

Parent Guide- Reception, Infant-Junior & Year 7 School Applications 2015/16

How to make informed and realistic preferences

Stage 1: Begin to research the schools that interest you and your child. A good starting point is the [Sandwell LA website](#) where you can view our Parent Information Booklet (available September 2014). This provides key information on all Sandwell schools.

If you don't have access to the internet, you may contact individual schools to request a prospectus, or better still, a tour of the school. Remember that schools are closed for the summer break between mid July and early September, so you need to make good use of the time available.

Stage 2: When considering your preferences, make sure that they are informed and realistic. In other words – think about how closely you meet the admissions criteria for your preferred school(s) e.g. distance from home to school or siblings already attending the school? Other criteria may also apply e.g. Sporting Aptitude, Religion, Arts/Drama/Music Aptitude.

[You can see each school's admission criteria here](#)

Stage 3: If you are unsure about the admissions process you can contact us on our **Parent Support Line** (0121 569 6765), and speak to one of our Admissions team who will provide you with the support, information and guidance that you need. Alternatively you can email us at annual_schooladmissions@sandwell.gov.uk (for information on annual applications), or if you are applying for a mid year transfer contact us at: midyear_admissions@sandwell.gov.uk

If you want to apply for schools outside your home LA, you are strongly advised to contact the relevant LA to request their own information pack (and any additional forms that may be required).

Stage 4: Attend open evenings at the schools in which you are interested. These usually take place in September and early October. Dates when known will be made available on the [Sandwell LA website](#).

You should now have a clearer idea of which schools to apply for.

Stage 5: You must list all of your preferred schools on your application form, even if they are located outside your home LA.

Stage 6: You may need to supply additional information for certain schools. These supplementary forms can be downloaded from our website from mid September (Sandwell schools only).

Stage 7:

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

Apply for a school place. Visit our [website](#) to complete an application form (open 15 September 2014).

Stage 8: When you have completed all of these stages your home LA will then consider your preferences after the closing date (see table below).

Stage 9: You will be informed of the outcome of your application by your home LA during the first week of March (for Year 7 secondary applications) and on 16 April 2015 for reception / year 3 junior applications). If you are not satisfied with the offer, you should contact the Admissions team who will advise you on the options which may be available to you but **we strongly advise that you accept the school offered**. This will not affect your right of appeal should you decide to do so, but it will ensure that your child has a secured school place.

Timeline for applications

Subject	Primary	Secondary
Application can be submitted from:	15 September 2014	15 September 2014
Deadline for return of all applications: (Failure to return your form by the due date is likely to affect the outcome of your application)	15 January 2015	31 October 2014
Decision e-mails to online applicants:	16 April 2015	2 March 2015
Decision letter to applicants applying on paper forms (posted 2nd class):	16 April 2015	2 March 2015
Date by which you must confirm acceptance of school offer:	30 April 2015	17 March 2015
Any appeal should be received by this date (20 school days following notification that application was unsuccessful):	15 May 2015	30 March 2015
Appeals take place:	June 2015 onwards	May 2015 onwards

Frequently Asked Questions

There are always a lot of rumours or myths around about the school admissions process, and many parents find it hard to determine what is true and what is false. So what are the facts?

Q. "Do Sandwell Schools have catchment areas?"

A. None of Sandwell's schools (with the exception of Wood Green Academy and Holly Lodge), have a catchment area. Though home to school distance

forms a key part of all Sandwell schools admissions criteria, it is important to remember that distance (i.e. the furthest distance that an applicant lived from their preferred school but was still offered a place), will vary from year to year dependent upon how many people apply and where they live. As a guide to what has happened in previous years refer to our [admissions booklet](#) (available September 2014)

Q. Are school places allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis?

A. No, all places are allocated depending on how closely you meet the criteria for that school (but you must also ensure that your application is on time).

Q. "I don't want my child to go to a "bad" school"

A. The vast majority of Sandwell schools have now been graded as satisfactory or above following Ofsted inspections. Each school has pupils who achieve very high standards academically. However, a good or a poor reputation can often be gained by schools based on evidence/memories from years gone by. Things can change in schools very quickly, so a school that you went to 20 years ago may be very different to the school as it is today. Also, many people look at GCSE results tables to see how well a school is performing - however, this is only an *indicator* of a schools performance and *does not* give the complete picture. Unless you have personal experience (and even if you have), we advise that you go and visit the schools.

Q. "Catholic schools are only for Catholic children"

A. This is not true. Baptised Catholic children do get priority for places in Catholic schools, but if there are places still available then non-baptised children can be offered a place.

Q. "Some schools don't accept applications from certain areas of Sandwell"

A. You can apply to any school within, or outside of, Sandwell. Schools cannot refuse to offer a place to someone because of where they live. Your application can only be refused if the school is oversubscribed and more people meet the oversubscription criteria better than you.

Q. "What if I want to apply for a school in a different local authority?"

A. If you are a Sandwell resident and you want your child to go to a school outside Sandwell, you must still list the school on your Sandwell application. We will liaise with the relevant local authority regarding your application.

What happened last year (September 2014/15)

Information based on offer days.

Reception

School	Admission Number	Preferences (1-6)	Places Offered	Furthest Distance (2014/15)	Furthest Distance (2013/14)
Abbey Infant	90	207	90	0.605	0.702
Albert Pritchard Infant	60	125	60	0.998	0.891
All Saints CE Primary	60	135	60	1.104	N/A
Annie Lennard Infant	30	95	30	0.58	1.168
Bearwood Primary	60	112	59	1.678	N/A
Blackheath Primary	60	103	60	0.535	0.523
Brandhall Primary	60	74	56	N/A	N/A
Brickhouse Primary	30	27	23	N/A	N/A
Burnt Tree Primary	60	45	55	N/A	N/A
Cape Primary	90	115	82	N/A	N/A
Causeway Green Primary	60	63	45	N/A	N/A
Christ Church CE Primary	60	71	60	2.777	N/A
Corngreaves Primary	30	84	30	0.443	0.336
Crocketts Community Academy	60	100	60	4.186	0.362
Devonshire Infant	90	107	90	0.415	0.468
Eaton Valley Primary	60	93	60	2.058	N/A
Ferndale Primary	90	148	89	N/A	2.34
Galton Valley Primary	60	75	60	0.561	0.437
George Betts Primary	60	41	39	N/A	N/A
Glebefields Primary	60	71	51	N/A	N/A
Grace Mary Primary	30	54	30	0.635	0.294
Great Bridge Primary	60	94	60	0.475	N/A
Grove Vale Primary	60	145	60	1.076	4.537
Guns Village Primary	60	100	60	0.385	0.519
Hall Green Primary	60	63	44	N/A	N/A
Hamstead Infant	60	76	38	N/A	N/A
Hargate Primary	60	52	39	N/A	N/A
Harvills Hawthorn Primary	60	67	58	N/A	N/A
Hateley Heath Primary	60	77	57	N/A	N/A
Highfields Primary	60	98	60	0.932	0.911
Holy Name RC Primary	30	90	30	0.334	0.795
Holy Trinity CE Primary	60	65	56	N/A	N/A
Holyhead Primary	30	41	21	N/A	1.734
Joseph Turner Primary	60	64	42	N/A	N/A
Jubilee Park Academy	30	42	25	N/A	0.372
King George V Primary	30	62	30	0.846	N/A
Langley Primary	60	83	53	N/A	N/A
Lightwoods Primary	30	213	30	0.265	0.24
Lodge Primary	60	43	30	N/A	N/A
Lyng Primary	60	72	52	N/A	1.484
Mesty Croft Academy	60	95	60	0.612	2.655
Moat Farm Infant	120	209	120	0.698	1.468
Moorlands Primary	30	60	30	0.300	0.211
Newtown Primary	30	46	30	0.292	1.234
Oakham Primary	60	136	60	0.502	0.674
Ocker Hill Infants	60	87	60	1.067	0.343
Old Hill Primary	30	49	30	0.677	0.335

School	Admission Number	Preferences (1-6)	Places Offered	Furthest Distance (2014/15)	Furthest Distance (2013/14)
Old Park Primary	90	163	90	0.827	0.411
Park Hill Primary	30	62	30	0.298	0.330
Pennyhill Primary	90	119	90	5.594	0.819
Perryfields Primary	60	79	40	N/A	N/A
Reddal Hill Primary	60	55	38	N/A	N/A
Rood End Primary	60	45	52	N/A	N/A
Rounds Green Primary	60	92	60	1.545	0.612
Rowley Hall Primary	90	94	70	N/A	N/A
Ryders Green Primary	60	76	60	2.606	N/A
Sacred Heart Primary	16	31	16	1.195	1.685
Shireland Hall Primary Academy	90	90	71	N/A	N/A
Silvertrees Academy	90	115	90	1.174	0.855
Springfield Primary	60	79	58	N/A	N/A
St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary	30	108	30	Full on other criteria	0.346
St Gregory's RC Primary	30	123	30	Full on other criteria	0.258
St Hubert's RC Primary	30	148	30	Full on other criteria	0.222
St James' CE Primary	60	63	57	N/A	N/A
St John Bosco RC Primary	30	106	30	0.424	0.309
St John's CE Primary	30	31	24	N/A	N/A
St Margaret's CE Primary	30	90	30	0.252	2.124
St Martin's CE Primary	30	71	30	0.224	N/A
St Mary Magdalene CE Primary	30	90	30	0.447	0.581
St Mary's RC Primary	30	62	30	1.352	0.678
St Matthew's CE Primary	30	64	30	0.342	0.243
St Paul's CE Primary	30	70	30	0.467	1.015
St Philip's RC Primary	30	46	30	0.788	0.398
Summerhill Primary	120	138	97	N/A	N/A
Tameside Primary	90	66	70	N/A	N/A
Temple Meadow Primary	60	48	37	N/A	N/A
The Priory Primary	30	52	30	0.224	N/A
Timbertree Primary	30	38	28	N/A	1.521
Tividale Community Primary	60	131	60	0.467	0.406
Tividale Hall Primary	60	134	60	0.381	0.645
Uplands Manor Primary	120	168	120	4.792	N/A
Victoria Park Academy	60	115	60	1.183	0.503
Warley Infant	60	147	60	0.582	1.037
Wednesbury Oak Academy	60	79	48	N/A	N/A
Whitecrest Primary	30	84	30	0.743	1.171
Yew Tree Primary	75	90	75	4.815	N/A

Infant to Junior (NCY3)

School	Admission Number	Preferences (1-6)	Places Offered	Furthest Distance (2014/15)	Furthest Distance (2013/14)
Abbey Junior	90	117	90	1.638	N/A
Bleakhouse Junior	60	74	58	N/A	N/A
Devonshire Junior	90	103	90	1.298	N/A
Hamstead Junior	60	62	59	1.855	N/A
Moat Farm Junior Trust	120	115	100	N/A	N/A
Ocker Hill Academy	60	68	60	1.273	N/A
Tipton Green Junior	90	84	86	N/A	N/A
Wood Green Junior	60	64	60	1.135	0.499

Secondary (NCY7)

School	Admission Number	Preferences (1-6)	Places Offered	Furthest Distance (2014/15)	Furthest Distance (2013/14)
The ACE Academy	300	324	261	N/A	N/A
Bristnall Hall Academy	190	362	190	N/A	N/A
George Salter Academy	200	491	200	*N/A	*N/A
Holly Lodge High School	240	363	280	N/A	N/A
Oldbury Academy	310	709	310	2.611	2.651
Ormiston Forge Academy	310	257	203	N/A	N/A
Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy	180	249	202	N/A	N/A
Perryfields High School	240	631	240	1.346	2.733
Phoenix Collegiate	360	281	238	N/A	N/A
Q3 Academy	180	527	180	1.200	1.185
RSA Academy	180	347	180	1.638	0.915
Sandwell Academy	180	1349	180	*N/A	*N/A
Shireland Collegiate Academy	195	388	195	*N/A	*N/A
St Michael's CE High	240	399	240	1.616	1.225
Stuart Bathurst RC High	150	271	131	N/A	3.892
Wodensborough Ormiston Academy	230	279	185	N/A	N/A
Wood Green Academy	256	742	256	0.814	0.803

* Due to using a banding system this information is not available.