school's oversubscription criteria, as set in its admission policy, will be used to determine the waiting list positions. **Your child's position on a waiting list can go up as well as down, as other applicants are added to and removed from the waiting list.** Please see the relevant [parents' guide](#) for a summary of the oversubscription criteria used for each school.

In line with the School Admissions Code, a child may only have one school place offer at a time, for the bulk intake. This means that when a child is offered a school place from a bulk waiting list, it will result in any other school place offer being automatically withdrawn.



If you have decided to keep the school place offered, and no longer wish to stay on a waiting list, it is imperative that you contact us and ask to be taken off.

New application

If you wish, you can make new application for different school(s). To do this you must submit a new [paper application form](#).

In line with the School Admissions Code, a child may only have one school place offer at a time, for the bulk intake. If we can offer you one of your new preferences, any school place already offered or accepted will automatically be withdrawn.



You will be informed of the outcome of your new application during the next round of allocations.

For details of the availability of places at North Somerset schools, please read the document [Places available in schools](#) on our website.

You may want to a make new preference(s) **and** join the waiting list and/or appeal for your other original preference(s). Please be aware that you can only have up to three preferences. If you wish to do this, please make it clear on the new paper application form when you submit it.

Appeals

You have the right of appeal if you have been refused a place at a school that you have applied for.

To appeal for a North Somerset school, you must submit an appeal statement form to us. If the school you are appealing for is outside North Somerset you will need to contact the Local Authority in which the school is located for details on how to appeal.

If you decide to appeal, your child's name will automatically be added to the schools waiting list. The place at the offered school will be reserved for you, unless you reject the offer, or your appeal is successful. Submitting an appeal does not affect your child's place on a waiting list.

In order for your appeal to be heard before the start of the new academic year, you must submit the appeal form to us by:

- 12 April 2024 for Secondary School appeals
- 10 May 2024 for Primary, Infant or Junior School appeals

Further information on appeals, including the appeal form, can be found on our [website](#).

Important information for reception, year 1 and year 2 appeals - Infant class size

Reception, year 1 and year 2 class sizes **are limited to 30 pupils per teacher by law**. This means the appeal panel's grounds are strictly limited on when they can uphold an appeal. **It is exceptionally rare for parents to win an infant class appeal.**

Due to the limits placed on the appeal panel, parents often find the process frustrating. We draw this to your attention so you can make an informed decision on whether or not to appeal.

If a school refuses your child a place because admitting them would breach this legal limit, then your appeal will be considered an infant class size appeal. This is different from all other school admission appeals.

The appeal panel may only uphold an infant class size appeal where:

- it finds that the admission of additional children would not breach the infant class size limit,
- it finds that the admission arrangements did not comply with admissions law or were not correctly and impartially applied, and the child would have been offered a place if the arrangements had complied or had been correctly and impartially applied,
- it decides that the decision to refuse admission was 'perverse' in light of the published admission arrangements.

'Perverse' here means that the decision is not rational **in light of the published admission arrangements** and its legal responsibilities. This is not in terms of the views of the parent(s) or the personal situation.

The appeal panel would need to be satisfied that the decision was so completely absurd or outrageous that no reasonable person would have made the same decision while following the same process, with the same facts and figures, referencing the same published admission arrangements and government legislation. **It is extremely difficult to win an infant class size appeal on this ground.**

It is unlikely that a decision that makes it impossible for you to transport all your family to school on time or even impossible for you to continue working would be considered perverse.

More information is available at <https://www.lgo.org.uk/make-a-complaint/fact-sheets/education/infant-class-size-appeals>