



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.





SJF destinations 2026



• Wimbledon College	13	• Harris Morden	1
• Ursuline	18	• Sutton Grammar	1
• The Holy Cross	3	• Wallington Grammar	1
• Richard Challoner	3	• Glenthorne	1
• Raynes Park	2	• Ricards Lodge	1
• Rutlish	2	• London Oratory	1
• Coombe Boys	2	• Greenshaw	1
• Coombe Girls	5		





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

