

Admissions Timeline for Review and Consultation 2026-27
For the year 2028-29, Admission in September 2028

Admissions policies are set a minimum of 18 months before the academic year to which they relate, e.g.:

- by 28th February 2027 for the academic year 2028-29
- by 28th February 2028 for the academic year 2029-30

All currently relevant admission policies and SIFs should be displayed on the school website (in the second half of the academic year, there should be 3 separate policies on display).

Please note: If you haven't consulted on your admission arrangements within the last 7 years, you must do so this year even if you are not proposing any changes.

Date	Activity	Detail
Autumn Term	Appoint Admissions Committee (If preferring committee to whole Governing Board processing of Admissions)	Agree/review terms of reference and membership of the Admissions Committee and appoint clerk to committee.
September 2026 onwards If changes are planned, the arrangements should be reviewed at the earliest opportunity in the new school year in order to allow for consultation with the Diocese.	Review Admissions Policy / Admission Arrangements and propose any changes.	The Governing Body, as Admission Authority, reviews admission arrangements and decides if changes are needed. They do so with regard to the School Admissions Code 2021 and with reference to the LA coordinated admission scheme.
September / October (and before 10 th November 2026)	Consultation - Part 1	Governing bodies must consult the Diocesan Board of Education on any proposed changes. Policies (including any SIF) should be emailed to the Diocesan Board of Education BEFORE going to formal consultation. Schools that do not need to consult must still send a copy of their policy to the Diocesan School Admissions Officer and LA once they have agreed it. Schools that have made no changes in seven years must consult with the Diocese.

By 30th November 2026	Advice from the Diocese to be reviewed by the governing body. (The Diocese will respond to all arrangements needing consultation by 30th November to allow the admission authority to make recommended changes before going out to full formal consultation.)	Governing body should follow advice given by the Diocesan Board of Education (this is specifically in relation to faith criteria, although guidance will be given on compliance to all schools) and prepare firm proposal arrangements.
1 st October 2026 to 31 st January 2027	Consultation - Part 2 (Statutory Consultation Period)	(Consulting schools only) Having taken account of the DBE's comments, governing bodies must consult with the LA and all other maintained schools, parents, and community groups in the relevant areas for a minimum of 6 weeks within this window.
31st January – 28th February 2027	Determination and Notification	Governors must consider any objections, or comments, to their arrangements and take these into account when finalising the policy. Once the arrangements have been determined, all consultees must be notified of the final arrangements within 14 days. All admission authorities must determine admission arrangements by 28th February every year (even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required).
By 15 th March 2027	Publication deadline	Final determined policy/SIF must be published on school's website by now - displaying them for at least a whole year. Deadline for admission authorities to send a copy of their full determined admission arrangements to their local authority and the DBE.

15 th March 2027		Deadline for local authorities to publish on their website the proposed admission arrangements for any new school or Academy which is intended to open within the determination year, details of where the determined arrangements for all schools, including Academies, can be viewed, and information on how to refer objections to the Schools Adjudicator.
By 15 th May 2027	Adjudication / Objections deadline	Admission arrangements are referred to the Schools Adjudicator where the admission authority concerned fails to comply with the mandatory provisions of the Schools Admission Code (2021) or where guidelines are not followed. Decisions on objections to admission arrangements are made by the Schools Adjudicator. Objections must be referred to the Adjudicator by 15th May. The Governing Body must comply with any direction from the Adjudicator or Secretary of State within 2 months
By 8th August 2027	LA composite prospectus deadline	The statutory deadline for admission authorities to provide the information the LA needs in order to produce the composite prospectus for all schools (which the LA must publish on-line by 12th September). In practice most LAs will ask for earlier submission than this, to meet printing deadlines
31 st August	Publication deadline	All admission authorities must publish on their website details of how in-year admissions will be dealt with for the following academic year.
As set by each LA	Notification deadline	Each LA will have its own deadline for admission authorities to confirm whether they wish to buy into appeal administration schemes and other optional services.

Offer year 2026/27 dates

31 October 2026 National closing date for secondary school applications.

15 January 2027 National closing date for primary school applications.

28 February 2027 Deadline for admission authorities to publish their appeals timetable on their website.

1 March 2027 National offer day for secondary school places.

16 April 2027 National offer day for primary school places.