Transferring to Secondary School

Guidance for Parents & Carers

Pan-London Co-ordination

- All London boroughs and some of the surrounding boroughs participate
- Around 90,000 children applying across London; over 20,000 apply to schools outside their own borough
- Parents receive no more than one offer on 1 March

The strong performance of Merton secondary schools

- Attainment is above national averages
- All Merton secondary schools are judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted
- Increasingly, parents are naming a Merton school as the one they most want their child to attend
- Find out more about Merton schools by visiting their websites
- Further details of each school's open evening events can be found on school websites

Making Applications

- Maximise the chance of being offered a school you are happy with by using all six preferences
- Include Merton schools and any out-borough schools on the same application
- Obtain school prospectuses and visit school websites to find out about school open evenings
- Consider your likely chances of success. Pay attention to each school's criteria and how places have been offered in the past

Making applications continued

- Use your preferences as a wish list but make sure some are realistic. If you do not get one of your higher preferences, you automatically go on the waiting list
- If you already have a child attending a school you are applying for, make sure you name them on your application
- Apply online and ensure your application is submitted by the closing date (31 October)
- Any information on your application, including the address you use, will be checked

Deadlines

- 31 October is a national closing date
- Changes of address can be considered up to 7 December
- Deadlines for supplementary forms or test registrations may be different – check with the schools you are applying for

How the Offer Process Works

- Schools do not know your preference order
- Applications are ranked solely according to the admissions criteria for the school
- If you are eligible for more than one school, the higher preference of these will be offered
- Those who are not eligible for any of their preferences will receive an alternative offer

After Offer Day

- If you don’t get your first preference school, don’t panic
- Read the outcome text fully
- Don’t reject an offer without an alternative school place secured
- Remain on waiting lists
- Appeal for preferred schools

2026 In Numbers

- 67% of Merton parents received a first preference offer
- 90% received one of their top three preferences
- 95% received one of their six preferences
- 99% of Merton parents made their application using the online system

Help & Support

- Information about the admissions process is available from your home authority website. For Merton this can be found at www.merton.gov.uk/admissions
- Detailed enquiries which cannot be answered from the website information can be made to Merton on 020 8274 4906 or admissions@merton.gov.uk