

Reception admission process for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Information for Parents/Carers

www.enfield.gov.uk



The reception admission process can be a worrying time for both parents/carers and children with special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND).

The following guide/information has been designed to make the process as clear as possible and answer any questions that you may have.

If you have any questions throughout the process, please do not hesitate to contact the SEND Service who will be pleased to help you and discuss further.

Telephone: 020 3821 1919

Email: senphasetransfer@enfield.gov.uk

Your preferences must be received by the SEND Service no later than 30th November 2023. This date is considerably earlier than the normal admissions deadline as children with an EHCP are considered prior to the PAN London process.

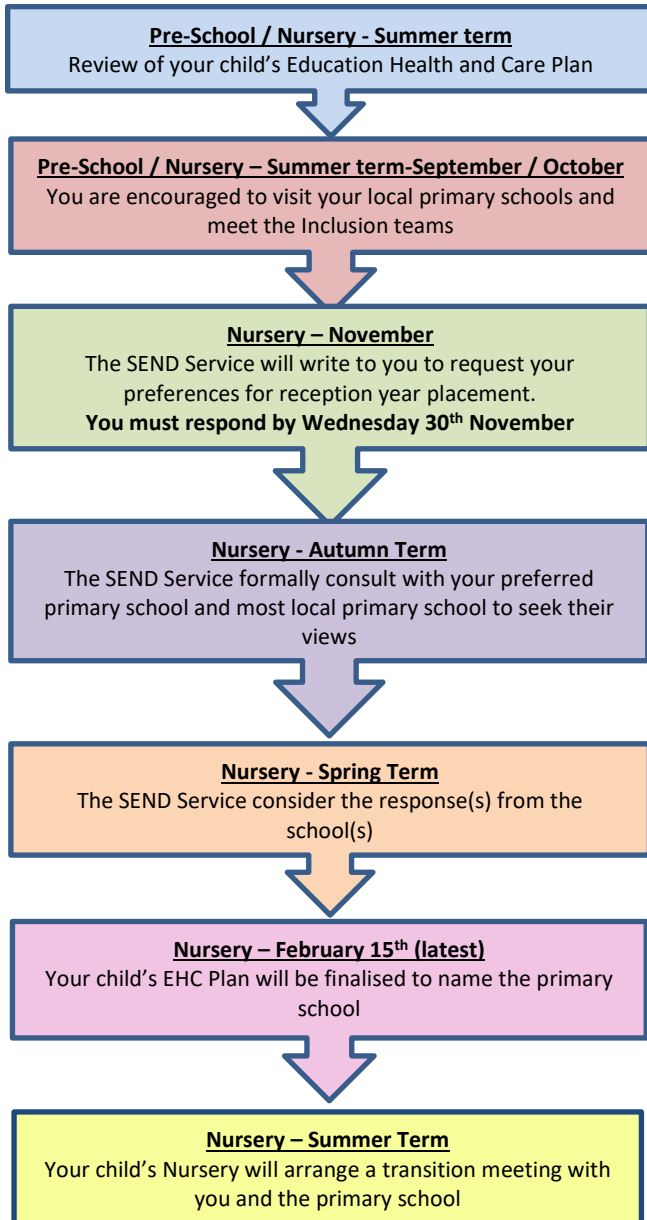
If you are unable to return your preferences by the deadline date e.g. if you are yet to visit Schools please advise your Case Coordinator. Thank you

This guidance is only for children who have either a proposed EHC Plan or final EHC Plan. If your child is still undergoing an EHC needs assessment and has not yet been issued with a proposed EHC Plan, you will need to follow the standard school's admissions process.

For more information, please visit:

www.enfield.gov.uk/admissions

The SEND Reception admission process



The SEND Reception Admission Process Explained

1. Pre-School / Nursery – Summer Term

Your child's Nursery will invite you to attend a review of your child's Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP). This will take place before the end of the Summer Term in pre-school or at the beginning of the Autumn Term of the Nursery year

The purpose is to ensure that parents/carers, child, school, other professionals involved as well as the Local Authority (LA), monitor and evaluate your child's progress towards meeting the outcomes set out in their EHCP. Recommendations from the review will be considered by the LA who may decide to:

- maintain the EHCP
- amend the EHCP if there are significant changes to the child's needs, provision to help them meet their outcomes, or the level of support
- cease to maintain the EHCP
- initiate a re-assessment

Discussion will also take place at the review between yourself, your child, school staff and other professionals working with your child about appropriate arrangements for reception admission.

2. Nursery / Pre-School – Summer term-September

Wherever possible and appropriate, the LA looks to place children with EHCPs in their local mainstream primary school. This means that they can transfer with many of their peers from local Nurseries or Pre-Schools and benefit from being within their local community. You are advised, therefore, to visit your most local primary school(s). This will give you the opportunity to meet with the Inclusion Team and discuss your child's needs.

Dates of school open evenings can be found on the Council's website:

https://www.enfield.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/30183/Applying-for-a-primary-school-in-Enfield-2023-Education.pdf

You have a right to express a preference for any other school, as well as your nearest school, although it should be noted that a preference does not automatically guarantee a place as there are many other factors to be considered.

If you express a preference for a Voluntary Aided school please complete the school's own admission form to ensure that you meet the criteria for admission to that school. A list of schools can be found on the Council's website:

<https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/school-admissions-and-applications/admission-to-primary-school-in-september-2023>

If you express a preference for an Academy School, you may also need to complete the school's own admission form.

If you do not express a preference for any school, the SEND Service will identify a school for your child to attend, which will likely be that which is most local to your home.

Please note:

If your preferred school is further away from your home than the most local school that can meet your child's SEND, the LA may name the nearest school if that would be compatible with the efficient use of the LA's resources.

In some cases, the LA may name the school preferred by the child's parents/carers, even though it is further away, on condition that the parents/carers make and fund their own arrangements for transport.

3. Nursery - November

The SEND Service will write to you to request your preferences of a primary school placement for your child.

Your preferences must be received by the SEND Service no later than 30th November 2023. This date is considerably earlier than the normal admissions deadline as children with an EHCP are considered prior to the PAN London process.

Please note that a preference does not automatically guarantee a place as there are many other factors to be considered.

If your child has a Proposed EHC Plan or Final EHC Plan, you only need to provide your preferences to the SEND Service in response to the above letter.

You must NOT apply via Schools Admissions.

4. Nursery – Autumn Term

The SEND Service will send your child's information to the Chair of Governors of your preferred primary school and the local primary school, if this is different. This will include any information you may have sent us to support your preference.

The school's Governing Body will be asked for their views on naming their school on your child's EHCP. When taking these views into account, the LA has to decide whether naming the school will be:

- appropriate to meet your child's special educational needs
- compatible with the efficient education of other pupils already attending the school (i.e. those children who will be on roll in September)
- an efficient use of LA resources.

5. Nursery – Spring Term

The SEND Service will receive the response from your preferred primary school and the local school, where appropriate. It will consider which school should be named on your child's EHCP.

If the LA does not agree to name your preferred school, you will be contacted directly.

Similarly, if your child has not been offered any of your preferred choices or a local School, you will be contacted directly.

6. Nursery – February 15th 2024 (latest)

Your child's EHCP will be finalised naming the primary school your child will attend in September.

If you are unhappy with the school that we name please contact the SEND Service in the first instance. We will try to resolve any concerns you may have.

You will also have the right to appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST). You can only appeal once an EHCP naming a school has been finalised. Details of the appeal process can be found on the Local Offer www.enfield.gov.uk/SEND

7. Nursery – Summer Term

Your child's Nursery will arrange a meeting with you and invite a representative from the primary school named on your child's EHCP. At this meeting you will be able to discuss the arrangements to support your child's move to primary school.



Top tips and questions you may want to ask when visiting a primary school

- Prior to your visit to your preferred primary school, we suggest you get ready a copy of your child's EHCP and any recent information from professionals working with your child. This will allow you to discuss with the Inclusion Team how your child's special educational needs will be met in a particular school.
- Visit the school's website, and in particular look at their SEND Information Report. This will detail all the ways that the schools support children and young people with SEND.
- Download the guide to primary school's booklet from the Council's website which will be available in the Autumn term:
https://www.enfield.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/20407/Primary-schools-admissions-criteria-2023-Education.pdf
- A copy of the school prospectus will describe out-of-school based activities and whether the school operates an after-school or breakfast club.
- You may find it helpful to talk to other parents/carers whose children attend the same primary school.
- Ask if your child will have an opportunity to visit/spend time at the school prior to starting in September
- Does the school operate a 'buddy' system for those children who would benefit from a friend at break and lunchtime periods

and/or finding their way around school? What else do the school do to help children find their way around the school between lesson time?

- You may want to know about the school's behaviour policy. The school's governing body publish a policy detailing their approach to behaviour. It should include the school's approach to discipline, what types of behaviour would lead to exclusion and how the school deals with bullying.
- For further tips, advice and guidance, in relation to the primary transfer process and visiting schools, please visit:
<https://www.ourvoicenfield.org.uk/>
<https://www.epandc.org.uk/>

Our aim remains to work collaboratively with parents/carers, children and young people and SEND Services aim to support you throughout this process.