



28th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Admission to Secondary School – September 2022

As your child is now in Year 6, they are approaching the end of their Key Stage 2 primary education. The normal process is for them to move on to secondary school in September 2022. As there is no Nishkam Secondary School in Wolverhampton, it is important for parents to understand and adhere to the school admission process. By now all parents should have received a letter from the City of Wolverhampton Council or the Authority they live in if outside Wolverhampton, notifying them of the application process.

For the majority of our families, it is their first experience and rightly can be quite a daunting one too, choosing the right school for your child is an important decision to have to make.

We would like to offer you some tips on things to look for when you are choosing a secondary school to help you consider your choices:

- Most importantly ensure your application is submitted on time – make a note of the application deadline. It is important your application is made before the 31st October 2021.
- Make a list of the schools you may be interested in and check out the dates when they will be holding open days/evening, virtual tours.
- Check the school admission criteria as some schools require you to complete a supplementary form as well as completing the online application form.
- Look at the catchment areas. It may be that because you are out of the catchment area for a particular school it does not necessarily prevent you from getting in, so they still might be worth considering. Also, not all schools have a catchment area. Some voluntary aided schools such as faith schools, academies and free schools do not use catchment areas in their admission rules – get more information on their admission policy by contacting the school directly.
- School Ofsted report may be of interest, sometimes the report does not reflect everything the school is doing and achieving, do be mindful of the date when the report was published.
- You may wish to look at the school league tables and compare school with other schools.
- Look at the school website.
- If you wish to apply for a school outside your residing authority, please check the process with the appropriate authority.

- Some schools, voluntary, faith or academies ask for supplementary information, ensure this is submitted on time.

You can research and read as many documents as you like but having a feel of the school is an invaluable experience. Due to Covid-19 each school will have their own criteria, contact the school to establish what their plans are.

When visiting a school, whether in person or virtual, things to think about are:

- Be prepared, what is important to you and your child, whether it is sports, drama, technology, traditional academic subjects.
- Take your child with you as they will be spending their next 5 years or even more there.
- Discuss the visit, listen to them, ask how they feel about the school, what did they like and what did they dislike.
- The staff at the school will be more than happy to answer your questions, don't be afraid to ask.
- Listen to the Headteacher's speech, in most schools the Headteacher will talk about why they think it is the best school for your child.
- You may want to ask questions about the food, the school canteen/eating areas, etc.
- Logistics: Just how easy is it to get to and from the school? It is it walkable, is there a safe cycle route, is there public transport or would you drive them there.
- Word of mouth – ask other parents what their thoughts and experiences are of the school.
- You may wish to consider before the start of school, lunch time and after school clubs whether they are available and if they are of interest to your child.

Your child is about to make this seemingly huge transition from primary to secondary school. It is an important time for them (and you!), it's important to remember that what best suits one child may not necessarily suit another.

Made your decision?

Then it's time to apply. The online application system opened on 8th September 2021. You are allowed to express up to **five** preferred schools, we encourage you to use all five preferences, to ensure you are allocated a school of your choice.

Applications need to be made before the deadline **31st October 2021**. Applications are to be made through the online admissions system used by the City of Wolverhampton Council. For any year 6 pupils who live in other Boroughs, their parents will need to apply directly to their home LA.

When making your application you should include any school for which you wish to express a preference, including any schools that are situated outside Wolverhampton but not any independent, fee paying schools or Thomas Telford School

Please note any child with an existing Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) does not apply through Mainstream School Admissions, but Parents can contact the SENSTART Team on 01902 555961 for further information.

Important information about Wolverhampton schools and the admission processes are contained in the 'Secondary Education in Wolverhampton' booklet which is available online on the council website www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/admissions. It is important that you read the booklet carefully, it will help you make an informed decision about which schools you wish to express preferences for.

We understand many of our children have been working hard preparing for the 11+ entry assessment. Please check with each school, their process for reporting test results prior to making your decision on a school, as these results will impact on your child's chances of being accepted.

If you have any queries then please contact School Admissions, telephone 01902 551122. Alternatively, you may wish to contact Mrs Latif who is also available to support you.

Wishing you all the very best!

Yours sincerely



Mr H Dhanjal
Head Teacher