

Transfer to Secondary 2026

Information for parents and carers of Year 6 children applying for secondary school

There is no automatic transfer to secondary school even if you live in the catchment area and/or attend a feeder school you must still make an application to the School Admissions Team.

All the information you will need regarding your Transfer to Secondary 2026 application is available on our website or our 2026 booklet and we strongly advise that you read it before submitting your application.

[School admissions | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Making your application

Legislation requires you to apply through your home local authority. **If you live outside of Central Bedfordshire, you must contact the local authority you live in and apply to them.**

We recommend that you apply online as it is quick, simple and safe. However, you can alternatively make a paper application; the forms can be downloaded from our website.

Do not make both a paper and online application, if you do only your latest application (submitted before the closing date) will be processed and your first application will be discarded.

All applications received by the School Admissions Team after the national closing dates will be classed as late and not processed until the late allocation round. Late applications are not dealt with until after all the on-time applications have been considered.

Please Note:

Parents are requested to consider how a child would be transported to school, as transport entitlement is only considered if a student meets all the other qualifying criteria set by the School Transport team.

National Closing Date for Transfer to Secondary 2026

31st October 2025

You must apply using your child's current primary address (where they live as of the national closing date).

How to make your application

If you live within Central Bedfordshire, you can either apply:

- online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions or
- complete a paper application; this can be downloaded from our website.

Children being educated out of year group

If your child is currently being educated out of their normal year group, you will **not** be able to apply using the online application system as it will not recognise your child's date of birth. Instead, you will need to complete a paper application form and ensure it is received by the School Admissions Team by 31 October 2025.

Contact the School Admissions Team ...

Telephone: 0300 300 8037

Email: admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Dates of secondary school open events

Location	School	Dates and times of open events
Caddington	Manshead CE Academy	Thursday 9th October 2025 5.00pm - 8.00pm 2 Speeches: 5.15pm & 6.15pm and an SLT Drop in at 7.00pm. Booking for tour slots will be available via our website.
Dunstable	Queensbury Academy	Thursday 2nd October 2025 5.00pm – 8.00pm Presentations from the Principal in the west hall at 5.15pm & 6.45pm
Dunstable	All Saints Academy	Wednesday 8th October 2025 5.00pm - 7.00pm Talk by the Principal in Main Hall at 6.00pm Academy in Action Tours can be booked on the evening
Biggleswade	Edward Peake C of E (VC) School	Wednesday 24th September 2025 6.00pm – 8.00pm

		The headteacher's speech will be at 6pm.
Houghton Regis	Houstone School	Thursday 16th October 2025 5pm – 8pm Talk by the Principal Elizabeth English at 5pm, 6pm and 7pm. Houstone in Action tours available to book – details provided at open evening.
Henlow	Henlow C of E Academy	Thursday 25th September 2025 6pm – 8pm Headteacher talks will take place at 6pm and 7pm.
Sandy	Sandy Secondary	Thursday 9th October 2025 4.00pm – 7.30pm Presentations: 4.00pm and 5.30pm
Biggleswade	Stratton School	Year 7 Thursday 16th October 2025 6.30pm – 8.30pm Sixth Form Thursday 6th November 2025 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Woburn Sands	Fulbrook (Extended Secondary)	Thursday 2nd October 2025 6.00pm – 8.00pm. Head Teacher presentations at 6pm and 7pm. Open week: Mon 6 th - Thursday 9 th October 9.00 - 10.30am.

Transfer to Secondary 2026 application closing date - 31 October 2025

Transfer to Secondary 2026 Important dates

Date	Event
8 September 2025	Online Transfer to Secondary 2026 system opens for parents/carers to apply Paper application forms will also be available on our website
September - October 2025	Schools hold their open evenings for prospective parents and children
31 October 2025	National closing date for applications to be received by the School Admissions Team
1 November 2025 - 16 March 2026	Late applications received during these dates will be processed in the late allocation round in April.
2 March 2026	National offer day for on-time applications All online applicants and those who have supplied an email address with their paper application will receive an email by the close of business on the offer day with the outcome of their application. Parents who have not provided an email address with their paper application form will have their decision letter posted to them (2 nd class.)
16 March 2026	Parents/carers who are declining the place offered or wish to change their on-time preferences need to have completed a change of preference form. This must be received by the School Admission Team by this date to be considered in the late allocation round.
24 April 2026	Late allocation round offer day. All online applicants and those who have supplied an email address with their paper application will receive an email between by the close of business on the offer day with the outcome of their application. Parents who have not provided an email address with their paper application form will have their decision letter posted to them
During May 2026	Late applications received from 17 March 2026 will be processed.

Contact the School Admissions Team ...

Telephone: 0300 300 8037

Email: admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Please Note: Parents are requested to consider how a child would be transported to school, as transport entitlement is only considered if a student meets all the other qualifying criteria set by the School Transport team.

Central Bedfordshire Council currently provides transport assistance to pupils who meet certain criteria as set out in the Council's current Home to School Transport Policy, full details of which can be found on the Council's website, www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school-transport

Deadlines for applications

To help us ensure we are able to put transport in place for the start of the academic year you will need to have completed your application via our website by the following dates:

Upper and Secondary schools **31st March 2026**
Primary, Lower and Middle schools **19th May 2026**

When applications are received after these deadlines, we cannot guarantee transport will be in place until the October half term.

Travel for non-eligible students

When you are considering an offer of a school place for your child, you should think seriously about how he/she will travel to and from school, as the Council will only be able to offer transport assistance to qualifying schools as mentioned above. **If you accept a place for your child at a non-qualifying school, you will be responsible for ensuring that suitable transport arrangements are in place**

When there is a Council operated school bus with spare seats available after all entitled pupils have been offered places, the Council may sell these as concessions to non-eligible pupils. They are sold on a first, first served basis, one term at a time and being accepted for a place for one term does not guarantee a place for the next term.

Further information

If you have any queries about entitlement or changes in your child's transport, please contact the School Transport Team by phone 0300 300 8339 or www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/schooltransport.