

Primary school enrolment

Any child who turns six by 30 September is required to attend school from 1 August of the same year. This means that all children who turn six by 30 September 2027 are required to attend school from 1 August 2027 and will start school in the 2027/2028 academic year.

Is your child due to start school in the 2027/2028 school year? Here you will find all the important information you need about enrolling at a primary school in Bocholt.



How do I get the enrolment documents for my child?

The town of Bocholt sent out the enrolment documents for children starting school in the 2027/2028 academic year in September 2026. If you have not received these documents, please contact [kirsten.eiting\(at\)bocholt\(dot\)de](mailto:kirsten.eiting(at)bocholt(dot)de). You must submit the enrolment documents when registering at the school.



When do I need to enrol my child?

Enrolment at primary schools in Bocholt for the 2027/2028 school year will take place during the following periods:

5 to 16 October 2026

2 to 11 November 2026

Please make an appointment well in advance in September for an enrolment interview with your chosen primary school. Appointments are arranged by the respective school.

You can find an [overview of primary schools in Bocholt](#), including their enrolment periods and contact details, here.



Which primary school can I choose for my child?

In principle, you can enrol your child at a primary school of your choice.

Under Section 46(3) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Education Act, every child is entitled to a place at the primary school of the desired type in their local authority area that is closest to their home, provided the school has sufficient capacity.

You may also enrol your child at a different primary school. However, admission there is only possible if the school has sufficient capacity.

Important: You may only enrol your child at one primary school.



What do I need to bring with me to the school on the enrolment day?

You and your child should attend the enrolment interview together at the primary school of your choice.

Please bring the following documents with you:

- the enrolment form, fully completed and signed by all legal guardians
- the family register or the child's birth certificate
- the identity documents of the legal guardians
- the educational documentation from the childcare centre, if this is already available



What applies in the case of sole custody?

In cases of sole custody, registration must be carried out by the parent with sole custody. Please bring appropriate proof of this, such as a **certificate of custody**, with you to the registration appointment.



What happens if there are more applications than school places?

If more children are enrolled at a primary school than there are places available, the school will carry out an admissions process.

Priority is given to children who are resident in the local authority area. The school management will first consider cases of hardship.

In addition, the following criteria in particular may be taken into account when deciding on admission:

- Siblings already attending the school
- Journey to school
- Attendance at a nursery near the school

- A balanced ratio of girls to boys
- A balanced ratio of pupils from different linguistic backgrounds

In the event of an excess of applications at a **Catholic denominational primary school**, priority is given to children of the relevant faith.



What types of schools are there in Bocholt?

In Bocholt there are:

- **Community primary schools**
- **Catholic denominational primary schools**

At Catholic denominational primary schools, children are taught and brought up in accordance with the principles of the Catholic faith.

At community primary schools, children are taught and brought up together on the basis of Christian educational and cultural values, with an openness to Christian denominations as well as to other religious and philosophical beliefs.

The **Maria Montessori School** is a community primary school. Teaching and upbringing there are based on the principles of the Montessori method.



What applies to primary schools with multiple sites?

In the case of primary schools with multiple sites, the location of the enrolment interview is not necessarily the same as the location where your child will eventually attend lessons.

The decision as to which site the child will attend is made by the relevant school management as part of the class formation process and subject to available places.



What applies to children with special educational needs?

Special arrangements apply to children with a recognised need for special educational support.

These children are entitled to a place at the primary school in their local area that is closest to their home, of the desired type, as recommended by the school authority, where 'Joint Learning' is in place. Registration is initially carried out via a primary school.



When does the pre-school medical examination take place?

Before a child is admitted to primary school, a health assessment must be carried out.

The pre-school health check is carried out by the Borken District Health Authority.

The Public Health Department will inform parents of the examination date in due course.



What childcare options are available?

A range of childcare services is available at primary schools in Bocholt.

These include, in particular:

- **Open All-Day School (OGS)** - usually until 4.30 pm
- **Reliable half-day school (VHTS)** - usually until 1.30 pm

You can find out which childcare options are available at each primary school in the overview of Bocholt's primary schools. Further information on [the open all-day programme](#) and the [reliable half-day programme](#) can be found here.



Are pupils' travel expenses covered?

Under certain conditions, the City of Bocholt will cover the necessary costs of your child's journey to school. This is based on the provisions of the North Rhine-Westphalia School Transport Costs Regulation (SchfkVO).

The primary condition for the costs to be covered is that the distance exceeds the limit set out in the SchfkVO. The distance taken into account is that between the child's home and the nearest school of the chosen type to their home. Other criteria - such as proven health restrictions - that affect the reasonableness of the journey to school may also play a role.

Please direct any enquiries regarding school travel costs to: Eva Hungerkamp on 02871/953-2439 or by email to [eva.hungerkamp\(at\)bocholt\(dot\)de](mailto:eva.hungerkamp(at)bocholt(dot)de)

Early school enrolment

The legal basis for early enrolment in North Rhine-Westphalia is **Section 35 of the North Rhine-Westphalia School Act (SchulG NRW)**.

You can obtain further information and the enrolment forms from the Bocholt City Education Authority or directly from the school.

The school management decides on admission.

Deferral of school attendance

Under [Section 35\(3\) of the NRW School Act \(SchulG NRW\)](#), deferral of school attendance in North Rhine-Westphalia is only possible on significant health grounds for a period of one year.

It must be demonstrated that the child's health is so severely affected, or that their development is so impaired, that they are unable to meet the requirements of Year 1.

The decision is taken by the headteacher on the basis of a report from the school medical service (Public Health Department). The parents are consulted by the headteacher before the decision is made.

When will I be notified as to whether my child has been accepted at the school of my choice?

The primary school you have chosen is expected to inform you about your child's admission prospects before the Easter holidays in 2027.

Contact person

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**OVERVIEW OF PRIMARY
SCHOOLS AND
ENROLMENT PERIODS**