

Applying for Secondary School.

You can (and should) apply for up to 6 schools. If you do not meet the criteria for your 1st choice, you will be considered for your second and so on. If the LA 'run out' of options your child will be allocated a place at the closest school, with a space available, at the end of the process. This could be anywhere in the borough!

DO NOT press submit until you are 100% sure. It is NOT first come first served, you have time to get this right.

**Please consider this document as a guide only.
The application process is a complicated one!
This has been created in the absence of parent meetings. If you have any questions, please contact either the primary or secondary school. If you have more generic questions you can contact me at**

Liz_stevenson@sandwell.gov.uk

Or check sandwell.gov.uk

Experience

Nothing beats your own experience of a school. You should (when we can!) visit as many schools as possible, especially if they are on your 'no list'! The worst thing that can happen here is that your initial thoughts are confirmed. There is always a chance you could change your mind though. Your views of a school should match your family needs. Not others, our children are all individuals and will need/want different approaches.

Criteria

Your application will be considered on an individual basis, but the following criteria will (generally) be considered in this order:

- 1) Is your child in public care?
- 2) Does your child have a medical condition that can only be met by a specific school? (where applicable)
- 3) Denominational consideration (where applicable)
- 4) Does your child have a sibling in school? (not applicable in all schools)
- 5) Distance, as the crow flies, between your home and the school? (slightly different criteria for Sandwell Academy)

Ofsted

Do consider Ofsted grading, if you wish. However, remember, the criteria this organisation use is very broad. Your decision is based on your family needs.

Extra forms

Some schools require extra forms to be sent, pre-application closing date.

Travel

Consider the journey to school rather than the distance. Even if your plan is to drive your child to school, they may not always want this!