

Lincolnshire County Council

Co-ordinated admissions scheme for admission to Secondary Schools

2027 to 2028 academic year

Introduction

This Scheme is formulated under Section 88 of the Standards and Framework Act 1998 and in accordance with the School Admissions Code (2021).

The Local Authority (LA) is responsible for co-ordinating admissions to secondary schools and therefore must formulate a scheme which:

- Is agreed by all appropriate schools in the LA area.
- Ensures that parents and schools are aware of the timescales of applications, offers and acceptances of school places in Lincolnshire.
- Ensures that every parent or carer of a child resident in the LA area, who has applied by the deadline outlined in this scheme, receives **one offer** of a school place on national offer day.
- Indicates how a place will be allocated if none of the parental preferences can be met.
- Indicates how late applications or applications to other year groups will be processed to ensure that places which become vacant are allocated effectively.

This scheme aims to minimise demands on all parties. Co-ordination in line with this scheme does not affect the right of individual admission authorities to set and operate their own admission arrangements. However, they will need to comply with the timescales below as far as possible to enable the LA to co-ordinate these admissions.

Applications

Parents or carers who live in the Lincolnshire **must** submit an application to Lincolnshire County Council if they require a place for their child in any state school as part of a routine admissions round. This includes for schools in other local authorities, academies and free schools. Parent or carers living in another local authority area must apply to that authority.

Applications must be made online via the parent portal, by phone or by completing a paper application form. Schools must not accept applications directly from parents at any stage of the coordinated process.

Supplementary forms

If a school's admission arrangements require additional details not included in the Common Application Form (CAF), such as information about religion, pupil premium eligibility, or medical needs, a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) will be provided to collect this information.

Parents or carers may choose to complete this form to support their application, but this is not an application. Therefore, parents must still apply to their Local Authority to apply for a school place. The supplementary form will be available from the school and school's website. It should be submitted directly to the school.

Grammar schools

For places at a Grammar school, children must first register to sit the 11+ test. Registration for the main tests occurs in the summer term of year 5. The test is taken in September of year 6. Late testing dates are available. Please contact the school for more information.

Registering for or sitting a grammar school entrance test does not constitute an application for a place at the school. Similarly, achieving 11+ qualification status is neither an application nor a guarantee of a school place. A Common Application Form must still be submitted to apply for a place.

Expression of preference

Parents will be asked to:

- name up to four preferred schools on their application form.
- rank them in the order they would like them to be offered.

Parents can list schools outside of Lincolnshire on their application. Lincolnshire LA will co-ordinate on their behalf with other LAs to process the application.

Schools must offer places to applicants in accordance with their admissions policy without reference to where the applicant has placed the school on the application

form. Therefore, the preference number is not provided to the schools. The information about where the child has placed the school on their application form is used by the LA to ensure that any applicant is only allocated one offer if more than one school can offer a place.

There is no priority given to children who list a school first on their application form. Operation of first preference first arrangements is prohibited by the School Admissions Code.

The LA will allocate a place at the highest ranked school that is able to offer the child a place. If none of a parent's preferred schools can be offered, and the child resides in Lincolnshire with the Local Authority responsible for their education, the admissions team will allocate a place at the nearest Lincolnshire school to the child's home address that has available spaces at the time of allocation.

Late applications

Applications between 31 October and 14 December

These will be accepted as 'on time' and ranked alongside other applicants. An offer will be made on national offer day. If a parent attempts to revise an application after 12 December, the change of detail will not be considered until the second round of allocations.

Applications made between 15 December and 22 March

Parents who make a first application to the LA between these dates and those parents who make a revised application between 1 March and 22 March will receive an offer by 2 April.

Revised applications are made when:

- a parent has received an offer of a school place but want to apply for a place at a different school(s) or
- their details have changed since the application was made and this will have a bearing on consideration of the oversubscription criteria.

These applications will be treated on an equal basis with any late applications or applicants on a reserve list.

Applications made after 22 March and before 31 August

These will be processed after 5 April. Offers will be sent out on a weekly basis until the end of the admissions round.

Processing Applications

The LA uses electronic communication with other Local Authorities, Admission Authorities and Schools to coordinate admissions. Access to application data will be available to schools online through this system and schools use it to rank applications according to their oversubscription criteria and communicate with the LA's admissions team. Deadlines for receipt of information are detailed below.

Annual Cycle

Deadline dates	Summary of action	Details of action
1 October 2025	Consultation on changes to admission policies for all admission authorities can begin.	Admission authorities publish any changes to their admission arrangements on their website and consult with all relevant parties. Own admission authority schools may choose to follow the Local Authority's (LA) consultation dates as below and submit their proposed arrangements to the LA to publish and publicise on their behalf.
31 January 2026	Consultations on any changes to the policy of any admission authority are completed.	Admission authorities' complete consultation on any proposed changes to their policies.
By 28 February 2026	Admission policies are formally determined	Admission authorities determine an admissions policy for the 2026 to 2027 school year, considering responses to consultation if appropriate. The LA notifies the Secretary of State that agreement has been reached on a coordinated scheme. Schools place appeals timetable on their website.
By 15 March 2026	Admissions authorities (including the LA) must send their determined admissions arrangements to the LA and place on their website.	Objections to a schools determined arrangements can be made to the Schools Adjudicator up until 15 May.

Deadline dates	Summary of action	Details of action
	LA places a notice on its website indicating where all admission arrangements can be found.	
July 2026	Updated lists of year 5 (Y5) pupils will be obtained from primary schools and other LA's.	Every Lincolnshire primary school must update school admissions with an electronic copy of their year 5 students on roll. This will enable the team to co-ordinate with other LAs to identify year 5 pupils attending schools out of the county.
By 1 August 2026.	Own admissions authorities must provide information by 1 August each year to detail how in year applications will be co-ordinated.	Information to be present on the Local Authority and school's website by 31 August.
4 September 2026	All documentation is sent to primary schools to inform parents to apply for year 7 secondary places. Information is placed on the School Admissions website.	Send all relevant information to primary schools regarding secondary transfer applications.
7 September 2026	Primary schools issue information to parents. Online system opens. Schools begin testing where appropriate.	Parents receive information via primary schools. Grammar and Specialist schools may start their testing.
By 11 September 2026	The LA will write to children to notify presence of school within a reasonable distance with a routine admissions round other than year 7 for which they are eligible to apply.	Using census data, Lincolnshire LA will write to parents of children on roll at Lincolnshire schools to notify them of schools within a reasonable distance who have an intake round other than into year 7.
Mid-October 2026	Schools post or e-mail test results to parents.	Schools which select by ability or aptitude must send results of tests to parents before the closing date for applications.

Deadline dates	Summary of action	Details of action
31 October 2026	National closing date for applications.	This is the national closing date, but Lincolnshire County Council allows parents to apply until 14 December. The admissions portal may not be available for short periods whilst the team process applications, but applications can be made by paper form if necessary.
9 to 30 November 2026	Co-ordination of applications with other LA's.	LAs exchange relevant application details with other LA's
By 1 December 2026	LA ensures all application data is available to Lincolnshire schools.	Schools access applications to their school and begin ranking against their oversubscription criteria. Schools can access information about Lincolnshire applicants as soon as they are added to the system. Online applications will be available to schools once they have been downloaded from the online system.
14 December 2026	Late applications can be accepted up to this date. The system is closed and no further changes can be accepted for any reason.	Any application received by 14 December will be co-ordinated alongside the other applicants. Anyone who applies after this date will not receive an offer on national offer day. Parents are notified that their application is late and will be processed by 2 April.
17 December 2026	Schools complete ranking.	Schools rank all applications against their oversubscription criteria online via electronic system and confirm to LA that this is complete.
2 February 2027	LA runs initial allocation of offers	LA locks database and does the first allocation run. Where pupils have more than one offer, the LA allocates the school the parents have ranked highest and fills any vacancy with the pupil ranked next by the school.
4 to 22 February 2027	LA exchanges offer information with other LAs to ensure children receive one offer of a school place.	LAs exchange offer data electronically, where applications have been made to out of county schools to ensure children only receive one offer.

Deadline dates	Summary of action	Details of action
By 24 February 2027	LA finalises allocations ready for notification to schools and parents.	LA makes final adjustments after receiving information from other LA's. LA allocates schools to pupils living in Lincolnshire who have not been offered places in any of their preferred schools.
26 February 2027	Schools informed of final allocations.	Schools check final allocations through the electronic system.
1 March 2027	National offer day Parents can lodge appeals.	LA posts offers to parents and releases offers online to those who applied online. Parents will be able to lodge appeals online and via paper form. Primary Schools will be informed of the destination schools of their pupils.
2 March 2027	Parents can submit new applications or revised application online.	Admission authorities and schools start to process late and revised applications from 2 March. No offer will be made until after second round deadline.
15 March 2027	LAs exchange offer responses with other LA's	LAs adjust ranked list to take account of any refusals.
22 March 2027	Deadline for late and revised applications to be received to be processed within next offer round.	All late and revised applications received for Lincolnshire schools by this date will be notified of their offer result in week commencing 29 March. LA will co-ordinate late and revised applications with other LA's but cannot guarantee the response time.
By 2 April 2027	Late and revised application offers will be sent to parents. Waiting list data available	Lincolnshire will inform parents of the outcome of their revised applications. Parents can find out their child's position on the waiting list of a school after the offers have been sent.

Deadline dates	Summary of action	Details of action
14 April 2027	Administrative deadline of 20 school days for receipt of appeals to ensure all appeals for the same school are heard at the same time	Appeals must be received by midnight on this date to be classed as 'on time' and then must be heard within 40 school days of this date.
23 March to 31 August 2027	Applications received between these dates will be processed after 5 April, and offers made on a weekly basis until end of formal co-ordinated cycle.	Any applications received from 31 August will be processed as mid-year admissions in accordance with the process below. Waiting lists are passed to schools
31 December 2027	Waiting lists must be held for Y7 until this date.	Some schools may hold these lists longer. Contact the school for more information.

Accepting offers

Parents do not need to take further action after national offer day to accept the offer made. Acceptance is assumed and parents need only take action if they wish to decline the offer, for example if moving out of the county or attending an independent school. Where offers are made after the second round of allocations, parents should contact the school admissions team to indicate which offer they would like to accept. More information is available in the 'multiple offers' section below.

Appeals

In all cases where a place is refused parents will be advised of their right to appeal. To ensure an appeal is considered alongside others for the same school, it should be submitted by the deadline stated above. Appeals received by this date will be heard within 40 school days. Appeals can still be lodged after this date, but it cannot be guaranteed that these will be heard alongside other applicants for the same school or in some cases, before the end of the school term. Admissions authorities will clearly display on their website the process by which a parent can appeal for a school place and the timescales involved.

Schools must notify the School Admissions Team of any places allocated on appeal at their school so that the LA can co-ordinate admissions effectively.

Reserve lists

After the initial allocation of places, schools operate a waiting list, which we call a reserve list. You will automatically be added to the school's reserve list if you have

been refused admission as part of the normal admissions round. If you were refused a place at a Grammar School due to non-qualification, you will not be added to the reserve list. The list is held in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria.

Children will be added to the waiting list alongside any children who submit a revised application or apply late. Details of a child's position on the list will be available after the second round of allocations as it will not be accurate before that date as late applicants and changes of circumstances will not have been updated.

When a place becomes available after the second round of allocations, the place will be allocated from the reserve list. Reserve lists will be held by the School Admissions Team until 31 August 2027. They will then be passed to the schools who will hold them until at least the end of December 2027. Some schools may hold the lists longer. Parents should contact the school or check the school's admissions policy for more information.

An admissions authority reserves the right to withdraw an offer of a school place where the place has been obtained on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, and this has denied another child a place. A place can also be withdrawn if it is not accepted within a reasonable time. In all cases where a place is being withdrawn due to lack of response from parents, the admissions authority will contact the parent to detail the date on which the place will be withdrawn if not accepted. In all cases, following an offer of a school place, the decision to withdraw the place will be made by the admissions authority concerned.

Parental Disputes

If one or more application is received for a child living equally between two homes and there is dispute about the address, preferences or preference order on the application, the applications may be withdrawn until there is agreement. Parents will not be able to exercise their right of appeal until an application has been processed.

Multiple offers

Where a situation arises where a parent receives more than one offer, if parents do not respond to indicate which offer they would like to accept within a reasonable time of the allocation, then the place offered at the lower preference school will be withdrawn. In all cases the school admissions team will contact parents to state a deadline by which confirmation must be received before withdrawal of any offers made.

Schools with admissions rounds to year groups other than year 7

Year 10 applicants for University Technology College (UTC) Lincoln Parents may request a place in year 10 at The University Technology College, Lincoln. This is the only school in Lincolnshire where the normal point of entry is at year 10. Details on

how to apply will be available on the UTC Lincoln and Lincolnshire County Council websites. They will be posted to parents of children on roll at a Lincolnshire school in the September in which the child is in year 9.

Other applications

This covers applicants who live in Lincolnshire but wish to apply for a place at a school in another Local Authority and the school they wish to apply for has an admission round which is coordinated by that LA. If this applies, we will process any applications received in line with the timescales above unless the school operates direct applications to the school.

Admission of children outside of their normal age group

We will co-ordinate these requests but the decision whether to agree the request lies with the admissions authority.

These schools must make decisions in line with their admissions arrangements and the School Admissions Code (2021). In all cases, an agreement to allow a request does not guarantee a place, as the school must consider the application alongside others applying in that admissions round.

Parents seeking places outside their normal age group should apply within the timescales outlined above. Decisions are made on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. You can make an enquiry regarding out of cohort admission at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-school/7>.

Early transfer

Those applying to attend school earlier than their age-related cohort should do so within the timescales outlined in this document for their preferred cohort, providing any supporting evidence they wish to be considered. If this is agreed and a place is offered, parents can decide whether to accept the place or reapply in the next round with their age-related cohort.

Late Transfer

Those requesting to enter a school later than other applicants of their chronological age should apply with their chronological age group detailing their request and providing any supporting evidence they wish to be considered.

Parents may be informed of whether an admissions authority agrees that they believe it is in a child's best interest to be educated out of their chronological age before national offer day. This is not an offer of a school place. The offer process will be in line with the co-ordinated scheme.

If a school agrees to the request, this will entitle parents to reapply in the preferred year group. If schools do not agree, parents of those already educated outside of their cohort may decide to continue with their existing application or withdraw their application and apply for a place in their chronological cohort through the in-year system at a later date.

If a parent is entitled to reapply this does not guarantee a place at the school. If no school who has agreed to the out of cohort request is able to offer a place, the school admissions team will offer a place at the closest school to the child's home address with places available in the chronological age group. Therefore, it would be for parents to revise their application, in the same way as detailed in this document, if they wish for alternative schools to consider the request.

In all cases where a place is refused, parents will be advised of their right of appeal. An appeal is for a place in a school rather than in a particular year group. If a school does not agree to the request but offers a place in another year group, the parent does not have a right to appeal.

Applications from UK service personnel and returning crown servants

This applies if the parent is a serving member of the armed forces or is a crown servant returning from abroad.

Applications will be coordinated through Lincolnshire LA if the family has either:

- A confirmed posting order or official letter with a unit address or quartering address within Lincolnshire.
- A confirmed posting order to the UK and confirmed address in Lincolnshire to which they are returning before the end of October of the admitting year.

Consideration of the address accepted for implementing the oversubscription criteria may differ as the policy of each school will be followed.

If the move is not due to an official posting, then the application should be made to the child's current home LA or will be considered in line with the 'children from overseas' section below.

If none of the schools listed on the application form can offer a place, we will offer the closest Lincolnshire school to the address accepted on the application form if the accepted address is in Lincolnshire. If the address accepted is outside of Lincolnshire, no alternative school will be offered as it is for the child's home LA to offer an alternative placement.

To remove disadvantage to families of service personnel who apply after the initial allocation of places has occurred (late applicants), the school admissions team will approach the schools listed on the application to consider whether the school wishes to offer a place to the child even if the published admissions number has been met

or the school is full. These decisions will be made by the individual admissions authorities concerned in line with their admissions procedures for forces applicants and will be clearly communicated to parents. In all cases, if a place is refused, parents will be notified of their right of appeal.

Applicants from overseas

The admissions team will process applications from overseas applicants in line with European Law and Home Office rules for non-EEA nationals. We will accept an application within the same timescales above. The address used for the purposes of a school's oversubscription criteria will typically be their current overseas address. The school admissions team will not allocate an alternative school if parental preference cannot be met.

In-year applications

We operate non-statutory coordination of these applications. Those who would like a school place in Lincolnshire may apply online using the Lincolnshire Parent Portal. Alternatively, you can obtain a paper form by telephoning: 01522 782030. Those who would like places in schools outside of Lincolnshire should apply to the LA in which the school is situated.

All Lincolnshire schools may choose to accept direct applications from parents. If the school refuses or accepts a child directly, they must provide details of the child to the Local Authority. If a school is contacted by the parent or carer and they are unable to offer a place to a child without a school place, the parent or carer must be advised to contact the school admission team. The school admission team will co-ordinate a central in-year admission application.

If Lincolnshire has a duty to educate the child, and they are not attending a school within a reasonable distance of their home, then the admissions team will allocate a place at the closest school with spaces available if none of the parental preferences can be met. It is for the parent to provide information which establishes the duty to educate the child. Information about what is required to establish this duty will be clearly communicated to parents.

Details of schools operating within Lincolnshire County Council co-ordination will be displayed on our website.

Date Determined – 25 February 2026