

Enrolling in primary school for 2026

Starting school is an exciting time for children, parents and carers. We want to help make the enrolment process as easy as possible for you.

In Victoria, your child has the right to attend their designated neighbourhood school (your 'local school') under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*.

You can also apply for a place at a school that is not your local school. The school will consider your application in line with the Placement Policy. For more information on the Placement Policy, visit the [Enrolling in school](#) page.



New statewide timeline for Foundation (Prep)

The first year of primary school is called Foundation or Prep. We have released the Foundation enrolment timeline for all Victorian government primary schools to follow (see page 3). The timeline aims to help you understand when and how to enrol your child into Foundation for the 2026 school year.

When should I enrol my child in their first year of primary school?

Your child must be 5 years old by 30 April in the year that they start school. Schooling is compulsory for children who have turned 6 years old.

To enrol your child in a Victorian government primary school for the 2026 school year, submit an **expression of interest application** to the school by 25 July 2025. **Expression of interest applications are available via our school website from 22 April 2025.**

How do I enrol my child in their first year of primary school?

Take these steps to enrol your child in their first year of primary school:

1. Find your local school on the Find my School website (see below).
2. Contact a government primary school to book a school tour or to learn more about the school and the enrolment application process.
3. Download the Foundation (Prep) enrolment information pack from [Enrolling in Foundation \(Prep\)](#). The pack will be available by Tuesday 22 April 2025. Our school uses an expression of interest application method. The 2026 link is available via our school website.
4. Submit an expression of interest application for Foundation **by Friday 25 July 2025**.
5. You will be notified of the outcome of your application **between Monday 28 July and Friday 8 August 2025**. If you receive an offer, you should accept the offer **by Friday 22 August 2025**.
6. Take part in enrolment information and transition sessions **during Term 4 2025**.
7. Your child will start Foundation **from Wednesday 28 January 2026**, unless advised otherwise by the school.

How do I find my local school?

Find your local school on the Find my School website by following the steps below:

1. Enter findmyschool.vic.gov.au into your browser.
2. Enter your permanent residential address under 'Enter your address to get started'.
3. Select 2026 under 'Enrolment year'. **Note:** 2026 school zones will be available late Term 1, 2025.
4. Select Primary under 'School type'.

The map will then show your address, your local school, and on the left the contact details for the school. If you scroll down, it will also show you the five closest schools to your address.

You can also search by school name under 'Search for school'.

Can my child apply to a government primary school that is not our local school?

Yes, you can apply to schools other than your local school. The school will consider your application in line with the Placement Policy and available space. You can find information on how applications are prioritised on the [Enrolling in school](#) page.

What happens if I receive a letter saying my enrolment application was unsuccessful?

You should apply to enrol your child in another school. Your child is guaranteed a place at their local school. Your child's local school is determined on the basis of their permanent residential address. Visit [Find my School](#) to locate your child's local school. The [Enrolling in school](#) page can also help you to confirm your child's address for enrolment.

You can also appeal the decision. The [Enrolling in Foundation \(Prep\)](#) page has information on the process to appeal an enrolment application outcome.

What happens if I miss the enrolment timeframes?

You can apply to enrol your child into Foundation for the 2026 school year at any time from Term 2, 2025.

While you are asked to submit an enrolment application by Friday 25 July 2025, applications after this date will still be accepted from those families who miss enrolment timelines, move permanent residence or newly arrive to Victoria.

Enrolment applications submitted after 25 July 2025 will be processed by the school as they are received, in accordance with the department's Placement Policy.

Where can I find further information on enrolling in primary school?

You can ask your local primary school for further information on the Foundation enrolment process.

At the start of Term 2, 2025 you can also find an information pack on the Foundation enrolment process on the [Enrolling in Foundation \(Prep\)](#) page.

If you require help translating the information pack, please talk to your local primary school for assistance.

Who do I contact for help?

The Transition Coordinator, Enrolment Officer or Principal of the primary school you want to apply to can help you with any questions you may have about the enrolment process.

Useful links

Please find some useful links below that may be helpful for you as your child starts primary school:

Find my School – findmyschool.vic.gov.au

Information on school zones – vic.gov.au/school-zones

Enrolling in Foundation (Prep) – vic.gov.au/enrolling-foundation-prep

Enrolling in school – vic.gov.au/how-choose-school-and-enrol

Disability and inclusive education – vic.gov.au/disability-and-inclusive-education

Regional office contacts – vic.gov.au/office-locations-department-education

Timeline for 2025-26

2025 Dates	Activity
Term 2: Tuesday 22 April 2025 – Friday 4 July 2025	
Terms 1 and 2, 2025	Primary schools conduct tours, information sessions and other activities for families seeking Foundation (Prep) enrolment for their child for 2026.
By the start of Term 2, 2025	School zones for the 2026 school year go live on findmyschool.vic.gov.au Parents and carers should go to findmyschool.vic.gov.au to locate their designated neighbourhood school (local school) for 2026. The Enrolment Information Pack for Parents and Carers is available to download from Enrolling in Foundation (Prep) .
From Week 1, Term 2 2025	Primary schools may distribute the Enrolment Information Packs to prospective families and their local community.
From Week 1, Term 2, 2025	Enrolment applications open – parents and carers submit their completed enrolment application to a government primary school from this date.
Term 3: Monday 21 July 2025 – Friday 19 September 2025	
By Friday 25 July 2025	Enrolment applications due – parents and carers submit their completed enrolment application to a government primary school by this date.
Between Monday 28 July and Friday 8 August 2025	Primary schools notify parents and carers in writing of Foundation (Prep) enrolment outcomes, as per the department's Placement Policy. This may include a letter of offer, a letter confirming enrolment, or an unsuccessful application letter. Parents and carers sent an unsuccessful application letter may start submitting a written appeal to the primary school.
By Friday 22 August 2025	Parents and carers sent a letter of offer indicate acceptance of their child's place by this date.
By Friday 22 August 2025	Closing date for parents and carers to submit a written appeal to a primary school.
By Friday 5 September 2025	Primary schools notify all parents and carers, in writing, of the outcome of their appeal by this date.
By Friday 19 September 2025	Closing date for parents and carers to submit a written appeal with the relevant Regional Director, where they have been unsuccessful with their appeal to the primary school.
Term 4: Monday 6 October 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025	
During Term 4, 2025	Primary schools host transition sessions.
By Friday 31 October 2025	Regions notify all parents and carers in writing of the outcome of Regional Director appeals by this date. This only applies to appeals received by the closing date of Friday 19 September 2025.