**Dorset Co-ordinated Admission Scheme**

**2026-2027**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Admissions | Secondary | Primary |
| **Closing date -** for applications\*  | 31/10/25 | 15/01/26 |
| **Final EHCP allocations confirmed to School Admissions** | 12/01/26 | 13/02/26 |
| **Latest Date for Children in Care applications** | 31/01/26 | 15/3/26 |
| **Application Exchange -** Dorset LAexchanges applications with other LAs |  17/11/25 | 2/02/26 |
| **Verifying Criteria & Ranking Deadline** - for Admission Authorities to complete the process of verifying and confirming the criteria for their applications, ranking those applications and returning them to the Local Authority | 11/01/26 |  06/03/26 |
| **First Offer Exchange -** First exchange of offers between LAs |  26/01/26 | 16/03/26 |
| **Final Offer Exchange** - Final exchange of offers between LAs  | 09/02/26 | 30/03/26 |
| **Final Allocation Notification -** Dorset LA to inform all schools of final allocations | 23/02/26  | 07/04/26 |
| **Notification Day** - Dorset LA sends notification to home applicants (National Offer Day or the next working day if it falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday) | 02/03/26 | 16/04/26  |
| Parents respond to the offer | 15/03/26 | 1/05/26 |

Dorset Council will have a single late round inline with all neighbouring authorities. The single late round for each cycle will close the day prior to the National Offer Day of that cycle. All applications after the National Offer day will no longer be batch co-ordinated and will be dealt with as In-Year Transfers and will be dealt with as they are received.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Round** | **Late Closing Date** | **Late Offer Date** | **Late Response Date** |
| **Secondary Late** | 01/03/26Secondary Only | 30/03/26Secondary Only | 17/04/26Secondary Only |
| **Primary Late** | 15/04/26Primary Only | 14/05/26Primary Only | 29/05/26Primary Only |

Secondary Applications received after 2nd February and Primary Applications after the 15th April will be processed as quickly as possible as they are received and as In-Year Transfers. Please note applications received within the last few weeks of term and during the summer holidays may not be processed until the schools return from their summer break.

\*Applicants applying on aptitude/ability will be advised of the outcome of the testing (not guarantee of a placement) in good time to complete a preference application by the closing date.