

Portsmouth Area Schools Information

Schools accept both native and foreign students. In order to access a place for your child, it is important you read and follow this advice.

Types of School

Parents/carers can apply to *maintained* and *independent* schools. Infant/Junior and Primary are for children 4-11 years. Secondary Schools are for children 11-16 years.

Maintained Schools:

Maintained schools are UK taxpayer funded. For a list of maintained schools in Portsmouth, visit www.portsmouth.gov.uk and search "primary schools " or "secondary schools". The school lists include access to a catchment map for the school so you can see where it is. You can also access the individual school's website which has lots of useful information about the individual school.

Independent Schools:

Independent schools are private schools and parents have to pay school fees. For details of independent schools, do a general internet search "independent schools in Portsmouth".

Academic years and term dates

Children can start school at the beginning of the academic year in which they are 5 years old.

The academic year runs from 1 September - 31 August with breaks for school holidays. For term dates in *maintained* schools, visit www.portsmouth.gov.uk and search "school term dates ".

Independent schools may have slightly different term dates and holidays and these would need to be checked with the individual school.

The academic year group of your child is based on their date of birth and can be viewed in the "Information for Parents Booklet- Admission to primary and Secondary Schools".

Visit www.portsmouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions to view or download the booklet.

Applying for schools

Applicants must have legal parental responsibility for a child.

Maintained Schools:

Application forms can be downloaded from the website www.portsmouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions . Parents will need a Portsmouth address **before** applying.

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There are different types of application forms depending on which year group is being applied for. You may need to contact Admissions for advice on which form to use. Due to the high birth rate and the rising number of children in Portsmouth, for families moving to Portsmouth with more than one child, it is often very difficult to obtain places at the same school for all the siblings. It is advised to check the vacancies available with the Admissions Team on +44 (0)23 92 68 8008 **before** applying.

Once a place is allocated, a child is expected to start there as soon as possible. Although it is possible to stay on the waiting lists for other schools, it is recommended that the child remain at the allocated school rather than move schools. Class sizes are large (around 30) and it can take time for a child to settle in a class, get used to their class teacher and make friends so it can be upsetting for a child to move to another school.

Independent Schools:

Parents will need to contact schools directly for information on how to apply.

Attendance

Children are required to attend Monday to Friday during term time. Parents are obliged to seek permission from the Head Teacher to take their children out of school during term time but this will only be given if there are exceptional circumstances. Parent will be fined for unauthorised absence.

Curriculum

Maintained schools follow the National Curriculum and are taught in English in classes of approximately 30 pupils. The curriculum does not include the teaching of English as a foreign language. For more information about the National Curriculum visit www.gov.uk/national-curriculum/overview . Information on the curriculum is also provided on each individual school's website.

There are facilities for children and adults to learn English as a foreign language (EFL) within Portsmouth but these are independent from schools and will charge fees. Search 'EFL schools in Portsmouth' for a list of several schools who offer this. The University of Portsmouth is not responsible for securing a school place for your child, nor can it assist in liaising with local institutions.

Further Advice and Information

Portsmouth Admissions Team: Email: admissions@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)23 92 68 8008 Web: www.portsmouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions

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