

PAN-LONDON CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SYSTEM

Template LA Scheme for Co-ordination of Admissions to Year 7/Year 10 in Maintained Schools and Academies in 2026/27

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Template LA Scheme for Co-ordination of Admissions to Year 7/Year 10 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 are notified of their outcome. 1 March (secondary) 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 3A
“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 secondary schools and academies.

PAN LONDON CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS SYSTEM

Template Scheme for Co-ordination of Admissions to Year 7/Year 10 in 2026/27

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

Applications

1. Croydon LA will advise home LAs of their resident pupils on the roll of this LA's maintained primary schools and academies who are eligible to transfer to secondary school in the forthcoming academic year.
2. 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 Croydon LA to enable the admission authorities in the LA area to apply their published oversubscription criteria.
3. Croydon LA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that every parent/carer who is resident in this LA and has a child in their last year of primary education within a maintained school or academy, either in Croydon LA or any other maintaining LA, is informed how they can access Croydon's composite prospectus and apply online. Parents/carers who do not live in Croydon LA will have access to this LA's composite prospectus which will advise parents/carers to contact their home LA for further details on the application process.
4. 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 Croydon LA, the 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.
5. Where supplementary information forms are used by admission authorities in Croydon LA, they will either be available on the school's website, on the LA's website or a paper copy of the supplementary information form can be requested from the school directly. Such forms will advise parents that they must also complete their home LA's Common Application Form. Croydon LA's composite prospectus will indicate which schools in this LA require

supplementary information forms to be completed and where they can be obtained.

6. Where an admission authority in this LA receives a supplementary information form, Croydon 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.
7. *Applicants will be able to express a preference for six maintained secondary schools or Academies within and/or outside the Home LA.
8. *Croydon LA will advise applicants that they will receive no more than one offer of a school place on 2 March 2026. Applicants will also be advised that a place will be offered at the highest preference school for which they are eligible for a place. If the parent nominates a school outside of a PAN-London LA, Croydon LA will pass relevant details on to that authority and will make every reasonable effort to resolve any multiple offers with them.*
9. The order of preference given on the Common Application Form will not be revealed to a school within the area of this LA. This is to comply with paragraph 1.9 of the School Admissions Code 2021 which states that admission authorities must not give extra priority to children whose parents rank preferred schools in particular order, including 'first preference first' arrangements. However, where a parent resident in Croydon 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.
10. Croydon LA undertakes to carry out the address verification process as set out in its entry in the LIAAG Address Protocol. This will in all cases include validation of resident applicants against this LA's primary school data and the further investigation of any discrepancy using Council Tax and Electoral Register records. 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 **11 December 2025**.
11. 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 **14 November 2025**.

12. 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 **14 November 2025**.

Processing

13. Applicants resident within Croydon LA must return the Common Application Form, which will be available and able to be submitted online, to this LA by **31 October 2025**.
14. Application data relating to all preferences for schools in the area of a participating LA, which have been expressed within the terms of this LA's scheme, will be up-loaded to the PLR by **14 November 2025**. Supporting documentation provided with the Common Application Form will be sent to maintaining LAs by the same date.
15. Croydon LA shall, in consultation with the admission authorities within its area and within the framework of the Pan-London timetable in Schedule 3A, determine and state its own timetable for the processing of preference data and the application of published oversubscription criteria.
16. *Supplementary information forms 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.
17. *Admission authorities will start seeing details of their applications on the Schools Access Module (SAM) from **5 November 2025**. Schools that require a supplementary form will check that a supplementary form has been completed for each child and 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.*
18. *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 **8 December 2025**.*
19. 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. This LA will accept late applications which are considered to be on time within the terms of the home LA's scheme.

20. 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 **11 December 2025**.
21. Where an applicant moves from one participating home LA to another after submitting an on-time application under the terms of the former home LA's scheme, the new home LA will accept the application as on-time up to **8 December 2025**, on the basis that an on-time application already exists within the Pan-London system.
22. *Applications which are late for no good reason and applications received after **8 December 2025** but before **2 March 2026** will be considered after all on-time applications have been processed.*
23. Croydon LA will participate in the application data checking exercise scheduled between **15 December 2025 and 2 January 2026** in the Pan-London timetable in Schedule 3A.
24. All preferences for schools within Croydon LA will be considered by the relevant admission authorities without reference to rank order to comply with paragraphs 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, this 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. *Schools must provide Croydon LA with an electronic list of their applicants ranked in criteria order by **12 January 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 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 **2 February 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 **13 February 2026**. Where a management decision is made that additional iterations are necessary, these will continue no later than **17 February 2026**.

29. Croydon LA will not make an additional offer between the end of the iterative process and **2 March 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, this 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 **16 (18) and 23 February 2026** in the Pan-London timetable in Schedule 3A.
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 **26 February 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 2.11 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. 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.
35. This LA's online notification will include the information set out in Schedule 2.
36. *On **2 March 2026**, all resident applicants who applied online will be able to view their outcome online as well as accept or decline their offer. Croydon LA will not send outcome letters in the post.*
37. *All maintained primary schools and academies in this LA will be able to view destination data of their resident applicants on the SAM portal by the end of the summer term 2026.

Post Offer

38. Croydon LA will request that resident applicants accept or decline the offer of a place by **16 March 2026**, or within two weeks of the date of any subsequent offer.
39. Where an applicant resident in this LA accepts or declines a place in a school within the area of another LA by **16 March 2026**, Croydon LA will forward the information to the maintaining LA by **23 March 2026**. Where such information is received from applicants after **16 March 2026**, this LA will pass it to the maintaining LA as it is received.
40. Where a place becomes available in an oversubscribed maintained school or academy in this LA's area, it will be offered from a waiting list ordered in accordance with paragraph 2.15 of the School Admissions Code 2021.
41. When acting as a maintaining LA, Croydon LA will place an applicant resident in the area of another LA on a waiting list of any higher preference school in this LA's area.
42. 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 Croydon LA of a potential offer, in order that the home LA can offer the place.
43. 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.
44. When acting as a maintaining LA, this LA and the admission authorities within it, will not inform an applicant resident in another LA that a place can be offered.
45. 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.
46. 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.

47. When acting as a home LA, when Croydon LA has agreed to a change of preference order for good reason, it will inform any maintaining LA affected by the change. In such cases, paragraphs 44 and 45 shall apply to the revised order of preferences.
48. 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.
49. 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.
50. When acting as a maintaining LA, Croydon LA will accept new applications (including additional preferences) from home LAs for maintained schools and academies in its area.
51. This LA, when acting as a home LA, will allow applicants to express additional preferences before the start of the school term, after National Offer Day. The number of additional preferences will be unrestricted.
52. Croydon LA, when acting as a home LA, will aim to start filling any vacancies which become available after 2 March 2026 within four weeks of National Offer Day. Secondary schools will be asked to rank all applicants on their waiting list, including late applications received after 31 October 2025, in accordance with their oversubscription criteria. Secondary schools will then advise Croydon LA of the offers to be made.
53. *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 following a change of circumstances.*

Waiting lists

Waiting lists will be maintained by Croydon secondary schools for at least one term until **31 December 2026** and places will be filled in accordance with each school's admission criteria. After this date, parents/carers will need to apply through the in-year application process if they wish their child to remain on a school's waiting list.

Parents/carers must also refer to each school's admission policy for more information regarding the management of waiting lists.

Parents/carers' enquiries regarding waiting list positions or appeal procedures must be made directly to the schools.

The PAN London Coordinated Admission Scheme ends on **31 August 2026**. Applications for Year 7 received after this date will be treated as in-year applications. Please refer to Croydon Council's website and the in-year admissions guidance for more information.

PAN-LONDON CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME SCHEDULE 1

Minimum Content of Common Application Form for Admissions to Year 7/Year 10 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 an 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 Year 7/Year 10 in 2026/2027

From: Home LA

Date: **2 March 2026**
(sec)

Dear Parent,

Application for a Secondary School

I am writing to let you know the outcome of your application for a secondary/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.

Your child's name has been automatically added on the waiting list for any higher preference school you have been unsuccessful.

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.

*Please return the reply slip to me by **16 March 2026(sec)**. 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 3A**

Timetable for Admissions to Year 7/Year 10 in 2026/27

Fri 31 Oct 2025	Statutory deadline for receipt of applications
Fri 14 Nov 2025	Deadline for the transfer of application information by the Home LA to the PLR (ADT file)
Mon 8 Dec 2025	Deadline for receipt of late applications considered as 'on-time' to Home LA
Thurs 11 Dec 2025	Deadline for the upload of late applications considered as 'on-time' to the PLR
Mon 15 Dec 2025 – Fri 2 Jan 2026	– Checking of application data
Mon 2 Feb 2026	Deadline for the transfer of potential offer information from Maintaining LAs to the PLR (ALT file)
Fri 13 Feb 2026	Final ALT file to PLR
Mon 16 (Wed 18) – Mon 23 Feb 2026	– Checking of offer data
Thurs 26 Feb 2026	Deadline for on-line ALT file to portal
Mon 2 Mar 2026	Outcomes published online.
Mon 16 Mar 2026	Deadline for return of acceptances
Mon 23 Mar 2026	Deadline for transfer of acceptances to maintaining LAs

