

Secondary School Admissions 2026

A short guide for parents

Is your child in year 5?

This guide is for residents living in the City of Southend-on-Sea with a child in year 5, due to transfer to year 7 in September 2026 and provides key information for transfer to state funded schools. Those living outside the administrative area of Southend are encouraged to refer to the guide by Essex County Council. Page 2 of this flyer provides details on the open evenings/events for schools in and out of the City.

Looking for information on how and when to apply for a secondary school place?

The secondary admissions booklet 2026 will be available on the Council website in the first week of July. This will give you all the details needed to apply. Applications can be made between 1 September 2025 and 31 October 2025. In the meantime we provide you with the details for the open days/information events which are published [here](#) and provided below.

What can I do now to prepare?

- try to visit as many secondary schools as possible and keep in mind some school open days are later in the year
- to obtain prospectuses/information from school visits
- to read the schools' admission criteria and consider the probability of admission based on allocations of previous years (booklet or school website)
- register with the Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex (CSSE) from 13 May 2025 to 27 June 2025 if you wish for your child to take the 11+ test
- register for selective admission in respect to aptitude in sport or in performing arts with The Eastwood Academy, when possible but before 1 September 2025 if you wish for your child to take the assessment
- access the council page for 11+ is [Southend 11 Plus](#) page has practice questions and more information such as grammar myth busters. This page also has further support for preparing for the test



What do I do when the applications open?

- Applications can only be submitted 1 September – 31 October 2025. During that time applications can be submitted [here](#).
- keep a record of all your actions. For example, the username and password you use when you register online. Keep the same email as once you apply you can't change the email address.
- register and apply online between 1 September to 31 October 2025. The parent with whom the child lives, as the normal place of residence, and currently the majority of the school week, should make the application. One parent to register and apply on the Council website. The parent that submits the application can amend the application as many times as they wish up to 31 October 2025. You do not have to wait until you have the results of selection or aptitude tests
- remember to register for any other aptitude tests, for example The Eastwood Academy and complete any Supplementary Information Form for faith schools
- you can apply for schools in and out of the City. We recommend that one of your choices is your catchment school; it does not have to be your first preference
- we recommend that you use all 5 preferences when you apply

A reminder that parents/carers must apply to Southend Council if you are resident in the city and pay council tax to Southend Council. This is regardless of which primary/junior school your child attends.

What happens between the closing date and National offer day, 2 March 2026?

Applications are processed, addresses, siblings and other details checked, applications are ranked per school. Files with other local authorities for schools outside the area are exchanged and applicants applying from other local authorities are processed. Offers are run several times, to ensure the highest offer. After multiple exchanges with other local authorities, offer processes are finalised and outcomes ready in time for 2 March 2026.



Secondary Admissions 2026

Apply online between 1 September 2025 and 31 October 2025

Secondary schools in the City of Southend hold events for year 5 pupils and their parents/carers. This is for admission to year 7 in September 2026.

The dates and times listed below are as provided by the schools. If you have any enquiries about the arrangements for these events these should be directed to the school(s). Many primary schools also run information sessions for parents to assist them in the secondary admissions process.

Where possible we advise parents to visit as many secondary schools as possible, obtain their prospectus and read the admission criteria before completing the Common Application Form provided by Southend Council. In all cases kindly check on the school websites for further details as details could change.

School	Date and Time
Belfairs Academy	Thursday 26 June 2025, 4pm to 6pm
Cecil Jones Academy	Thursday 25 September 2025, 5pm to 7pm
Chase High School	Wednesday 25 June 2025, 4pm to 7:30pm
Shoeburyness High School	Thursday 18 September 2025, 6pm to 8pm
Southchurch High School	Wednesday 17 September 2025, 5:30pm to 8pm
Southend High School for Boys	Thursday 26 June 2025, 4:30pm to 8pm
Southend High School for Girls	Thursday 3 July 2025, 5pm to 8pm
St Bernard's High School	Thursday 10 July 2025, 5:30pm to 8:30pm
St Thomas More High School	Thursday 10 July 2025, 4pm to 7pm
The Eastwood Academy	Monday 23 June 2025, 5pm to 8pm
Westcliff High School for Boys	Tuesday 24 June 2025, 5pm to 9pm
Westcliff High School for Girls	Tuesday 1 July 2025, 5pm to 8pm

Nearest Neighbouring Schools

Essex School	Date and Time
Castle View School	Check website
Cornelius Vermuyden	Tuesday 30 September 2025, 4pm to 7pm
Greensward Academy	Thursday 2 October 2025, 6pm to 8pm
The Appleton School	Thursday 18 September 2025, 6pm
The Deanes School	Tuesday 23 September 2025, 6pm to 8pm
The FitzWimarc School	Thursday 25 September 2025, 6pm to 9pm
The King Edmund School	Wednesday 24 September 2025
The King John School	Saturday 6 September 2025, 9am to 1pm
The Sweyne Park School	Thursday 18 September 2025, 6pm to 8pm



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