

School Application Guidance for NHS' IENMs and their Dependents

This section provides guidance on schooling for NHS recruited IENM's children including links to Government' guides for obtaining a school place and navigating the English school system.

In England, every child must start full-time education once they reach the compulsory school age of five, but most children will start school the September after their fourth birthday. Within the state system, at this point, the child will attend a Primary School (Ages 4/5-11) before moving to Secondary School (Ages 11-16) and are required to remain in some form of education or training until the age of 18. Private and Home-schooling options are available but will not always fully reflect the state system.

How to Apply for a School Place

England's school admissions are controlled by local councils, who will often have their own individual procedures for school admissions. Factors like the age your child turns during the school year to when you move to the UK and the area you live in, known as school catchment areas, all affect your child's application process. If your child has learning difficulties or specific health needs, your local council has an obligation to ensure that such needs are met.

If you are planning on bringing your child with you when moving to the UK, guidance on school applications for foreign national children is available through this link; [School applications for foreign national children and children resident outside England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/school-applications-for-foreign-national-children-and-children-resident-outside-england).

Once you have read this guidance, a step-by-step guide for applying for a school place is available [here](#). This provides information on the application process and deadlines whilst assisting in identifying, via your new address's postcode, the council that controls the school admission process in your area.

If you move to the UK after the school year has already commenced (typically September to July, specific term dates are available on a school's website) you will need to complete an 'in-year application'. To do this, contact your local council's education team, who should be able to answer any queries and guide you through the process.

Appealing a School Place Decision

If your child is rejected a place at your chosen school(s), this is not uncommon, and you may appeal the decision. Information on how to appeal the decision will be available on your decision letter from the local council, please be aware there is a time limit of when you can appeal by, this will be confirmed in your letter and is typically within 20 days. A step-by-step guide to the appeals process and link to the school's admission code can be found [here](#).

Support Available

To ensure that every child has access to an education within the UK, support is available for dealing with the extra costs that come with attending school, however your meeting of certain thresholds set by councils, schools and government may be affected by your foreign citizen status and level of income. Support can range from helping with transport if your child's school is not within walking distance to afterschool clubs, purchasing uniforms and free school meals, for which you can check your child's eligibility through this link, [Providing free school meals to families with no recourse to public funds \(NRPF\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/providing-free-school-meals-to-families-with-no-recourse-to-public-funds-nrpf).

For information on what support you may be entitled to, it is important to contact your local council and child's school. Further information can be found [here](#).