



Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley

Education Improvement Team

2025/26 Coordinated annual admissions scheme for Knowsley primary schools

## Context

- 1.1 The scheme set out below seeks to comply with the requirements of the 1998 Act, as subsequently amended, and the School Admissions Code 2021. The scheme will apply to the admission of pupils who are of age to be admitted to the relevant year in in the school year 2025/26.
- 1.2 All Knowsley maintained infant, junior and primary schools (community and voluntary aided) and academies participate in the scheme.

## 2 Coordinated scheme for annual admission to primary school in 2025/26

- 2.1 Knowsley Local Authority (LA) is the admission authority for community primary schools in the borough. In the voluntary aided sector, the Governing Body of each school is the admission authority. Each academy has a Trust who has responsibility for admissions.

The following named schools participate in the scheme:

### Community Primary Schools

Eastcroft Park	Evelyn	Knowsley Village
Malvern	Millbrook	Northwood
Park Brow	Prescot	Ravenscroft
Roby Park	Stockbridge Village	Westvale

### Academy Primary Schools

Blacklow Brow	Halsnead	Knowsley Lane
Park View	Plantation	Sylvester
Whiston Willis	Willow Tree	Yew Tree

### Church of England Academy Primary Schools

Cronton CE	Halewood CE	Huyton-with-Roby CE
St Gabriel's CE		

### Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary Schools

Kirkby CE	St Mary & St Paul's CE
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### Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary Schools

Holy Family [Cronton]	Holy Family [Halewood]	Our Lady's
Saints Peter & Paul	St Aidan's	St Albert's
St Aloysius	St Andrew The Apostle	St Anne's
St Brigid's	St Columba's	St John Fisher
St Joseph the Worker	St Joseph's	St Laurence's
St Leo's & Southmead	St Luke's	St Margaret Mary's Infants
St Margaret Mary's Junior	St Marie's	St Mark's
St Michael and All Angels		

### Joint Faith Primary Schools (Voluntary Aided)

Hope Joint Catholic and Church of England

### **3 Applying for a place in the reception class of a primary or infant school for 2025/26 admission**

- 3.1 No later than 12 September 2024, Knowsley LA will publish the Knowsley Primary Admissions 2025/26 composite prospectus. A copy of this will be available on the School Admissions pages of the Knowsley Council website alongside other school admission information. A hard copy can be made available by request from the LA School Admissions Team.
- 3.2 Knowsley resident parents/carers are requested to complete the Knowsley LA Common Application Form (CAF) via the online parent portal accessed on the Knowsley Council website, which will be available no later than 12 September 2024. A paper copy of the CAF will be available on request from the LA School Admissions Team for those who cannot access the online application. Non-Knowsley residents must apply by completing the CAF provided by the LA in which they are resident. This is the case even where they wish to apply for one or more Knowsley primary schools.
- 3.3 Where Knowsley resident applicants intend to name a school in another LA area as a preference, they are advised to obtain a copy of the admission policy of the school and details of any relevant procedures from the individual school/s or relevant LA. Knowsley resident applicants must complete the Knowsley CAF to make their formal application even if naming schools in other LA areas as preference/s.

### **4 Submitting the Common Application Form (CAF) and providing supplementary information**

- 4.1 The Knowsley CAF allows parents/carers to state up to three school preferences in ranked order. Knowsley schools and those in other LA areas can be named as preferences. The online application should be submitted via the parent portal accessed via the school admissions pages of the Knowsley Council website. A confirmation email will be automatically generated to confirm successful submission of the application. Alternatively, a paper application form can be returned to the LA School Admissions Team at the address stated on the form or a scanned copy emailed to [schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk). If an email address is provided on the application form a receipt email will be issued within 10 working days to confirm submission.
- 4.2 Some schools request applicants to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) to gather information specific to their school oversubscription criteria. It is the responsibility of the applicant to check whether a SIF is required by the school/s they are applying for and to complete and return it as per the instructions of the school.
- 4.3 A SIF is not a valid application on its own; the school must also have been named as a preference on the LA CAF and the school will validate this before considering the application. The SIF should normally be returned directly to the school concerned by the national closing date, or any other date specified by the school. Applicants who

name a school that operates a SIF as a second or third preference should be aware this also applies to their application. Where a SIF is not completed, the application will be considered based on information provided on the LA CAF.

- 4.4 Faith schools in Knowsley use a SIF to obtain faith information that is relevant to applying the oversubscription criteria from their admission policies. There is a generic Knowsley Catholic Primary SIF used by Catholic schools in the borough and each Knowsley Church of England Primary School has their own SIF unique to that school. SIFs are available from individual schools or via the Knowsley Council website school admission pages. One form should be completed for each Knowsley Catholic or Church of England primary school named on the CAF and returned directly to each school/s. If naming a school/s in other LA areas as preference/s, parents/carers need to check the requirements of that individual school in relation to SIFs.
- 4.5 Where parents/carers wish to submit other additional documentation which they feel may be relevant to the processing of their application, this documentation should be provided at the point of application to the LA and/or the relevant admission authority. Parents/carers should be aware that admission authorities can only take account of additional information in the allocation if the oversubscription criteria of the individual school allows for it.
- 4.6 If the applicant is indicating that the child is Looked After by the LA (LAC) or was previously LAC (including children who were previously in state care outside of England), evidence of the child's current or previous LAC status, as defined in the school admission arrangements, must be submitted at the time of application.
- 4.7 If the applicant is UK service personnel with a confirmed posting in the locality, or a Crown Servant returning from overseas, the application will be accepted and processed from the intended address provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that confirms a relocation date and an intended address.
- 4.8 For families moving into the area or moving address within Knowsley, the LA will accept an application from a local/new address only once the applicant has evidenced residency or intended residency at that address by a date prior to the start of the school year the place is being applied for. This means that, until such time as the applicant can provide the documentary evidence requested, the application should continue to be made from the address at which they currently reside and coordinated by the relevant LA of that residency if applicable. This does not restrict applicants from naming preferences for any school on their application, but parents/carers need to be aware of how their application address could affect how their child is considered within the oversubscription criteria of the school/s applied for.
- 4.9 For families arriving from outside of England, the LA will accept an application for a child but will only process it from a local address if evidence of expected arrival date and confirmed residence has been provided. This means that, until such time as the applicant can provide the documentary evidence requested, the LA will accept the application, but it will be processed from the overseas address and parents/carers need

to be aware of how their application address could affect how their child is considered within the oversubscription criteria of the school/s applied for. In all cases parents/carers should only have a single application in progress with any one Local Authority in England who will act as the coordinator of that application.

- 4.10 Only one application per child will be accepted. If a child lives between two addresses (e.g., due to a shared care arrangement), the application can be completed by either parent, provided they have parental responsibility for the child, and the correct main home address for the child is stated on the application form. In such cases, it is expected everyone who has parental responsibility for a child will have agreed school preferences before the application is submitted. If the LA is made aware of a disagreement between those with parental responsibility, it will usually proceed with the application made by the parent/carer with whom the child mainly resides during the school week, unless the terms of a court order instruct otherwise. If a court order or mediation arrangement is required to determine which parent has the right to make the application and name school preferences, this does not give the child any increased priority for a place in the school/s of preference; normal allocation procedures still apply, and the application will be considered along with all other against the admission policy of the school/s. Any delay in making an application beyond the closing date due to a dispute could result in the application being classed as late and the application then being at a disadvantage. Applications are made on behalf of the child; therefore, the detail of the application can typically be shared with all those holding parental responsibility unless information has been disclosed to the LA that the sharing of this data could affect the safety/wellbeing of the child, applicant or third party.
- 4.11 Allocations are subject to proof of any information stated on the application documents that may have led to the offer of a place. For Knowsley schools, applicants may be requested to provide relevant confirmatory documents to the LA during the application and allocation process, or to the allocated school immediately after receiving the offer notification to secure the offer made. For schools in other LA areas, parents/carers must follow any instruction provided by that LA/school in respect of providing proof documentation. Parents/carers should note that if false information has been supplied which has influenced the allocation, any place offered based on this information may be withdrawn and, at that point, places in some other schools may no longer be available.
- 4.12 To guarantee they are considered in the initial allocation of places; applications should be submitted no later than the national closing date of 15 January 2025.

## 5 Consideration by Admission Authorities

- 5.1 As required by statutory regulation, this is an equal preference inter-authority coordinated scheme. Initially, each preference expressed by an applicant will be considered by the relevant admission authority against their oversubscription criteria without consideration of the level of preference.

- 5.2 Following the closing date, Knowsley LA will send to other coordinating LAs, relevant application information for Knowsley resident pupils wishing to be considered for their schools. Similarly, application preferences for Knowsley schools from children resident elsewhere will be received by Knowsley for consideration. Knowsley LA expect to share application information with coordinating LAs by Monday 3 February 2025.
- 5.3 Knowsley LA apply the published admission arrangements, including the oversubscription criteria, on behalf of Knowsley community primary schools and those academy schools in Knowsley who are adopting the arrangements. The admission authorities of Knowsley voluntary aided schools and other academies will consider applications for their schools against their own individual admission criteria. The relevant admission authorities of schools outside of the Knowsley area apply their admission criteria to any applicant who has stated a preference.
- 5.4 By Monday 24 February 2025, Knowsley schools which are own admission authorities will receive from the LA via the establishment portal, the application details of all applicants of any preference level. These admission authorities should therefore arrange meetings of their admission committees to consider applications during the period Monday 24 February to Wednesday 5 March 2025. To achieve the agreed co-ordinated timetable and national offer date, it is essential that this is planned for and achieved on time. The LA will conduct the same process for community schools and those academies adopting the LA admission arrangements by applying the oversubscription criteria to all preferences expressed during this period.
- 5.5 By Friday 7 March 2025, each admission authority should have applied their oversubscription criteria and returned ranked applications to the LA.
- 5.6 The LA then uses the ranked status for each preference expressed for each pupil to 'resolve' offers. The computerised allocation software (EYES) allocates a place at the highest preference school available and removes any potential offers for lower preference schools that are no longer required. Available places created are then re-offered to any applicants on waiting lists without a higher preference offer. The 'resolve' process is run, including inter-authority exchanges, until no further movement is possible, and no pupil should hold more than one school offer at this point.
- 5.7 Where a non-Knowsley resident has applied for a Knowsley school, the outcome of the application will be sent to the child's home LA who will treat the result in accordance with their scheme. Other co-ordinating LAs will provide the outcome of allocations for schools in their areas for Knowsley residents. Wherever practicable, Knowsley will seek to resolve any inter-authority multiple offers. Any final exchanges of information between LAs should be completed, where possible, by Monday 31 March 2025.
- 5.8 Where no stated preference can be offered, the LA will seek to offer a place for Knowsley residents at an alternative Knowsley school with an available place to ensure that child is not without an education placement offer.

- 5.9 The LA will endeavour to notify schools in the authority area of the details of applicants confirmed as being allocated a place in the school and, if relevant, those forming the waiting list by Friday 11 April 2025. This date will be dependent on inter-authority coordination dates being achieved to finalise allocations. This information is not to be shared by schools and they should not make any direct contact with allocated pupils until the LA has released allocation results on national offer day.
- 5.10 National Offer Day (NOD) is 16 April annually. Where 16 April falls on a weekend or bank holiday, NOD would typically be the next working day thereafter. In 2025, national offer day will be Wednesday 16 April 2025.

## 6 Allocation results

- 6.1 Allocation results are issued by the LA where the child is resident. On NOD, Knowsley LA will issue an allocation result to all Knowsley residents who applied on-time on behalf of the relevant admission authority. Where a place is being offered in a Knowsley school to a child who is resident in another LA area, the result will be issued by that LA on behalf of the Knowsley school.
- 6.2 Parents/carers who have applied via the online portal, should receive their allocation result on national offer day by accessing their account on the admissions application portal. An email will be sent to applicants to alert them that the result is available. Applicants who applied using the paper application will typically be issued with a letter confirming the school allocation. Letters will be posted by first class post on national offer day, but parents/carers should note that an exact date of receipt cannot be stated. Paper applicants who prefer to receive their allocation outcome by email must state this at the point of application and provide an email address.
- 6.3 School offers may be subject to confirmation of, date of birth<sup>1</sup>, home address and any individual school requirements - such as a baptism certificate - being provided. If the individual school or the LA directly requests documentary evidence, applicants should normally respond within two weeks of the request. If the required evidence is not provided by the applicant within the requested timeframes, notification may be sent to the applicant confirming potential withdrawal of a place.
- 6.4 Where an applicant has been refused a place at a school of a higher preference than the one offered; they will be advised of their right of appeal. Appeals should be made to the relevant admission authority for the individual school/s and will be held during the summer term.
- 6.5 Applicants who are not satisfied with the school offer they receive can consider other schools and make a revised application if they wish, but the original/current offer will not be removed until an alternative placement has been secured. This is to avoid a child being without a school offer and at risk of being missing from education. Applicants are

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<sup>1</sup> The short birth certificate to confirm the date of birth of the child is the appropriate document.

strongly advised not to refuse a place offered without confirmation of an alternative school place.

## 7 Waiting Lists

- 7.1 Any applicant who is not offered a place at a Knowsley school/s of a higher preference than that offered, will be placed on the waiting list for the school/s. Waiting lists will be compiled according to the individual school over-subscription criteria. Late applicants will join the waiting list on the date their application is processed based on which criterion they meet. Parents/carers should be aware that the waiting list is a 'live' document and their child's place on the waiting list can change, up or down, according to the movement of other applicants.
- 7.2 Where a vacancy occurs below the admission number, the admission authority will fill the place from the waiting list, in priority order, offering the available place to the child who is top of the waiting list at the time it is confirmed the vacancy can be refilled. The LA will normally undertake any communication with applicants in relation to waiting list offers until September 2025, at which point the waiting lists will become integrated with the in-year transfer process and currently this means they will be monitored by individual primary schools.
- 7.3 The annual allocation waiting lists for reception classes will normally close at the end of the Autumn term in December 2025. Any parent/carer who wishes their child to continue to be considered for a place will need to directly notify the individual school/s that they wish for their child to remain on the waiting list after this point and may be requested to renew their application under in-year admission/transfer procedures.

## 8 Late applications

### Applications received after the closing date of 15 January 2025

- 8.1 Applications can continue to be submitted via the application portal after the national closing date, but there is no guarantee that late applications will be included in the initial allocation and applicants are strongly advised to abide by the national closing date.
- 8.2 Applications naming Knowsley schools as preferences received following the national closing date but before the allocation process begins will be included in the initial allocation of places where practicable. For Knowsley schools this will typically mean preferences received up to Wednesday 19 February 2025. However, this will be dependent on the volume of late applications received, therefore, parents/carers have no guarantee that any application submitted after the closing date will be included in the initial allocation.



- 8.3 If a school in another LA has been named as preference, the application details and preference will be forwarded to the appropriate LA as soon as possible and it will be for the relevant admission authority to determine whether the application will be included in the initial allocation of places in accordance with the agreed scheme of that LA area.
- 8.4 Applications received after 19 February 2025 stating preferences for Knowsley schools will not normally be considered by Knowsley schools until the initial allocation process is complete. The LA will not typically share preferences received on or after this date with schools in the LA area.
- 8.5 Only where the admission authority accepts there are exceptional circumstances for an application being received after this date will applications be considered in the initial round. If parents/carers believe that there are exceptional circumstances for the application being submitted late, it is their responsibility to state these reasons in writing when submitting the application and provide supporting documentation wherever possible – they can do this by completing an application via the portal and sending supporting information by email to [schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk) or completing a paper application form and including supporting documentation. The decision as to whether the preference is included will be taken by the admission authority of the individual school of preference and the absolute deadline even for exceptional circumstances will be 17 March 2025. Applications made with no additional information will be treated as late and will not be considered until after the initial allocation of places is completed and NOD has passed.

### **After National Offer Day and before the start of the school year (16 April to 31 August 2025)**

- 8.6 The inter-authority coordinated process continues and applications from Knowsley residents should be submitted to the LA who will ensure they are considered by the appropriate admission authority.
- 8.7 Knowsley LA will not process any applications classified as late and received up to midnight on 30 April 2025 until after 1 May 2025. All late preferences for Knowsley schools received up to 30 April will be considered together at this time. Where places remain available in schools following the initial allocation, they will be offered to late applicants. Where the school requested is already full, or if there are not enough vacancies remaining for the number of late applications received, the oversubscription criteria from the relevant school admission policy will be applied to all applications being considered at that time. For any application that is unsuccessful in obtaining a place, the child's name will be added to the waiting list by applying the oversubscription criteria for the individual school. The result of late applications for Knowsley schools processed after 1 May 2025 will be shared with co-ordinating LAs and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application as soon as possible after 2 May 2025.

- 8.8 Where a school in another LA has been named as a preference on a late application, the details will be forwarded to that LA as soon as is reasonably practicable, and it will be for the relevant admission body to determine how the application will be considered in accordance with their admission arrangements and local scheme.
- 8.9 Further late applications received after 1 May 2025 up to 31 August 2025 will be considered as soon as possible following receipt. Outcomes in respect of preferences for Knowsley schools will normally be issued within 10 school days of receipt of the application.

## 9. Making changes to an existing application

### Change of circumstance

- 9.1 Once an application has been submitted, it is the responsibility of the applicant to notify Knowsley School Admissions Team and/or the individual school of any change of circumstance that could affect that application, for example a change of address, a baptism or a sibling changing school<sup>2</sup>. If applicants do not notify Knowsley School Admissions Team directly of any change, this may affect how the application is considered and could result in a place at a school of preference not being allocated or risk having a place withdrawn if incorrect information has been used in the allocation process. If the change is in relation to information provided on a SIF, the applicant should contact the individual school directly to discuss making a change to the form. If applicants are unsure what constitutes 'a relevant change' they should contact Knowsley School Admissions for advice/verification.
- 9.2 During the usual application period (12 September 2024 to 15 January 2025) online applicants can make changes to information supplied on their common application form by revisiting the portal and making the change directly (resubmission of the amended application will be required). For applications submitted by post using the paper application, and for all applications following the national closing date of 15 January 2025, applicants should contact Knowsley School Admissions by email to [schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk) to confirm the change that they wish to make to the application (in some cases, they may be asked to provide evidence of the change).
- 9.3 Parents/carers should be aware that if a change of circumstance occurs very close to the allocation date, it may not be possible to make any changes to the original application until after the initial allocation is complete and the absolute deadline for exceptional circumstances will be 17 March 2025.
- 9.4 In the event of a change of address, the applicant must notify Knowsley School Admissions of the change as soon as it occurs, or in advance if the date of change is known. Applicants who are changing address prior to NOD and wish for their new address to be considered in the allocation of places must provide satisfactory

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<sup>2</sup> This is not an exhaustive list, there may be other changes of circumstance that affect the application.

documentary evidence confirming the address change by 17 March 2025 – for example, proof of exchange of contracts or tenancy agreement confirming the date of occupancy.

### **Change of school preference/s**

- 9.4 During the usual application period (12 September 2024 to 15 January 2025) online applicants can make a change of preference by revisiting the portal and making the change directly (resubmission of the amended application will be required). For applications submitted by post using the paper application, and for all applications following the national closing date of 15 January 2025, applicants should contact Knowsley School Admissions by email to [schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk) to confirm the change that they wish to make to the application (in some cases, you may be asked to provide evidence of the change).
- 9.5 The LA will normally only accept a change of preference during the allocation period if there are substantial/exceptional reasons, for example a house move to another area. Applicants should email Knowsley School Admissions Team stating the reasons why a change is being requested and should provide satisfactory evidence of the change of circumstance resulting in a change of preference request. The absolute deadline for a change of preference to be considered in the initial allocation of places even in exceptional circumstances will be 17 March 2025.
- 9.6 Where there are no relevant substantial reasons for the request to change preference, parents/carers can change their preferences by withdrawing the original application and subsequently submitting a new application form. The new application will be considered as a late application as described in section 8 of this document.

### **Change of preference requests received after National Offer Day and before the start of the new school year (16 April to 31 August 2025)**

- 9.7 After initial offers have been made, parents/carers who wish to change their preference can do so by making a revised application. The online application portal will be available after NOD for parents to submit a new (second) application or make a direct change of preference request. The second application/change request will replace any previous application made.
- 9.8 Knowsley resident parents will still be able to name up to three schools of preference on their revised application and new preferences will replace those on the original application. Therefore, any applicant who wishes for their child's name to remain on the waiting list for a school/s where a place has been refused must name that school again as the higher preference within the new preference list. Where a place is available in any of the new preferences named, it will be offered, and the original offer will be withdrawn. Where a place cannot be offered, the child's name will be placed on the waiting list/s by applying the relevant oversubscription criteria for that school and the right of appeal will be given. Any previous offer made will remain available.

- 9.9 Knowsley LA will not process any late change of preference requests received up to midnight on 30 April 2025 until after 1 May 2025. All late preferences for Knowsley schools received up to 30 April will be considered together at this time. Where places remain available in schools following the initial allocation, they will be offered to late applicants. Where the school requested is already full, or if there are not enough vacancies remaining for the number of late applications received, the oversubscription criteria from the relevant school admission policy will be applied to all applications being considered at that time. For any application that is unsuccessful in obtaining a place, the child's name will be added to the waiting list by applying the oversubscription criteria for the individual school. The result of late change of preference applications for Knowsley schools processed after 1 May 2025 will be shared with co-ordinating LAs and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application as soon as possible after 2 May 2025.
- 9.10 After this time, further late applications as a result of a change of preference received up to 31 August 2025 will be considered as soon as possible following receipt. Outcomes in respect of preferences for Knowsley schools will normally be issued within 10 school days of receipt of the application.

## 10 Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

- 10.1 Where a pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names a particular mainstream school as provision, the child will normally be admitted. Where such pupils are known about at the time of the annual allocation procedures, they will be placed within the admission number, with priority over others thus reducing the number of places available to other applicants. If an EHCP is issued after the allocation of places has been undertaken and names a school that is already fully subscribed to PAN, that child can be admitted beyond PAN as an exception; this includes situations where the admission of the pupil will mean the teacher pupil ratio of 1:30 is exceeded as pupils with an EHCP that names the school are a permitted exception to infant class size restrictions as stipulated in the School Admission Code.
- 10.2 Where a child is under formal assessment by the LA but an EHCP has not been issued at the point the initial allocation of places is concluded, the child will be considered for any mainstream school of preference along with all other applicants for in accordance with the oversubscription criteria of the school.

## 11 Delaying entry to reception class and part-time attendance

- 11.1 In Knowsley, children are admitted to reception classes at the beginning of the school year in which they have their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. This means children who have their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday on or between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026 can take up a full-time reception class place from the beginning of the Autumn term in September 2025.

11.2 Until a child is compulsory school age, it is possible to request part-time attendance or delayed entry to reception class until later in the school year. In this scenario any place offered during the allocation process will be held available for that child until they take up the placement. However, entry cannot be delayed beyond the beginning of the term following the child's fifth birthday and the provision to delay entry is only possible within the school year for which the place has been offered, so the pupil must take up the place within the reception year (i.e., between September 2025 and the beginning of the summer term 2026).

11.3 Once allocation results are known, parents/carers who wish to request delayed entry are advised to discuss such requests directly with the school offered as such arrangements are made at school level. Parent/carers should note that requests for delayed entry should be made where this is felt to be in the best educational welfare interests of the child. Delayed entry should not be requested on the basis that a place has not been secured at the preferred school.

## 12 Deferring entry (Summer born only, April-August births)

12.1 For a summer born child (i.e., a child born between the defined dates of 1 April to 31 August), parents/carers may wish to request deferment for a full school year so the child would start reception class one year later with a cohort of children who may be up to a year younger.

12.2 Parents/Carers of summer born children who wish to request this deferment are required to make their request during the typical application period (September 2024 to 15 January 2025). For Knowsley schools this is a right to request, and education professionals will consider whether they feel full year deferment is appropriate in the circumstance of the individual pupil; the view of the Headteacher of the individual school will be a significant factor in any decision taken. For this reason, parents/carers are asked to identify school preferences and submit any supporting documentary evidence to support their reasons for making the request which will help the relevant admission authority of the school to make a decision in the best interests of the child.

12.3 Prior to allocation, parents/carers will be advised of the outcome of their request for each school preference and asked to decide whether they wish to pursue deferred entry by withdrawing their 2025/26 application and re-applying the following year, or continue with their original application which will be processed during the current admissions round.

12.4 If deferment is agreed and the parent/carer is re-applying the following year, they must be aware that the expectation is that they will name as preferences the schools that have agreed to this consideration. A school agreeing to deferment does not give the child any additional priority for a place at that school – the application will be considered along with all others in accordance with the admission arrangements for the school for the relevant year of entry.

- 12.5 If deferment has been declined by any individual school/s the parent/carer can still defer the entry of their child until they are of compulsory school age and they can still apply to that school, but this will mean the parent/carer is then applying for their child to be admitted to school at year 1 having not completed the reception year and admission will be dependent on where places are available within the then year 1 cohort.
- 12.6 Parent/carers should note that requests for deferred entry should be made where this is felt to be in the best educational welfare interests of the child. Deferred entry should not be requested on the basis that a place has not be secured at the preferred school. If deferment is refused, a reason/s for the decision will be provided. There is no statutory right of appeal against the decision to refuse a request for full year deferment, but applicants can follow the complaints procedure of the relevant admission authority if they feel necessary.

### 13 **Transfer to junior school**

- 13.1 St Margaret Mary's Catholic Infant School and St Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School in Huyton operate as two separate Catholic voluntary aided schools where the individual Governing bodies are responsible for admissions.
- 13.2 There is an expectation that children from year 2 of the infant school will seek to join year 3 of the Junior school, but there is no automatic transfer. Parents/carers who are seeking admission to the Junior school are advised to consult the policy agreed by the Governing Body for Junior School admission. (Policy details are available on the Knowsley Council website or from the school directly.)
- 13.3 Children attending year 2 of St Margaret Mary's Infant School in September 2025 will be alerted about the transfer application process and asked to complete an application by the closing date of 15 January 2025. Parents/carers of children who do not currently attend the Infant School may also apply during the application period September 2024 to 15 January 2025. Timescales for allocation are the same as for the annual reception round and allocation outcomes will be issued no later than 16 April 2025.

### 14 **In-year admission and Fair Access Protocol (FAP)**

**Primary School In-Year Admissions (applications for year groups 1 to 6 and reception classes after the end of the annual coordination process)**

- 14.1 The in-year scheme is published separately. The LA does not fully co-ordinate in-year admissions for all primary schools in the borough but monitors in-year admission activity to ensure schools are operating within national statutory guidelines. If the child has an Education and Health Care Plan, contact must be made with the Special Education Needs Team within the LA as admission/transfer is dealt with under SEND procedures.

- 14.2 Parents/carers should complete an In-Year Application form and submit it directly to the Knowsley Primary School of preference. Where places are offered, schools will agree appropriate admission dates with the applicant to allow for a planned admission. Where places are refused due to further admission creating prejudice to the efficient use of education and efficient use of resources, parents/carers will be advised of their right to an independent appeal against the refusal and the child will normally be placed on a waiting list.
- 14.3 For families moving into the area and where the child will be unable to access their previous school due to distance, parents/carers are advised to make the application 4-6 weeks in advance of the move taking place to allow time for the application to be processed and ensure children are not unnecessarily out of school. Where a place is available and offered in advance of the child being in the area, a start date will be agreed with parent; this date will not typically be more than 20 school days in the future and places will not be held beyond the agreed start date if the child has not taken up the place as this could potentially create disadvantage to other children applying.
- 14.4 The School Admissions Code states each Local Authority must have a Fair Access Protocol to ensure that unplaced and vulnerable children, and those having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, are allocated a place as quickly as possible. The protocol is operated outside the normal point of entry to school and applies only to specific categories of children seeking places through the in-year transfer/admission process. It does not apply to the annual allocation of reception class places. The protocol seeks to ensure that no individual school is asked to admit a disproportionate number of children who have been excluded from other schools, who display challenging behaviour, or who are being placed via other categories of the protocol. To achieve this, the protocol allows the Fair Access Panel to make admissions in excess of the admission number, or to refuse where places are available. The Knowsley FAP document is published in a separate document and is reviewed annually during the summer term to be effective from the new school year.

Proposed timetable for annual primary coordinated admissions  
school year 2025/26

