

PAN-LONDON CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SYSTEM

Template LA Schemes for Co-ordination of Admissions to Reception/Junior in Maintained Schools and Academies in 2026/27

Contents

Page 2: Definitions used in this document

Page 5: Template scheme for co-ordination of admissions to Reception in September 2026

Page 14: Content of Common Application Form - Reception Scheme (Schedule 1)

Page 15: Template outcome letter -Reception Scheme (Schedule 2)

Page 17: Timetable for Reception Scheme (Schedule 3B)

PAN-LONDON CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SYSTEM

Template LA Schemes for Co-ordination of Admissions to Reception/Junior in 2026/27

Definitions used in the template schemes

“the Application Year”	the academic year in which the parent makes an application (i.e. in relation to the academic year of entry, the academic year preceding it).
“the Board”	the Pan-London Admissions Executive Board, which is responsible for the Scheme.
“the Business User Guide (BUG)”	the document issued annually to participating LAs setting out the operational procedures of the Scheme.
“the Common Application Form”	this is the form that each authority must have under the Regulations for parents to use to express their preferences, set out in rank order.
“the Equal Preference System”	the model whereby all preferences listed by parents on the Common Application Form are considered under the over-subscription criteria for each school without reference to parental rankings. Where a pupil is eligible to be offered a place at more than one school within an LA, or across more than one participating LA, the rankings are used to determine the single offer by selecting the school ranked highest of those which can offer a place.
“the Highly Recommended Elements”	the elements of the Template Scheme that are not mandatory but to which subscription is strongly recommended in order to maximise co-ordination and thereby simplify the application process as far as possible.
“the Home LA”	the LA in which the applicant/parent/carer is resident.
“the LIAAG Address Verification Register	the document containing the address verification policy of each participating LA.
“the Local Admission System	the IT module for administering admissions in

(LAS)”	each LA and for determining the highest offer both within and between participating Las.
“the London E-Admissions Portal”	the common online application system used by the 33 London LAs and Surrey County Council.
“the Maintaining LA”	the LA which maintains a school, or within whose area an academy is situated, for which a preference has been expressed.
“the Mandatory Elements”	those elements of the Template Scheme to which authorities must subscribe in order to be considered as ‘Participating Authorities’ and to benefit from use of the Pan-London Register.
“the Notification Letter”	the agreed form of letter sent to applicants on the Prescribed Day which communicates any determination granting or refusing admission to a primary or secondary school, which is attached as Schedule 2.
“the Prescribed Day”	the day on which parents/carers outcome are notified of their outcome. 16 April in the year following the relevant determination year except that, in any year in which that day is not a working day, the prescribed day shall be the next working day.
“the Pan-London Register (PLR)”	the database which will sort and transmit application and outcome data between the LAS of each participating LA.
“the Pan-London Timetable”	the framework for processing of application and outcome data, which is attached as Schedule 3.
“the Participating LA”	any LA that has indicated in the Memorandum of Agreement that they are willing to incorporate, at a minimum, the mandatory elements of the Template LA Scheme presented here.
“the Qualifying Scheme”	the scheme which each LA is required to formulate in accordance with The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 2012, for co-ordinating arrangements for the admission of children to

maintained primary and secondary schools
and academies.

PAN- LONDON CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS SYSTEM

Template LA Scheme for Co-ordination of Admissions to Reception/Junior in 2026/27

All the numbered sections contained in this scheme are mandatory except those marked with an which are highly desirable.*

Applications

1. Applications from residents of Croydon LA will be made on this LA's Common Application Form, which will be available and able to be submitted on-line. This will include all the fields and information specified in Schedule 1 to this Template LA Scheme. These will be supplemented by any additional fields and information which are deemed necessary by this LA to enable the admission authorities in the LA area to apply their published oversubscription criteria.
2. Croydon LA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that every parent/carer who is resident in this LA and has a child in a nursery class within a maintained school or academy - in this LA or any other maintaining LA - is informed about how they can access Croydon LA's composite prospectus and apply online. Croydon LA also uses schools, early years' providers, social media to advertise the closing date for applications. Additionally, this LA offers parents support and assistance with their online application at schools and its offices. Parents/carers who do not live in Croydon LA will have access to Croydon LA's composite prospectus on the Council's website. It will advise parents/carers to contact their home LA for further information on the application process.
3. The admission authorities within Croydon LA will not use supplementary information forms except where the information available through the Common Application Form is insufficient for consideration of the application against the published oversubscription criteria. Where supplementary information forms are used by the admissions authorities within this LA, Croydon LA will seek to ensure that these only collect information which is required by the published oversubscription criteria, in accordance with paragraph 2.4 of the School Admissions Code 2021.
4. Where supplementary information forms are used by admission authorities in Croydon LA, they will be available on this LA's website, on the school's website, or a paper copy of the supplementary information form can be requested directly from the school. Such forms will advise parents that they must also complete their home LA's Common Application Form. Croydon LA's composite prospectus and website will indicate which schools in this LA require supplementary forms to be completed and where they can be obtained.

5. Where a school in Croydon LA receives a supplementary information form, this LA will not consider it to be a valid application unless the parent/carer has also listed the school on their home LA's Common Application Form, in accordance with paragraph 2.3 of the School Admissions Code 2021.
6. *Applicants will be able to express a preference for up to six maintained primary schools or academies within and/or outside the Home LA.
7. The order of preference given on the Common Application Form will not be revealed to a school within the area of this LA to comply with paragraph 1.9 of the School Admissions Code 2021. However, where a parent resident in this LA expresses a preference for schools in the area of another LA, the order of preference for that LA's schools will be revealed to that LA in order that it can determine the highest ranked preference in cases where an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school in that LA's area.
8. Croydon LA undertakes to carry out the address verification process set out in its entry in the LIAAG Address Protocol. This will in all cases include validation of resident applicants against Croydon LA's maintained nursery and primary school data and the further investigation of any discrepancy. Where Croydon LA is not satisfied as to the validity of an address of an applicant whose preference has been sent to a maintaining LA, it will advise the maintaining LA no later than **12 February 2026**.
9. Croydon LA will confirm the status of any resident child for whom it receives a Common Application Form stating s/he is currently or previously a 'Child Looked After' and will provide any additional evidence on receipt of a reasonable request by the maintaining LA in respect of a preference for a school in its area by **5 February 2026**.
10. Croydon LA will advise a maintaining LA of the reason for any application which is made in respect of a child resident in the area of this LA to be admitted outside of their correct age cohort, and will forward any supporting documentation to the maintaining LA by **5 February 2026**.

Processing

11. Applicants resident within Croydon LA must submit their online Common Application Form to this LA by **15 January 2026**.
12. *Supplementary Information Forms for schools in Croydon LA must be returned directly to the relevant school by the date specified by the school.* Under the requirements of the scheme, parents/carers will not have to complete a supplementary information form where this is not

strictly required for the governing body to apply their admission criteria or where this is not a requirement in a school's admission arrangements.

13. *Schools that require a supplementary information form will check that a supplementary information form has been completed for each child. Schools will contact parents/carers who have not completed a supplementary information form. Schools will also check that parents/carers who have completed a supplementary information form have completed the LA's Common Application Form. If a parent has not completed a Common application Form, schools will share this information with Croydon LA.*
14. *Admission authority schools will start seeing details of their applications on **21 January 2026**.*
15. *Any changes to the preferences or the order of preference on a Common Application Form made after **15 January 2026** will not normally be considered until after the initial round of allocation – that is after 16 April 2026, unless there is a change of circumstances.*
16. Application data relating to all preferences for schools in the area of a participating LA, which have been expressed within the terms of Croydon LA's scheme, will be up-loaded to the PLR by **5 February 2026**. Supplementary information provided with the Common Application Form will be sent to maintaining LAs by the same date.
17. *Alternative arrangements will be made by Croydon LA to forward applications and supporting information securely to non-participating LAs.*
18. Croydon LA shall, in consultation with the admission authorities within this LA's area and within the framework of the Pan-London timetable in Schedule 3B, determine its own timetable for the processing of preference data and the application of published oversubscription criteria.
19. **Croydon LA will accept late applications only if they are late for a good reason, deciding each case on its own merits. **The latest date that an application that is late for good reason can be accepted for a resident of this LA is 12 February 2026.***
20. Where such applications contain preferences for schools in other LAs, Croydon LA will forward the details to maintaining LAs via the PLR as they are received. Croydon LA will accept late applications which are considered to be on time within the terms of the home LA's scheme.
21. The latest date for the upload to the PLR of late applications which are considered to be on-time within the terms of the home LA's scheme is **13 February 2026**.

22. *Where an applicant moves from one participating home LA to Croydon LA after submitting an on-time application under the terms of the former home LA's scheme, Croydon LA will accept the application as on-time up until **12 February 2026**, on the basis that an on-time application already exists within the Pan-London system.
23. Croydon LA will participate in the application data checking exercise scheduled between **16 and 23 February 2026** in the Pan-London timetable in Schedule 3B.
24. All preferences for schools within Croydon LA will be considered by the relevant admission authorities without reference to rank order in accordance with paragraph 1.9 of the School Admissions Code 2021. When the admission authorities within Croydon LA have provided a list of applicants in criteria order to this LA, Croydon LA shall, for each applicant to its schools for whom more than one potential offer is available, use the highest ranked preference to decide which single potential offer to make. This is the 'Equal Preference System'.
25. *Own Admission authority schools must provide Croydon LA with the electronic list of their applicants in criteria order by **27 February 2026**.*
26. Croydon LA will carry out all reasonable checks to ensure that pupil rankings are correctly held in its LAS for all maintained schools and academies in this LA's area before uploading data to the PLR.
27. Croydon LA will upload the highest potential offer available to an applicant for a maintained school or academy in this LA to the PLR by **19 March 2026**. The PLR will transmit the highest potential offer specified by the Maintaining LA to the Home LA.
28. The LAS of this LA will eliminate, as a Home LA, all but the highest ranked offer where an applicant has more than one potential offer across Maintaining LAs submitting information within deadline to the PLR. This will involve exchanges of preference outcomes between the LAS and the PLR (in accordance with the iterative timetable published in the Business User Guide) which will continue until notification that a steady state has been achieved, or until **23 March 2026 for Junior and 25 March for Reception**. Where a management decision is made that additional iterations are necessary, these will continue no later than **25 March for Junior and 27 March 2026 for Reception**.
29. Croydon LA will not make any additional offers between the end of the iterative process and **16 April 2026** which may impact on an offer being made by another participating LA.
30. Notwithstanding paragraph 29, if an error is identified within the allocation of places at a maintained school or academy in this LA, Croydon LA will attempt to manually resolve the allocation to correct the error. Where this impacts on another LA (either as a home or maintaining LA) Croydon LA

will liaise with that LA to attempt to resolve the correct offer and any multiple offers which might occur. However, if another LA is unable to resolve a multiple offer, or if the impact is too far reaching, Croydon LA will accept that the applicant(s) affected might receive a multiple offer.

31. Croydon LA will participate in the offer data checking exercise scheduled between **26 (30) March and 8 April 2026** in the Pan-London timetable in Schedule 3B.
32. Croydon LA will send a file to the E-Admissions portal with outcomes for all resident applicants who have applied online no later than **13 April 2026**. (33 London LAs & Surrey LA only).

Offers

33. Croydon LA will ensure that, if there are places available, each resident applicant who cannot be offered a place at one of the preferences expressed on the Common Application Form, receives the offer of an alternative school place in accordance with paragraph 2.12 of the School Admissions Code 2021. *This will usually be the nearest school to the child's home address which has a place available, after the allocation of places has been completed.*
34. This LA's notification of the outcome will include the information set out in Schedule 2.
35. Croydon LA will inform all resident applicants of their highest offer of a school place and, where relevant, the reasons why higher preferences were not offered, whether they were for schools in the Home LA or in other participating LAs.
36. Croydon LA's notification information will include the information set out in Schedule 2.
37. Croydon LA will, on **16 April 2026**, publish online the outcome of resident applications. Resident applicants who applied online will be able to view the result of their application online as well as accept or decline their offer. *Croydon LA will not send out outcome letters in the post.*
38. *Resident applicants who are not successful in their application will be offered the right to appeal.*

Late applications

39. **Croydon LA will accept late applications as 'on-time' only if they are late for a good reason, deciding each case on its own merits. Examples of what will be considered as 'good reason' include when a single parent has*

been ill for some time, or has been dealing with the death of a close relative; a family who has just moved into the area or is returning from abroad (proof of ownership or tenancy of a property within Croydon LA will be required in these cases). Other circumstances will be considered and each case decided on its own merits and it is expected that all requests of this nature will be supported with evidence.

40. *The latest date that an application, that is late for good reason, can be accepted for a resident of Croydon LA will be **12 February 2026**. The date for an out-borough resident is fixed by the relevant home LA and is likely to be different for authorities outside the PAN London scheme.*
41. *Applications which are late for no good reason and those that are received after 12 February 2026 but before 16 April 2026 will not be considered in the initial allocation round but will be allocated a place after all on-time preferences have been processed. If the application is from a resident of Croydon LA and they cannot be offered a place at one of their preferences, they will be considered for a place at other maintained schools or academies in this LA that have vacancies, in accordance with the school's admission criteria. If the application is from a resident of another LA, their application will only be considered for the schools to which they have applied.*

Post Offer Process

42. Croydon LA will request that resident applicants accept or decline the offer of a place by **30 April 2026**, or within two weeks of the date of any subsequent offer.
43. *If resident applicants do not respond by this date, Croydon LA or the school, where it is its own admission authority, will make every reasonable effort to contact the applicant to find out whether or not they wish to accept the place. Where the applicant fails to respond and the admission authority can demonstrate that every reasonable effort has been made to contact the applicant, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.*
44. Where an applicant resident in Croydon LA accepts or declines a place in a school maintained by another LA by **30 April 2026**, Croydon LA will forward the information to the maintaining LA by **7 May 2026**. Where such information is received from applicants after **30 April 2026**, Croydon LA will pass it to the maintaining LA as it is received.
45. Where a place becomes available in an oversubscribed maintained school or academy in Croydon LA's area, it will be offered from a waiting list ordered in accordance with paragraph 2.15 of the School Admissions Code 2021.

46. When acting as a maintaining LA, Croydon LA will place an applicant resident in the area of another LA on a waiting list for any higher preference school. Where this is not done automatically, it will be done immediately following a request from the home LA.
47. Where a waiting list is maintained by an admission authority of a maintained school or academy in this LA's area, the admission authority will inform this LA of a potential offer, in order that the offer may be made by the home LA.
48. When acting as a maintaining LA, Croydon LA will inform the home LA, where different, of an offer for a maintained school or Academy in this LA's area which can be made to an applicant resident in the home LA's area, in order that the home LA can offer the place.
49. When acting as a maintaining LA, Croydon LA and the admission authorities within it, will not inform an applicant resident in another LA that a place can be offered.
50. When acting as a home LA, Croydon LA will offer a place at a maintained school or Academy in the area of another LA to an applicant resident in its area, provided that the school is ranked higher on the Common Application Form than any school already offered. ***As a result, any offer held by the applicant resident at a lower preference school will automatically be withdrawn as a higher preference has been offered. Resident applicants who no longer wish to remain on the waiting list for a higher preference school must notify Croydon LA as soon as they receive their initial offer.***
51. ***When acting as a home LA, Croydon will offer a place at a Croydon maintained school or Academy to an applicant resident in its area, provided that the school is ranked higher on the Common Application Form than any school already offered. The lower preference school offered will automatically be withdrawn as a higher preference school has been offered. Resident applicants who no longer wish to remain on the waiting list for a higher preference school must notify Croydon LA as soon as they receive their initial offer.***
52. When acting as a home LA, when Croydon LA is informed by a maintaining LA of an offer which can be made to an applicant resident in this LA's area which is ranked lower on the Common Application Form than any school already offered, it will inform the maintaining LA that the offer will not be made.
53. When acting as a home LA, when Croydon LA has agreed to a change of preferences or preference order, it will inform any maintaining LA affected

by the change. In such cases, paragraphs 49 and 50 shall apply to the revised order of preferences.

54. When acting as a maintaining LA, Croydon LA will inform the home LA, where different, of any change to an applicant's offer status as soon as it occurs.
55. When acting as a maintaining LA, Croydon LA will accept a change of preferences or preference order (including reinstated or additional preferences) from home LAs for maintained schools and academies in its area.
56. When acting as a home LA, Croydon will accept applications for additional preferences after National Offer Day before the start of the new term.
57. Croydon LA, when acting as a home LA, will allow applicants to express up to three additional preferences before the start of the new term.
58. When acting as a home LA, Croydon LA will endeavour to fill any vacancies that become available after National Offer Day within four weeks from National Offer Day.
59. This LA's admission authorities will maintain a waiting list for at least one term until 31 December 2026. This LA will accept waiting lists requests from other LAs' residents through the maintaining LA.
60. *Croydon LA will maintain waiting lists for each school in its area with the exception of Voluntary Aided Schools and Harris primary academies who will maintain their own waiting lists. Croydon LA will notify applicants on the waiting list if a place becomes available. Any lower preference school previously offered will be automatically withdrawn if an offer is made at a higher preference school.*
61. *Resident Applicants who receive an offer at their first preference school will only be placed onto a waiting list for a lower preference school in exceptional circumstances which would need to be supported with relevant evidence. In accordance with the Pan London agreement and to ensure that Croydon meets its duty to continue to coordinate admissions beyond National Offer Day and comply with the parents' highest possible preference, Croydon will ensure that waiting lists do not contain lower ranked preferences except where it has received a parent's request for a child to be placed on the waiting list for a lower preference school in exceptional circumstances.*
62. *Resident applicants who receive an offer at their first preference school will be able to apply for lower preference schools at the start of the new term through the in-year admission process.*

63. *Resident applicants who are unsuccessful in receiving an offer at one of their preferred schools will be given the opportunity to make late applications to schools they did not originally apply for.*
64. *Applications received after 16 April 2026 will be added to the waiting lists for the schools in this LA. Waiting lists will be ordered in accordance with each school's admission criteria.*
65. *Admission authorities for each school within Croydon LA will share details of their waiting lists with this LA.*
66. *When a vacancy occurs at a school within this LA, the first child on the waiting list will be considered for the place. Croydon LA will liaise with the admission authority for the school and advise the parent/carer or home LA of the offer.*
67. *Where the first child is a resident of this LA, Croydon LA will issue notification of the outcome to the parent, provided that the school is ranked higher on the Common Application Form than any other school already offered.*
68. *When acting as a maintaining LA, Croydon LA will inform the home LA, where different, of an offer for a maintained school in this LA's area which can be made to an applicant resident in the home LA's area, in order that the home LA can offer the place.*
69. *When acting as a maintaining LA, Croydon will not inform an applicant resident in another LA that a place can be offered.*
70. *Own Admission Authority schools within Croydon LA will not inform any applicant that a place can be offered.*
71. *Waiting lists for schools in Croydon LA will be held for the first term of the Reception Year only, until **31 December 2026**. Applicants wishing to remain on a school's waiting list after this date must apply using the LA or school's In- Year Application Form in accordance with each admission authority's arrangements. This is to ensure that this LA has the most up to date information for an applicant, including a correct proof of address as at the time of the new application.*
72. *Waiting lists will be maintained and places allocated as they become available, in accordance with each admission authority's published admission and oversubscription criteria, and without regard to the date the application was received or when a child's name was added to the waiting list.*

Applications for places in Reception after 31 December 2026 and applications to year groups other than to the Reception class.

73. *Applications for places in Reception after 31 December 2026 and to year groups other than the normal year of entry to primary school will be treated as in-year admissions.*
74. *Applications will be made and considered in line with the schools' admission arrangements. Please refer to Croydon's website and the in-year guidance for more information.*
75. *Once an offer is made applicants will only be added to a waiting list if the parent/carer requests this by completing a new in-year application form.*

**PAN-LONDON CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME
SCHEDULE 1**

**Minimum Content of Common Application Form for Admissions to
Reception/Junior in 2026/27**

Child's details:

Surname

Forename(s)

Middle name(s)

Date of Birth

Gender

Home address

Name of current school

Address of current school (if outside home LA)

Parent's details:

Title

Surname

Forename

Address (if different to child's address)

Telephone Number (Home, Daytime, Mobile)

Email address

Relationship to child

Preference details (x 6 recommended):

Name of school

Address of school

Preference ranking

Local authority in which the school is based

Additional information:

Reasons for Preferences (including any medical or social reasons)

Does the child have an Education, Health and Care Plan Y/N*

Is the child a 'Child Looked After (CLA)'? Y/N

Is the child formerly CLA but now adopted or subject of a 'Child Arrangements Order or 'Special Guardianship Order'? Y/N

If yes, name of responsible local authority

Surname of sibling

Forename of sibling

DOB of sibling

Gender of sibling

Name of school sibling attends

Other:

Signature of parent or guardian

Date of signature

* Where a LA decides not to request this information on the CAF, it must guarantee that no details of a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan will be sent via the PLR.

PAN-LONDON CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME

SCHEDULE 2

Template Outcome Letter for Admissions to Reception/Junior in 2026/27

From: Home LA

Date: **16 April 2026**
(prim)

Dear Parent,

Application for a Primary/Junior School

I am writing to let you know the outcome of your application for a primary school. Your child has been offered a place at X School. The school will write to you with further details.

I am sorry that it was not possible for your child to be offered a place at any of the schools which you listed as a higher preference on your application form. For each of these schools there were more applications than places, and other applicants has a higher priority than your child under the school's published admission criteria.

Offers which could have been made for any schools which you placed lower in your preference list, were automatically withdrawn under the co-ordinated admission arrangements, as a higher preference has been offered.

If you would like more information about the reason that your child was not offered a place at any higher preference school, you should contact the admission authority that is responsible for admissions to the school within the next few days. Details of the different admission authorities for schools in the borough of X are attached to this letter. If the school is outside the borough of X, the admission authority will either be the borough in which the school is situated, or the school itself.

You have the right of appeal under the School Standards & Framework Act 1998 against the refusal of a place at any of the schools for which you have applied. If you wish to appeal, you must contact the admission authority for the school within the next few days to obtain the procedure and the date by which an appeal must be received by them.

Please would you confirm that you wish to accept the place at X School by completing the reply slip below. If you do not wish to accept the place, you will need to let me know what alternative arrangements you are making for your child's education.

You must contact this office if you wish to apply for any other school, either in this borough or elsewhere.

*Please return the reply slip to me by **30 April 2026(prim)**. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me on _____*

Yours sincerely

(First preference offer letters should include the paragraphs in italics only)

PAN-LONDON CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME SCHEDULE 3B

Timetable for Admissions to Reception/Junior in 2026/2027

Thurs 15 Jan 2026	Statutory deadline for receipt of applications
Thurs 5 Feb 2026	Deadline for the transfer of application information by the Home LA to the PLR (ADT file)
Thurs 12 Feb 2026	Deadline for receipt of late applications considered as 'on-time' to Home LA
Fri 13 Feb 2026	Deadline for the upload of late applications to the PLR.
Mon 16 – Mon 23 Feb 2026	Checking of application data
Thurs 19 Mar 2026	Deadline for the transfer of potential offer information from the Maintaining LAs to the PLR (ALT file).
Mon 23 Mar 2026 Wed 25 Mar 2026	Final ALT file to PLR (junior) Final ALT file to PLR (Reception)
Thurs 26 (30) Mar- Wed 8 Apr 2026	Checking of offer data
Mon 13 Apr 2026	Deadline for on-line ALT file to portal
Thurs 16 April 2026	Outcomes published online.
Thurs 30 April 2026	Deadline for receipt of acceptances
Thurs 7 May 2026	Deadline for transfer of acceptances to maintaining LAs

