






Policy Directive, Procedures and Guidelines

ADMISSIONS PRIMARY

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Summary of Changes¹ from Previous Versions

Version no/Date	Change	Comment	Section/ Page
V2.24 (August 24)	Annual review/refresh	Clarification on class size Date changed for registration period Clarification about the process of admission to and movement from Voluntary schools.	2.2 3.0 3.3
V2.23 (June 23)	Annual review/refresh	Date changed for registration period	3.0
V2.22 (August 22)	Annual review/refresh Change of registration opening and closing period	Changes to reflect current dates. This will open on Friday 7 th October and will close earlier on Friday 18 th November	General
V2.21 (August 21)	Annual review/refresh Class size limit updated for Secondary Partner Sites Updated contact	Changes to reflect current dates. The class size limit for Secondary Partner Sites is now 28. Parents/carers moving to Guernsey should contact the Administration and Procurement Manager.	General 4.1.2 7.0
V2.20 (March 21)	Allocation of places for CIAS Base placement changed from Amherst Primary to Forest Primary.	Ensure that sufficient places are available for CIAS placements.	2.2 (p7)
V2.19 (June 20)	Annual review/refresh Inclusion of 2 places within the Pod at La Mare de Carteret Primary School Inclusion of prioritisation considerations for PC-OCAPS requests	Minor changes to reflect current dates and remove wording around the future structure of education. Change of nomenclature from "Education Services" to "the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture". Changed references from "his/her" to "their". Ensures that sufficient places are available for Pod placements. Assists with prioritisation of requests if required.	General General 2.2 (p7) 3.1.6 (p9)
V2.18 (Aug 19)	Annual refresh	Minor changes to reflect current dates only	

¹ Material changes only. Minor changes (such as to punctuation, grammar, etc.) will not be listed

v2.17 (Mar 19)	Change to latest start date for Reception (Day 11 of Autumn Term instead of Day 8)	Committee decision Jan 2019, following review of arrangements	3.1.8. iii (p11)
	<i>(Table started Jan 2019)</i>		

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Policy Statement

This policy explains the admissions process and sets out how to apply for a primary school place.

This document forms the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture policy with regards to admissions into mainstream primary schools during the academic year 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025 and registrations for the start of the academic year commencing 1st September 2025.

All children are required, by [law](#)² (Sections 4. (1) (4); and 16. (1) and (2)), to attend school, or to receive alternative education provision, from the beginning of the school term after their 5th birthday. The Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture has also agreed that children who reach the age of 4 on or before 31st August may also start school from the beginning of the academic year in September, but only if spaces and staff are available at the school.

1.2 Policy Objectives

The policy is intended to provide the following guidance for parents and carers:

- What parents, carers and children can expect from that process
- What criteria are likely to be applied when making various decisions
- The various processes that are undertaken

1.3 Policy Application

The Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture operates a catchment area allocation model for admission to States' Primary Schools.

There may be times and circumstances when the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture has to vary its policy or chooses, where appropriate, to deviate from that policy. Changes in policy within the academic year are rare and you will always be informed as soon as possible of any change(s) that will affect your child.

² <https://www.guernseylegalresources.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?documentid=52843>

The latest version of the published policy will be available on the [States of Guernsey website](#)³.

The application of this policy is delegated to officers within Education Operations. Throughout this policy directive, 'Headteacher' also refers to Heads of Service, Secondary School Principals and the Principal of TGI: College, and 'school' refers to any education establishment.

1.4 Accountabilities

Parents/carers must apply for their child's school place and ensure that all information provided within, and supporting, registrations is correct and complete. They must also be aware of the need to register their child within the registration window and the potential consequences of not doing so.

For the following year's Reception Admissions, **Headteachers** are responsible for receiving and checking catchment school registrations, entering the learner into SIMS and advising the School Admissions Team, at the Education Office, of late registrations.

The **School Admissions Team** is responsible for allocating and notifying parents/carers of placements.

The **Head of Education Operations** is accountable for the application of this policy.

2.0 Policy Provision

2.1 Catchment Areas

Each mainstream primary school, except for the Catholic Voluntary Schools, has a defined catchment area. In drawing up catchment areas, the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture has sought to ensure that they reflect the diversity of the community served by each school.

For admission purposes, children will be deemed to live at the same address as the parent or carer with whom they have lived the majority of their time in the year preceding their admission to the school, unless the parent or carer informs the School Admissions Team otherwise and it is agreed that there is a good reason for another address to be used. It is expected that a child will usually attend the primary school serving the catchment area in which the parent or carer resides. The [Primary](#)⁴ catchment area map is available online.

Children cannot be guaranteed a place at their particular catchment school. In the event that it is not possible to accommodate a child in their catchment school, the School Admissions Team will allocate a place at an alternative school based on all relevant factors

³ <https://www.gov.gg/schooladmissions>

⁴ <http://maps.digimap.gg/gsySchoolCatchmentPrimary.htm>

known to it at that time, including the availability of places, distance between home and catchment/alternative schools, ease of access by public transport and the proximity of school bus routes. In such cases parental preference will also be considered but may not always be able to be accommodated.

Within the various allocation processes, children resident in Guernsey, Alderney, Herm or Jethou at that point will be given priority over children moving to one of the Islands.

2.2 Class Sizes

All Primary schools have a default class size limit of 28 children. Class size can be extended to a maximum of 30 children in any Primary school at the discretion of the Director of Education following consultation with the relevant Headteacher. There is no set minimum capacity for a class to be viable but The Education Office is obliged to manage its resources in an efficient and effective manner. Irrespective of individual class sizes, overall school populations will not exceed safe limits.

2.3 Moving Out of Catchment Area

If a child has started at a primary school but then moves out of catchment, the child will usually be permitted to remain at their original school subject to the conditions that:

- The parents/carers take upon themselves the responsibility for transporting their child to and from school
- The parents/carers notify the school and the School Admissions Team of any change of address

The School Admissions Team reserves the right to move a child to another school if their current placement was based on incorrect information provided by their parents/carers.

3.0 Admission to a States-maintained Primary School

3.1 Children attaining the age of four years on or before 31st August 2025: registering for Reception

3.1.1 The Registration Period

The registration period for children seeking to join reception classes in September 2025 will open at 9am on the first day of the [Autumn Term](#)⁵ 2024 and close at 3pm Friday 25th October 2024, within which children should be registered for admission to their catchment primary school, or if baptised Catholics whose parents/carers wish them to go there, either of the Catholic Voluntary schools (see 3.3).

⁵ <https://gov.gg/termdates>

Registration requests will be accepted only for the academic year commencing September 2025.

Parents/carers can contact the relevant school to request a registration form for their child(ren) or the form(s) can be downloaded from the [States of Guernsey website](#)⁶. One form is to be filled in for each child and submitted to a single school, accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation, in order for the registration process for that child to be completed.

If registration forms are received for the same child at multiple schools the School Admissions Team may, in its absolute discretion, either:

- (a) deem all such applications to be invalid and therefore allocate no place to that child, or
- (b) determine placement at one of the schools at which the child has been registered, without further reference to their parents/carers.

3.1.2 Late Registrations

Children may still be registered after the defined registration period but will be assigned a lower priority if the availability of places is limited. The School Admissions Team will endeavour to place them at their catchment school, or Catholic Voluntary School for children who are baptised Catholic whose parents/carers wish them to go there, if there is sufficient capacity and resources.

3.1.3 Split Residence, Court Orders and Shared Parental Responsibility

In cases where a child splits their time between addresses equally on a voluntary basis as agreed by the parents, or is subject to a court order directing that their time be split equally between two or more parties, those with Parental Responsibility⁷ must determine, either between themselves or through the court as appropriate, which address should be used as the child's home address and submit a completed registration form to the relevant school.

3.1.4 Children Living in Herm and Jethou

Parents/carers of children living in Herm and Jethou must register them at Vauvert Primary School, unless applying for a place at one of the Catholic Voluntary Schools (St. Mary & St. Michael or Notre Dame du Rosaire).

⁶ <https://www.gov.gg/schooladmissions>

⁷ As defined within Part II of the Children (Guernsey and Alderney) Law 2008, as amended.

3.1.5 Registration Documents

The completed registration form must be accompanied by photocopies of the following documents:

1. The passport or driving licence of one parent/carer;
2. A utility bill⁸ for a fixed service, i.e. oil, mains gas, electricity, water, phone line (no more than 3 months old, in the name of that parent/carer and for the address on the registration form); and
3. The child's birth certificate or passport; and
4. For the Catholic Voluntary Schools, the child's Catholic baptism certificate.

If the name of the parent/carer on documents (1) and (2) is not the same as on the child's birth certificate, please provide further documentation (e.g. copy of Marriage Certificate, Court Order etc.).

3.1.6 Allocation of School Places

Priority will be given to children registered within the defined registration period. All registrations received within the registration period will be deemed to have been received at the same time regardless of the actual date/time of receipt.

Registrations received after the registration period will be assessed within the oversubscription categories (i) to (m) outlined below, with priority within each category being based on the order of receipt; the earliest ones being given the highest priority and the latest ones the lowest.

In the event of there being insufficient places at a catchment-based school for reception-age children, places will be allocated taking into account parental/carer preferences as stated on the registration form, according to the following order of priority.

Where there is insufficient capacity to be able to allocate places to all children within a category: -

- for children living within catchment, priority will be based on the distance between home and catchment/alternative schools, ease of access by public transport and the proximity of school bus routes;
- for children living outside of catchment, priority will be given to children whose catchment schools are over-subscribed.

Oversubscription Categories

⁸ The utility bill is used to validate the address on the registration form. Other documentary proof of address may be accepted at the discretion of the School Admissions Team.

- a. ES-OCAPS⁹ Category A placements
- b. Children living within catchment, registered within the registration period, who have on the roll of the school a sibling who will continue to attend that school for the following year
Note: for this category only, the catchment areas of Amherst and Vauvert Primary Schools will be deemed to be combined into a single catchment area.
- c. Children living outside of catchment, registered within the registration period, who have on the roll of the school a sibling who will continue to attend that school for the following year and were allocated a place at that school, instead of their catchment school, at the instigation of The Education Office or the former Education Department (ES-OCAPS/ES-OCAS/ED-OCAS)
- d. ES-OCAPS Category B placements
- e. Children living within catchment, registered within the registration period
- f. Children living outside of catchment, where the request, and the registration for the child, have been received within the registration period, who have on the roll of the school a sibling who will continue to attend that school for the following year and were allocated a place at that school, instead of their catchment school, as a result of a OCAPS request
- g. ES-OCAPS Category C placements
- h. OCAPS placements where the request, and the registration for the child, have been received within the registration period

- i. Children living within catchment, registered after the registration period, who have on the roll of the school a sibling who will continue to attend that school for the following year
- j. Children living outside of catchment, registered (or OCAPS requested) after the registration period, who have on the roll of the school a sibling who will continue to attend that school for the following year and were allocated a place at that school, instead of their catchment school, at the instigation of The Education Office or the former Education Department (ES-OCAPS/ES-OCAS/ED-OCAS)
- k. Children living within catchment, registered after the registration period
- l. Children living outside of catchment, where the request, or the registration for the child, has been received after the registration period, who have on the roll of the school a sibling who will continue to attend that school for the following year and were allocated a place at that school, instead of their catchment school, as a result of an OCAPS request
- m. OCAPS placements where the request, or the registration for the child, has been received after the registration period

⁹ OCAPS: Out of Catchment Area/Partner School. Section 4 details the two types – OCAPS requests and ES-OCAPS (Education-Specified). See section 4.2 for an explanation of ES-OCAPS category A, B and C placements. Out of Partner School requests relate to placement at Secondary School level only.

3.1.7 Notification of School Places

Parents/carers should note that School Admissions Team, at The Education Office, has overall responsibility for determining a school place; acceptance by any school of a registration form does not guarantee a place at that school. It is expected that parents/carers will be informed by the School Admissions Team of their child's allocated primary school by the end of the [Spring Term](#)¹⁰.

3.1.8 Starting School Arrangements for Children Entering their Reception Year

The parents/carers of those children for whom a place is confirmed at a States' primary school or Voluntary school will receive details of the starting arrangements from their child's allocated school.

Whilst there is some discretion for individual schools to determine the exact arrangements for welcoming children into school in their reception year, this policy provides the following framework within which all States' primary schools are required to operate:

- All children are permitted to start school on a full-time basis, including staying for lunch, from their first day at school¹¹. In discussion and in agreement between parents/carers and the school, a child may be removed from school during lunchtimes if appropriate for the child's needs;
- Schools may choose to start children in smaller groups to help ease the transition into school, however, when children start they are permitted to do so on a full-time basis, as set out in (i) above;
- All children should be invited to start school on or before school day 11 of the autumn term. Day 1 is counted as the first day of the Autumn Term¹², which is usually a staff inset day. This means that, in respect of the 2025/2026 academic year, all children should expect to start school on or before Monday 15th September 2025.

Parents/carers who feel that their child will not be ready to start school on a full-time basis should discuss alternative arrangements directly with the school. On an individual basis, a school may offer alternative starting arrangements to those described above to ensure an effective transition into school for all children.

¹⁰ <https://gov.gg/termdates>

¹¹ This is subject to section 1.1 of this Policy which describes the discretionary educational provision made for children who have not yet reached the age of five years.

¹² [Term Dates - States of Guernsey \(gov.gg\)](#)

3.2 Children older than four years: registering for Years 1-6

Parents/carers who wish to register a school-age child for a place in Years 1-6 during the course of the school year should complete a registration form for the child's catchment school, which is available from the [States of Guernsey website](#)¹³ and return it to The Education Office, accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. Where applications are received for the placement of more children than there are places available at a particular school, priority will be determined by a combination of the intended start date and the date of receipt of a fully completed application (with all appropriate supporting documentation), with the earliest-received application being given the highest priority.

Once a place has been confirmed it will normally be held for that child for a maximum period of two months from the intended start date.

If space is not available in the child's catchment school, the School Admissions Team will allocate a place at an alternative school based on all relevant factors it is aware of, including availability of places, distance between home and catchment/alternative schools, ease of access by public transport and the proximity of school bus routes. In such cases parental preference will also be considered but may not always be able to be accommodated.

3.3 Admission to Catholic Voluntary Schools

There are two Catholic Voluntary Primary Schools, namely Notre Dame du Rosaire and St. Mary & St. Michael. These schools do not have defined catchment areas, but generally families living in the North of the Island will attend St. Mary & St. Michael Catholic Primary School and those living in the South will attend Notre Dame du Rosaire Catholic Primary School. Places are intended for children whose parents/carers can demonstrate affiliation to the denomination in whose interest the school is managed, by means of baptismal certificate for the child from a Catholic church.

Parents/carers should follow the same registration processes as outlined in 3.1 or 3.2 (as appropriate in respect of age) above.

Parents/carers of children who are not baptised Catholics but who wish their child to attend these schools should make a request for an Out of Catchment Area/Partner School (OCAPS). For reception-age children such requests must be received before the end of the defined registration period. Their child will usually only be considered for a place if there is no space available within the catchment school for that child or in other circumstances by exception. Consideration will also be given to the efficient use of resources across the education system in alignment with the Education (Guernsey) Law 1970.

¹³ <https://gov.gg/schooladmissions>

If there are insufficient places at either school, places will be allocated according to the following order of priority. Where there is insufficient capacity to be able to allocate places to all children within a category, priority will be based on the distance between home and the relevant school as applicable within that category.

- a. Children registered within the registration period, who have on the roll of the school a sibling who will continue to attend that school for the following year
- b. ES-OCAPS category B placements
- c. For children registered for St. Mary & St. Michael Primary, those registered within the registration period, living in the north of the Island in the area outlined by the combined catchments of Amherst, Hautes Capelles, La Mare de Carteret and Vale Primary Schools; for children registered for Notre Dame Primary, those registered within the registration period, living in the south of the Island in the area outlined by the catchment areas of the remaining schools; within these north/south areas, children whose catchment schools have a lower proportion of free spaces (calculated as at the “allocation date”, based on planned admission capacity and registrations within categories a-e as defined in section 3.1.6) will have higher priority
- d. Other children registered within the registration period
- e. ES-OCAPS category C placements
- f. Children registered after the registration period

Where a place is allocated in a Voluntary school, either through the admission process or via an OCAPS request, and subsequently the parent/carer would like to move the child to their catchment school, a new OCAPS request will need to be made to the School Admissions Team following the process set out in section 4.0 below.

4.0 Out of Catchment Area/Partner School (OCAPS) - Admission to a School Outside a Child's Catchment Area/Partner School

4.1 Requested by Parent/Carer

4.1.1 Making an OCAPS Request

It is recognised that in certain situations parents/carers may have valid reason for requesting their child attends a school other than the one in the catchment area in which the parent or carer resides. For children moving from Year 6 into secondary-level education in the following year, it is possible to request a place at a school other than the Partner School associated with the child's current Primary School. The same form, evaluation process and appeals mechanism are used within both contexts.

Please also refer to the document “The circumstances in which a request for an Out of Catchment Area/Partner School (OCAPS) placement may be agreed” (available on the [States of Guernsey website](#)¹⁴).

If parents/carers wish to request a placement in a school outside their catchment area, they will need to demonstrate why it would be unreasonably detrimental to the child’s education to attend the allocated catchment school. These are referred to as OCAPS (Out of Catchment Area/Partner School) requests. All requests should be made in writing or by e-mail to the School Admissions Team (contact details in section 9.0).

- **For children expected to join a reception class in September 2025 the request should be received by the end of the registration period (see Section 3.1.1) in order to be considered within the main allocation process.** Although requests can be made after the registration period has ended it is less likely that they will be granted as places may already have been allocated to others
- All other requests may be made at any time

4.2 Education-Specified (ES-OCAPS) (when a child is allocated an alternative placement at a school other than their catchment school)
There are a number of scenarios within which the School Admissions Team may allocate a child a place at a school other than their catchment school/partner school. These are categorised as:

- A. Formal assessment of Special Educational Needs necessitating attendance at a specific school
- B. A child “at risk”¹⁵ or in the care of the States (“Looked After Child”)
- C. Where there is under- or over-subscription (i.e. too few children for a class group to be viable or economic or too many children for a catchment school’s/partner school’s planned intake capacity) or other exceptional circumstances

These are referred to as ES-OCAPS placements. Children who transfer between schools under special arrangements agreed with parents and between schools (known as Managed Moves) are not deemed to be ES-OCAPS placements.

4.3 Relative Priority of ES-OCAPS Placements and OCAPS Requests
Category ‘A’ and ‘B’ ES-OCAPS placements may, where necessary, be given priority over all other children, even where this means that it might not be possible to accommodate a child living within catchment.

¹⁴ <https://gov.gg/schooladmissions>

¹⁵ As defined within section 23 of the Children (Guernsey & Alderney) Law 2008.

4.4 ES-OCAPS Placements and Siblings

Once a child has been deemed an ES-OCAPS placement, siblings subsequently attending the same primary school while an ES-OCAPS child remains on the school roll will also inherit the same ES-OCAPS status. Previous placements by The Education Office (ES-OCAPS/OCAS) or the Education Department (ED-OCAS) have the same status as ES-OCAPS placements.

4.5 Appeals Against an ES-OCAPS Placement

Parents/carers have the right to make representations against an ES-OCAPS placement. The grounds on which these may be considered are detailed within the document “The circumstances in which an Education-Specified Out of Catchment Area/Partner School (ES-OCAPS) placement may be contested” which is available on the [States of Guernsey website](#)¹⁶.

4.6 Catchment Changes After a Child Starts School

Children whose catchment areas have been changed after they have started at their catchment school will be regarded as having been placed at that school as an ES-OCAPS category C placement.

5.0 Appeals

5.1 The Right of Appeal

There is a defined process for parents/carers to appeal against the placement of their child at a school. Further details of this can be found within the document “School Admission Appeals” on the [States of Guernsey website](#)¹⁷. This would not apply to ES-OCAPS category A placements (where there is already a specific Appeal process).

5.2 Time Period for Appeal

Appeals must be made **within four weeks** of the date of the letter confirming the child’s placement.

6.0 Moving Schools – Changes of Address

When a child's home address changes and subsequently the catchment area to which they move differs to that of their previous address, parents/carers have two options available to them:

1. Submit a request for the child to continue attending the school at which they are currently registered; or

¹⁶ <https://gov.gg/schooladmissions>

¹⁷ <https://gov.gg/schooladmissions>

2. Submit a request for the child to transfer into their actual catchment school, based on the new address.

All transfer requests or requests for continued attendance where address has changed should be sent to the School Admissions Team in writing or by e-mail (see 9.0 for contact details) and should be accompanied by documentary proof of the child's new address. This will be either a utility bill (no older than three months), signed tenancy agreement, a court document confirming proof of ownership of a property, or a Residence Order.

6.1 Children Due to Start Reception or Currently Registered in Year 6

If a child registered for Reception or currently within Year 6 changes address and subsequently moves into a different catchment area before being formally notified (by The Education Office) of their school placement parents/carers should advise the School Admissions Team as soon as possible, using the contact details in Section 9.0, in order that the child's placement may be considered with the other children registered at their new catchment school.

If a child registered for Reception or currently within Year 6 changes address and subsequently moves into a different catchment area after being formally notified (by the School Admissions Team) of their school placement the child may attend the school as notified on their formal confirmation letter (issued by the School Admissions Team) or request a place at the relevant school for their new address, which will be granted if space is available.

7.0 Moving to Guernsey

Parents/carers moving to Guernsey should refer to the [States of Guernsey website](#)¹⁸ and contact the School Admissions Team for guidance on, and assistance with, the placement of their child(ren). Where applications are received for the placement of more children than there are places available, priority will be determined by the date of receipt of fully completed applications (with all appropriate supporting documentation), with the earliest-received application being given the highest priority of those. The placement of primary-age children will be on the same basis as the processes outlined within section 3 above.

Once a place has been confirmed it will normally be held for that child for a maximum period of two months from the intended start date.

¹⁸ <https://www.gov.gg/movingtoguernsey>

7.1 If a Catchment School Place is Unavailable

Should it not be possible to allocate a place at a child's catchment school, the School Admissions Team will allocate a place at an alternative school based on all relevant factors known to it at that time, including the availability of places, distance between home and catchment/alternative schools, ease of access by public transport and the proximity of school bus routes. In such cases parental preference will also be considered but may not always be able to be accommodated.

7.2 Additional Learning Needs

Some learners who move to live in Guernsey may have needs that have already been identified. They may have a Plan, for example an Education, Health and Care Plan (England), or a Record of Need (Jersey). Plans from elsewhere do not have direct effect in Guernsey but the information contained is valuable in ensuring the fullest picture of children and young people who are new to the Island.

Any additional learning needs should be made known by the parents when applying for a place in an education setting. For States-maintained settings, Education Officers will consider information provided to help identify how the learner can be supported in education in Guernsey. This will include:

- the views of the learner and parents/carers and
- any existing documents (for example assessments and Plans)

Consideration may include Educational Psychologists, other services and settings, as appropriate in the individual circumstances.

If it is identified that the learner's needs might best be supported in an educational setting/establishment that particularly specialises in supporting ALN, a short-term assessment placement may be offered (this is usually for two terms). This is to ensure that learners who are new to the Island are placed in the most appropriate educational setting/establishment. Evidence gathered during an assessment placement will help inform if the learner requires to go forward to Formal Assessment. Most will, but some might not, depending on the individual circumstances.

Further information on how schools and services provided by the States of Guernsey should give help to children with additional learning needs is available here:

[States of Guernsey website](#)¹⁹

7.3 Out of Year Group Requests

Children are not usually placed out of year group for their age unless, through consultation with educational professionals there is sufficient evidence that it would be detrimental to

¹⁹ <https://gov.gg/article/3083/The-Code-of-Practice-and-Graduated-Response>

the child's education not to do so Please refer to the Committee's Out Of Year Group Policy on the [States of Guernsey website](#)²⁰ for further information about this process and how to make an application.

8.0 Leaving Guernsey or a States-maintained School

If it is known that a child will be leaving school before they reach the age of 16, parents/carers should advise the child's school in writing or by e-mail of this as soon as possible. This enables improved planning for their place to be reallocated to another child.

9.0 Requests, Queries and Guidance

Please use the following contacts for requests and queries relating to Admissions:

In writing: School Admissions Team
 Sir Charles Frossard House
 La Charroterie
 St. Peter Port
 Guernsey
 GY1 1FH

By e-mail: schooladmissions@gov.gg

By phone: +44 (0)1481 224000

²⁰ <https://gov.gg/schooladmissions>