CITIZENS PORTAL USER GUIDE

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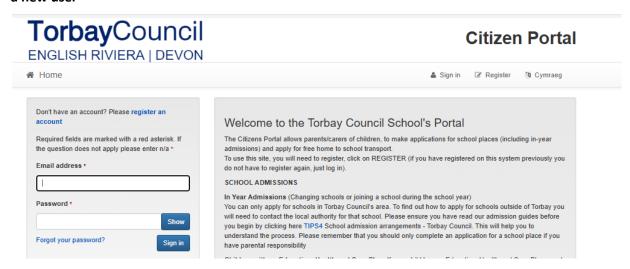
Section 1 Registration and Logging In

If you have registered with this system in the last 2 years, you may already have an account, and you should follow the process for logging in by entering your email address and the password you would have created.

If you are a first-time user of this site, you will need to register on the system before you can login.

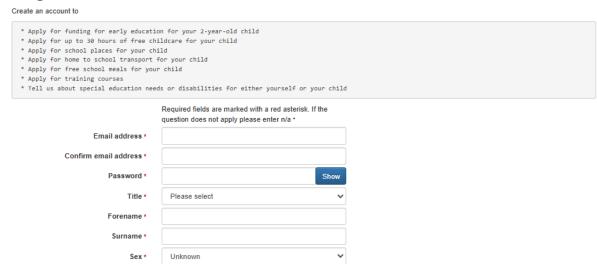
You can find the registration button located at the top right-hand side of the screen. registering as

a new user



You must complete the requested field in full detail, ensuring you have not left any of the fields blank and that your email address you have entered matches.

Register an account



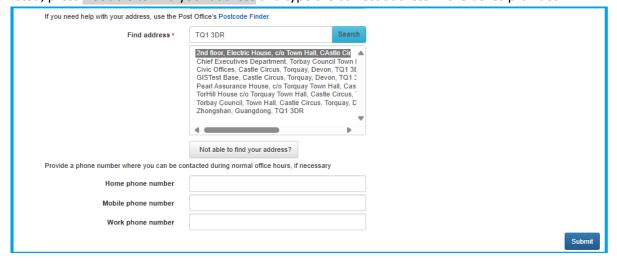
TIP: You need to ensure that your password also matches and meets the following conditions:

- Be a Minimum of 10 characters
- It must contain a minimum of 2 numbers
- It must contain a minimum of 1 lower case character
- It must contain a minimum of 1 upper case character
- · It must contain a minimum of 1 special character

Remember that your password is case sensitive and you should make a note of your password and store it somewhere secure for future use.

You must enter a postcode for your home address. This must be your current home address. Once you have selected your postcode, you are presented with properties, and you can select your address from the drop-down option. If you can't find an address you can enter it manually.

To find your home address please enter your postcode and then click Search. If your address is not listed, press Not able to find your address and type the correct address in the boxes provided.



Please provide us with your contact number where possible as it may delay your application if we need to get hold of you to verify information later in the process.

You can complete the registration process by clicking the **Submit** button.

After submitting your registration, you will receive an email from **OnlineAdmissions@torbay.gov.uk**

TIP: sometimes your email provider may think the email from OnlineAdmissions@torbay.gov.uk is spam/junk email, so please ensure you check your junk/spam folder and allow emails from our email address. *Please note* this email address is just an administrator account and is not an email address that is monitored.

When you receive the email, you need to click on the hyperlink contained within it.

This will then take you to the following scree to confirm your registration was successful.

Thank you for registering

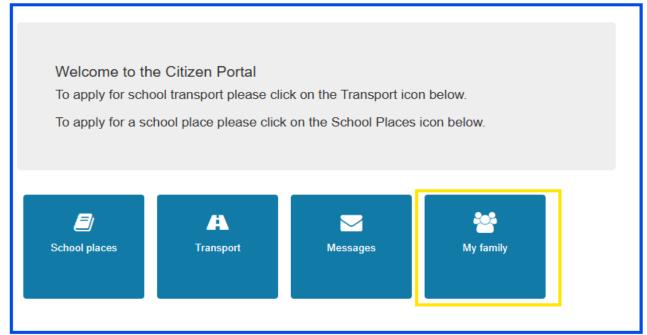
Thank you for confirming your email address. Your registration is now complete. When you sign in, use your email address as your username.

You are now ready to log in to the site using your email address that you have registered and the password you created.

SECTION 2 - ADDING FAMILY MEMBERS

Section 2 – Adding Children

After you have logged in to the portal you are presented with the following screen:



Before making a school application, it is easier to add your child or children by clicking on the My family tile which is highlighted above.



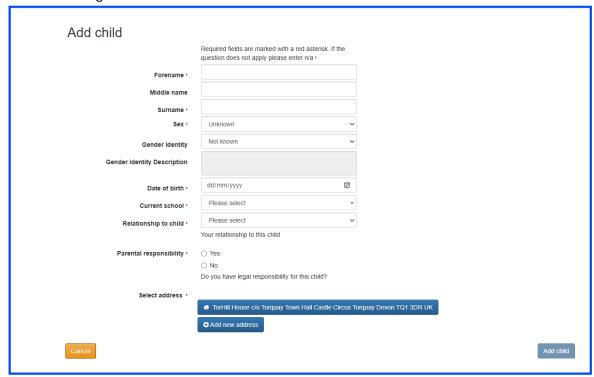
Select the Add Child button to add details of your child.

Complete all the requested fields, ensuring all those marked with a red * are completed. You need to select the address before you can add the child as a family member. Please note that if the child happens to live at a different address you need to click on the add new address button. If the child

lives at the same address as the parent/carer you need to select the address by clicking on the blue button.

You also need to select the radio box to state that you have Parental Responsibility for this child. Please note, if you don't have Parental Responsibility, you should not be applying for a school place of free school meals for that child.

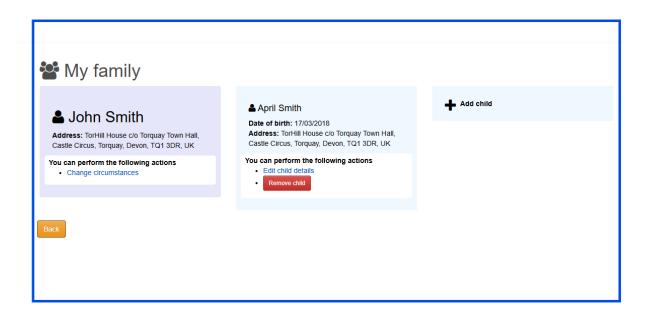
TIP: If you cannot find your child's school in the list of schools, do not panic and just select not known for the time being.



If you have completed all the above information correctly, you will see that the Add Child button in the bottom right hand corner becomes clickable. Click this button to add the child as a family member.

You will see that the child you have added now appears under the My Family Section.

Tip: You can add another child at this stage in case you need to use any of the services later for that child.



Clicking the orange back button or the home button will take you back to the front home screen with the tiles on it.

SECTION 3 - APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL PLACE

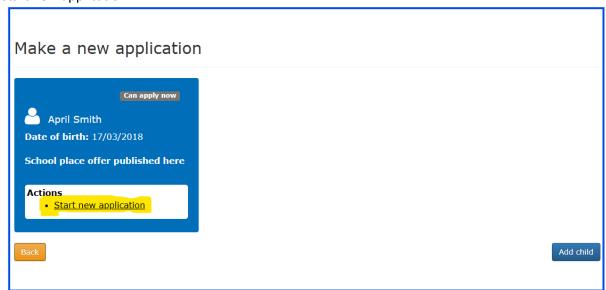
Now you have registered and completed all your details, added a family member, you are able to use the portal to access different services. In this section we will cover applying for a school place.



You need to select the School places tile.

TIP: Before you start your application, it is important that you read the information on the front screen which provides information on the different types of admission applications, the current timescale for processing applications and links to our admission documents and policies which we strongly encourage all applicants read before proceeding to making an application.

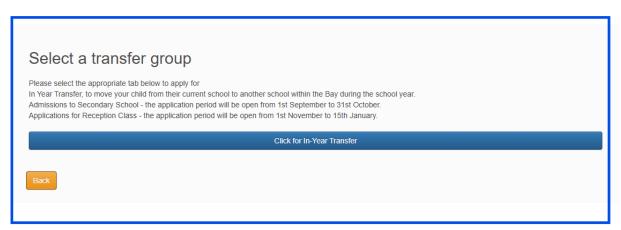
Once you are ready to start the application for a school place you need to select the child and click on start new application



On the next screen you are presented with a screen that is asking you to select a transfer group. The transfer groups presented vary and you will see different options which are dependent on your child's age.

TIP: It is essential you have entered your child's date of birth correctly as this will determine which transfer groups you can make an application under. You will be surprised how many applicants put the child's date of birth as the current year, rather than the year their child was born!

TIP: If you have had a delayed entry request agreed for your child to delay entry by an academic year, you will need to request a paper copy of the application form as currently the system will not recognise your child as being the correct age for starting school and the correct transfer group will not be presented.



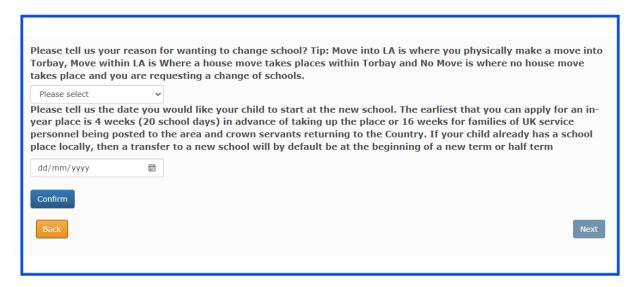
In the example above, this child is eligible to make an application for an In-Year Transfer to move schools within their current year group as an in-year admission (see table below for further information).

Here are a list of transfer groups and the opening/closing dates for them. Please ensure you are selecting the transfer group that is appropriate to your child. If you are unsure you can contact us on 01803208908 for further advice.

Transfer Group	When is it open and who is it for?
In Year Admissions	Open All Year round and available for children from Reception year up to year 11 seeking an immediate school place.
	Anyone wishing to apply for a place in a Torbay School.
Admissions to Secondary School in September 2026	Open from the 1 st September 2025 and closing on the 31 st October 2025 for children that are in year 6 from the 1 st September 2025.
	Torbay residents only (Not Devon, Plymouth, Somerset, Dorset of Cornwall)
Applications for Reception Class in September 2026	Open from the 15 th November 2025 and closes on the 15 th January 2026. For children who will be starting school in September 2026 in Reception Devon residents only (Not Torbay, Plymouth, Somerset, Dorset of Cornwall)

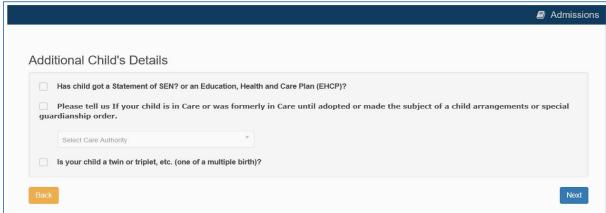
Once you have selected the applicable transfer group you are ready to begin the application process.

The first screen you come to is a screen to help us locate identify the reason of the application and the date you would like your child to start at the new school.



The next step is to provide us with some additional information on your child. It is important that this information is answered as accurately and honestly as possible for us to process your application.

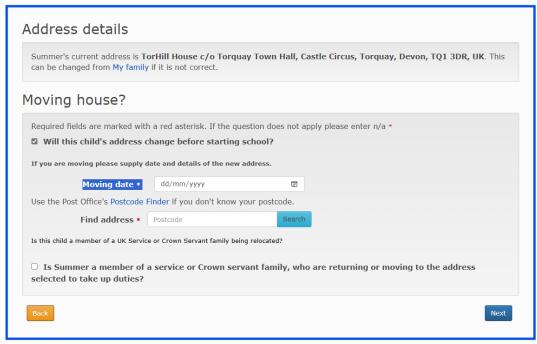
TIP: If your child has an identified Special Educational Need (SEN) and has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) as a result, you may wish to apply for a Special School, you will not be able to use this system to apply for a Special School and you will need to speak to the Torbay Council SEN team to discuss this further. Once you have answered these 3 questions you can proceed by clicking the next button in the bottom right hand corner.



This next section is asking you to check the address of your child. You will note that it is picking up the address which you entered against your child when you created the child's record in the My Family section. It is essential you enter the home address where your child is living at the time of the application.

The 2nd part of this section is asking you to provide us with details if you are moving. Please note that you should only provide us with this moving address and date if it is a definite moving address.

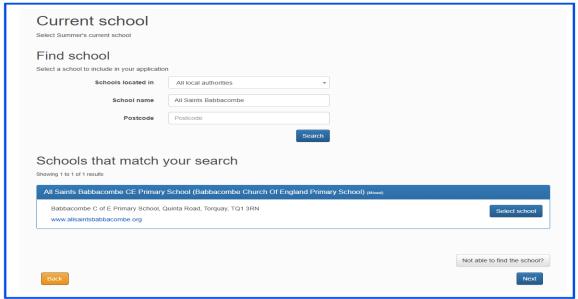
TIP: you will be able to provide us with a moving address later in the process by emailing us this information. If you do not have a confirmed moving address, you should leave this section blank.



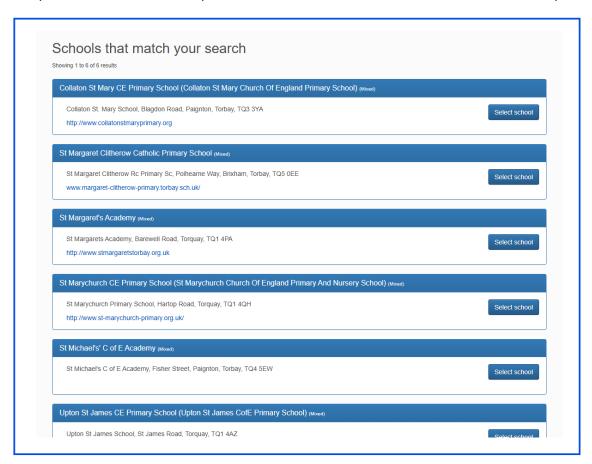
Now you need to tell us which school your child currently attends.

TIP: The easiest way to use the search box here is to ignore the postcode box. The postcode box relates to the postcode for the school and not your home address. You can filter on the Schools Located field (Local Authority) to reduce the number of schools returned. When searching on the school name, you can enter part or the whole of the school name. You will find that sometimes with popular school names, that you are better off taking the 'less is more approach'.

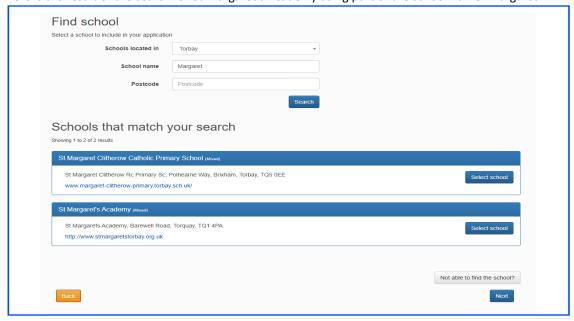
Once your child's current school has come up in the search box below, you need to click select school to set this school as your child's current school.



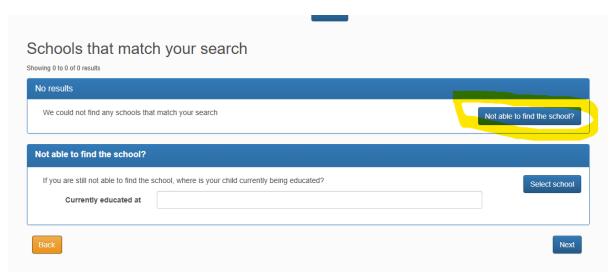
TIP: If you are searching for a school with St in the name, it is quicker and easier to omit the St and put the other part of the school name in, e.g. St Margaret's Academy. Here is an example of how many results will be returned if you choose to search on St in the school name within Torbay Council.



Here is the result of the search for St Margaret's Academy using part of the school name 'Margaret'.

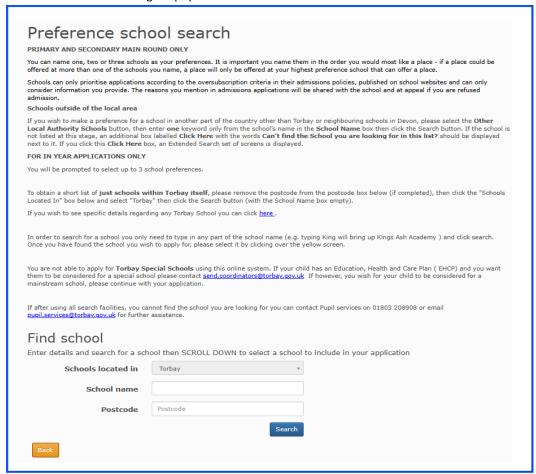


If after exhausting all search options, you still have not been able to successfully find your child's school, please click the button Not able to find the school? And use the free text box at the bottom to tell us your child's school.

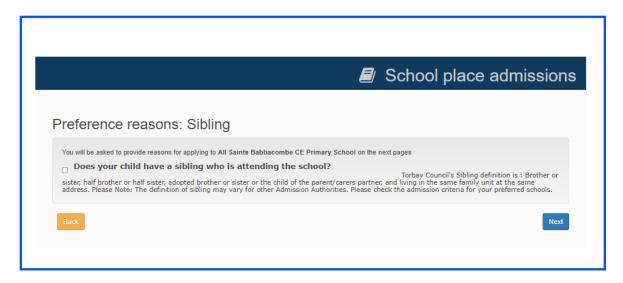


The next section is for you to tell us which schools you would like to express a preference for. You can express a preference for 3 schools, and we would always encourage you to consider using all your preferences.

The search facility operates in the same way as the previous section. So, you need to remember to ignore the postcode box and work using the Local Authority field and the school name. Remember that less is more sometimes when searching for popular names.

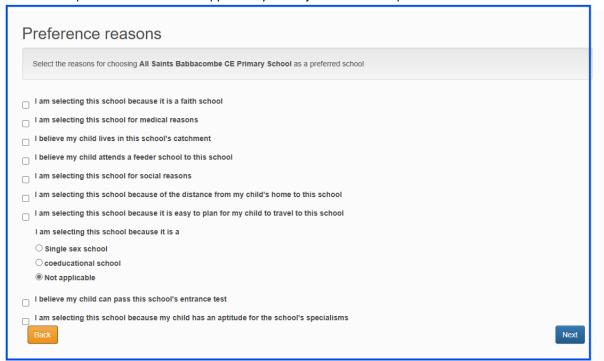


Once you have selected your first preference school and highlighted it you click on it to be presented with the next screen which enables you to notify us if your child has a sibling on roll at the school you are applying for. If they do you need to tick the box and then you will be prompted to provide us with their details. If they don't have a sibling, leave the box blank and click next to continue.



The next screen you are presented with is the preference reasons screen. This is your opportunity to tick the boxes that you believe apply to your application. Please note that not all schools will have these reasons as part of their oversubscription criteria so it is important you read up on the school's oversubscription criteria. If you tick something that isn't part of the oversubscription criteria, it doesn't matter.

If none of the preference reasons are applicable you can just click next to proceed to the next section.



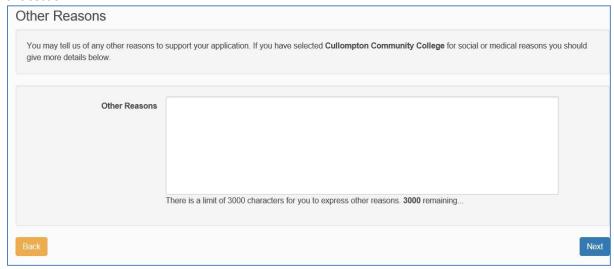
The next section will ask you to confirm whether your child has been issued an Education Health and Care plan. Please be aware that if the student has an EHCP the application will be forwarded to the special education team for processing.



The next section enables you to provide other reasons to support your preference for a place at this school. You can provide up to 3000 characters.

TIP: IF you are applying for a place under exceptional grounds, it is your responsibility to provide evidence of this as the admissions team cannot follow up every application that writes additional reasons in the box. Please ensure you have read the admissions team guidance on this. Please note that not all schools have exceptional medical/social grounds as part of their criteria.

Once you have typed your reasons, click next to continue. Please note that you do not have to put reasons in this section.



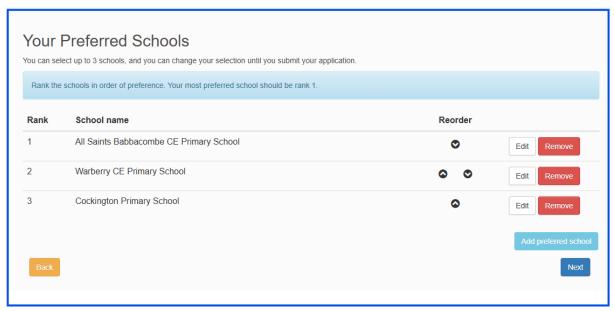
The next screen gives you the opportunity to add another preference. If you wish to add a preference you need to click the add a new preferred school button (highlighted below). If you choose this option you repeat the steps you have just been through and would be presented with the same screens to tell us more information about your preference.

If you have no desire to add further preferences you would click next to continue.

Here is an example of where 3 preferences have been selected on an application.

You will note that options have appeared now which enable you to resort the order of preferences should you wish to make a change before submitting the application. To change the rank order you simply click on the black circles.

Once you are happy with the schools you have selected and the order of the ranking, you will need to click the next button to proceed.

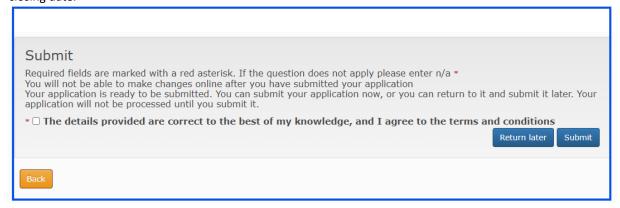


You have reached the last page of the application now. This last page gives you the opportunity to preview your application and make sure you are happy with everything. If you spot something is incorrect or you have missed out some information, you can use the orange back button to go right back through each section. (please note you should not use the back button on your browser as this will result in the loss of your data) Please ensure you take the time to read the terms and conditions and click to state you have read them. Without ticking this box, you will not be able to submit your application.

Once it has been ticked you will be able to submit the application.

Please note that you do have the option to return later to the application, but our advice would be to submit the application and then return to the application and edit it later if you need to.

TIP: for Main round applications - Failure to apply to us before the closing date will mean that you have missed the cut-off point to be considered alongside timely applications. You must submit the application before the closing date.



When you click on submit now you will be faced with a confirmation screen that indicates the application has been submitted successfully. You will also be able to preview a copy of the application and print it. You will also receive a copy of the application to your email address.

SECTION 4 – TROUBLESHOOTING & FAQS

I registered with the site but haven't received an email with the activation link.

Sometimes the email can take up to 30 minutes to be sent, although usually it is instantaneous. Before contacting us, we would suggest you check your junk/spam folder for an email from OnlineAdmissions@torbay.gov.uk

If you haven't received the email after 30 minutes and you have checked the spam/junk email, please send an email to pupil.services@torbay.gov.uk with the words Activation Required in the subject heading and the system support will ensure that they activate your registration within 48 hours and they will send you an email to confirm successful activation.

I have forgotten my password.

You can use the forgotten password to be emailed a new link which will enable you to self-serve and create a new password.

Note: Some users use the forgotten password process and don't receive an email, this is because their account isn't registered when they believe it is. The only accounts registered are accounts that were created after the 1st September 2016, if you had an account prior to this date it would have been reset and therefore you need to follow the steps for registration.

Please remember the password reset email may be in your junk/spam folder, so please check in there before contacting us.

If you have reset your password and the email has not been received, please send an email to pupil.services@torbay.gov.uk with the subject marked as 'password reset'. We will respond to you and reset the password within 48 hours.

I can't find a school that I wish to apply for

This is covered in detail in section 3. Common problems are users trying to put in too much detail in the school name field or they are entering their home postcode as they assume this is what is required.

Another common error is that users are on the screen before the preference screen and the screen before is asking for them to find the school they currently attend. Please ensure you are on the preference school screen before searching for schools that you wish to apply for.

You need to leave the postcode box blank as this is the postcode of the school you are applying for and NOT your home postcode.

Search using the Local Authority box in the middle (use it to filter and narrow your results down) and the school name box.

Since making my application I no longer have access to the email that I registered and wish to change my email address.

If you log back into our portal by visiting https://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/admissions/moving-schools/ and log in with your old email address and the password you created you will be able to change

update your email address. You need to select **my account** from the top right-hand corner of the screen. You will be prompted to put your new email in twice to ensure they match and to enter your password again.

Once you have done that, you will receive an email to confirm the change and you will be signed out of the system for security purposes, you should now sign into the system using your new email address. Please note that nobody else can change your email address.

I have submitted my application but I have changed my mind and wish to change my preferences.

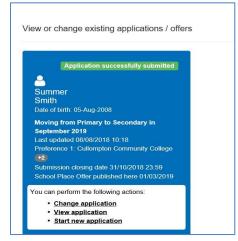
You can make changes to your application if the application window is still open. The table below indicates when the application windows are open and where you can make timely changes to your application without them being considered as late applications or changes of preferences. If you wish to make a change to a preference when the application window is closed, you will need to email the admissions team on pupil.services@torbay.gov.uk and enter the school you are applying for in the subject heading.

Type of Admission	Application Window
Secondary School Transfer – September 2026	1 st September 2025 to the 31 st October 2025
Primary School – Starting School September 2026	15 th November 2025 to the 15 th January 2026
In Year Admissions	All year

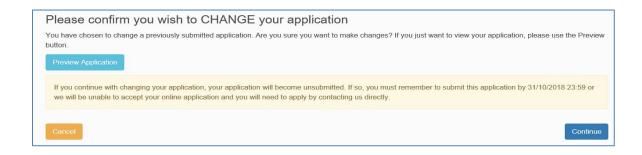
The process for changing your application if the application window is open is simple. You need to log back in to the portal using your email address and password.

Click on the School Places Tile.

You will see the following screen if you scroll down. Note you can only have one application for one child (unless you have an inyear application as well).



If you select change application you will be presented with a warning screen which will inform you that the moment you start editing the application your application becomes unsubmitted until you complete it and submit it again.



Click on continue and it will now open your original application on the front page.

You now need to navigate through each section until you get to the part of the application that you wish to change.

Most applicants will be wanting to edit their preference order or remove and add new preferences

You can use the screen below to make the changes by removing preferences by clicking on the red remove button, editing the preferences and the reasons for them by clicking the white edit button or by changing the order of preferences by using the black circular arrow buttons.



Once you are happy with your applications it is essential you click continue and work your way to the end of the application form until it is submitted. Failure to submit your application may mean your application is not processed.