



Finding a school place

Factsheet

Intro

If you've moved to a new location or your child is starting primary or secondary school for the first time, it can be overwhelming to know where to start when looking for and applying to schools. The main steps you need to take are explained below - for detailed information, e.g. in-year applications, see the Somerset Council website [somerset.gov.uk](https://www.somerset.gov.uk).

1 Research

Use Somerset Council's [Find a school](#) tool to look up schools in your area. Check which schools cover your catchment area and read their admission criteria. Then arrange to visit each school you are interested in.

2 Apply

Fill out the relevant application form on the online portal, or request a paper form from Somerset Council if you need one:

- [Apply to start school for the first time](#)
- [Starting at a junior or middle school](#)
- [Starting at a secondary or upper school in September](#)

Always include three school preferences, and it is a good idea to list your catchment school as one of them.

3 Decision

You will receive your outcome by email. You can also log in to your online portal to view the result. If you applied using a paper form, your outcome letter will be posted to you.

4 What next?

If you are happy with the outcome your child will start school in September.

If you are not happy with the outcome, you will be added to the waiting list and you have the option to appeal - [Appeal an in-year school admissions refusal](#) and [Appeals for a place to start school in September](#).

Top Tip

The **Somerset Choice Advice Service** is an impartial service which supports families with advice and practical support through the school admissions and appeals processes - call 01823 356903.



Get more help



citizensadvice.org.uk/family/education/



citizensadvice.somerset.org.uk/keyworkeradvice



01935 847683