GREAT LEIGHS PARENT GUIDE

Reception 2027: FAQ and application guide

The essential information for families considering Great Leighs Primary School

YOUR APPLICATION AT A GLANCE

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 can start Reception in September 2027.

WHEN?

Applications are expected to open in November 2026. The statutory closing date is 15 January 2027.

HOW?

Apply online through Essex County Council. You can name up to four school preferences.

HOW MANY PLACES?

Great Leighs has a Published Admission Number of 30 pupils for Reception.

Four simple steps

1. Visit us — Book a personal tour by emailing office@greatleighs.essex.sch.uk or calling 01245 361254.

2. Read the live guidance — Check the current Essex Primary Education admissions booklet and your priority admission area.

3. Apply on time — Submit your online application by 15 January 2027 and use your preferences carefully.

4. Look out for your offer — Essex County Council will publish the confirmed offer-day arrangements for the 2027 admissions round.

Why families choose Great Leighs

- A friendly seven-class village school in a rural setting
- An ambitious, broad curriculum with strong reading and mathematics foundations
- Forest School, outdoor learning, PE, music, visits and performances
- Inclusive pastoral care and a shared language for wellbeing
- Breakfast Club from 7.45am and Stay ‘n’ Play after-school provision until 6.00pm
- Strong links with families, FOGLS, the village and local schools

School day

Gates open 8.35am • Registration 8.45am • School ends 3.15pm

FIND OUT MORE

greatleighs.essex.sch.uk

Times and provision can change; check the school website or office for the latest arrangements and charges.

RECEPTION 2027

Frequently asked questions

APPLYING • STARTING SCHOOL • SUPPORT

Who manages admissions?

Great Leighs is a community school. Essex County Council is the admission authority and manages Reception applications, waiting lists and appeals.

What happens if more than 30 children apply?

Essex applies its formally determined criteria. In summary: looked-after and previously looked-after children; children with a sibling at the school; children living in the priority admission area; then remaining applicants. Within a category, distance is used. The live Essex arrangements always take precedence.

Does living in the priority admission area guarantee a place?

No. Families should check the current priority-area information and read the Essex admissions booklet before applying.

What if my child has an Education, Health and Care Plan?

If an EHCP names Great Leighs Primary School, the school must admit the child. The statutory EHCP process is separate from ordinary oversubscription criteria.

Can my child start part-time or later in the Reception year?

After a place is offered, parents may request part-time attendance or defer entry until later in the school year, within the legal limits. Discuss the arrangements with the school and Essex County Council.

What about summer-born children?

Parents of children born from 1 April to 31 August may request admission outside the normal age group. Essex considers each request individually in the child's best interests.

How will Great Leighs help my child settle?

The school works with families and early-years settings before entry. The Reception teacher and SENDCO liaise with Great Leighs Nursery Group and can liaise with other settings when children join the school.

What does Reception uniform look like?

A red school cardigan or jumper, white polo shirt or white shirt, black trousers, skirt or pinafore, and black trainers. Reception children are not expected to wear a school tie. Red gingham dresses may be worn in summer.

Are school meals available?

Reception children are entitled to a universal infant free school meal. Families may also provide a suitable packed lunch. Contact the school about allergies or dietary requirements.

Can I apply for another year group?

For an in-year place or a move during the school year, follow the current Essex County Council in-year admissions process and contact the school office to arrange a visit.

Where can I ask a question?

Contact Great Leighs Primary School, Aragon Road, Great Leighs, Chelmsford CM3 1RP. Telephone 01245 361254 or email office@greatleighs.essex.sch.uk.

Ready to take the next step?

Book a tour with the school, then apply through Essex County Council at essex.gov.uk/admissions by 15 January 2027.

This guide is a parent-friendly summary. Dates, definitions and admission arrangements should always be checked against the live Essex County Council information before an application is submitted.