

Transferring to Secondary School

This is an exciting and important time for you and your child. You will need lots of information so you can make an informed decision about which school you would prefer your child to attend.

Remember that:

- You must apply even if you already have a child in the school.
- You must apply on time.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are my child's chances of getting their preferred school?

Last year 84% were initially offered their highest ranked preference school. Over 94% were offered one of their three preferences. Historical information for the previous 5 intakes can be found on our website at www.bury.gov.uk/admissionssecondary.

If I just apply for one school will this increase my chances of getting that school?

No. It is important to name 3 schools and to put them in ranking order. Where only one preference is given, consideration can only be given to that school. Do not waste preferences by stating the same school more than once.

What is my catchment area?

The catchment area that you reside in will be printed on the letter you receive. Maps of the catchment areas can be found on our website at www.bury.gov.uk/admissionssecondary or you can contact us directly.

Do I have to state my catchment school as one of my preferences?

It is not compulsory to state your catchment school, however, it may not be possible to offer you a school of your preference (especially if the schools listed are usually oversubscribed). You may find that your nearest schools have been filled with children who did express them as preferences and the only schools with vacancies may not be close to your home.

I don't live in the catchment area, will I get in?

This will depend on demand and how well you match the criteria.

If you need any advice about your child transferring to Secondary School, please contact the Admissions Team on 0161 253 6474 or Admissions@bury.gov.uk

Can I apply to a school outside the area?

Yes you can. You should include the preference on your application. Each LA will then forward your requests to the other relevant LAs. Do not include private or independent schools.

What if I am moving house?

Your new address can only be taken into account if you exchange contracts on a property or if you have a long term rental agreement by 31st October 2020.

Can I change my preferences?

Any alteration can be made up to 31st October 2020 only. If you want to change after this changes may be treated as late preferences.

When will I know if my child has got a place?

If you have applied online, you will receive notification by email after 9am on 1st March 2021. For those that have applied by paper form or telephone, notification by letter will be posted on 1st March 2021. If you do not live in Bury but have applied for a Bury school your own LA will notify you.

What if I don't get my first preference?

Your other preferences will be considered and you will be offered a place if one is available. You will be considered for any places that become available due to withdrawals.

What is 'topping up'?

If it has not been possible to offer a place at your highest ranked preference, you will be considered for 'topping-up' if any places become available due to withdrawals. Topping up will be carried out in accordance with the published criteria.

What if I don't get any of my preferences?

If we are unable to offer you a place at any of your preferred schools you will be offered a place at the nearest school with a vacancy. You will be considered for 'topping-up' if places become available and will automatically be added to the waiting list. You can appeal via our website.

How do I apply for an Independent/Private school?

These schools should be approached directly to find out the admission policies, procedures and costs of

sending your child to that school. Please do not state independent schools on your application.

Where can I find examination results?

These are published in the school prospectus or can be found in the OFSTED inspection reports available at www.ofsted.gov.uk

All of the above will be explained in greater detail in the Transfer to Secondary School Information Guide, which can be downloaded from our website. This is essential reading and offers help, advice and guidance about the secondary school admissions process. Each school produces its own prospectus which gives details such as the curriculum, activities, facilities and examination results.

Read the Transfer to Secondary School handbook.

Do your research. Collect information. Keep an open mind!

Decide which schools you would like your child to attend.

Apply online at www.bury.gov.uk/admissions

Submit your application before 31st October 2020

Admissions Team, Department for Children and Young People, 3 Knowsley Place, Duke Street, Bury BL9 0EJ

Bury
COUNCIL