

WE ARE
SANDWELL!

Preparing to apply for secondary school



Key dates and information

Applications:

- **Open: Mid-July 2026**
- **Closes: 31 October 2026**
- **Notification 1 March 2027**

Some facts:

- It is NOT first come first served
- Can (and should) apply for up to 6 places.
- Only applying for one school does not make it more likely that you will get a place there. It means that if you do not get a place at that school, the council will choose a school for you because you did not specify a second, third, fourth etc choice of school. .
- Apply to the council you live in. This includes if you are applying for a school in a neighbouring borough.
- Only list a grammar school as a preference if your child has sat the entrance test (results in October 2026). Deadline to register 26 June 2026 4pm.
- **Form cannot be changed once submitted.**



How to apply

- Check the admissions policy for each school
- Available via each school's website (check policies section)
- Check if your child meets the criteria (for example: EHCP, siblings, distance)
- Not all schools offer sibling places and distance criteria varies
- Look out for any additional requirements
- For example: Sandwell Academy, Shireland Collegiate Academy and West Bromwich Collegiate require your child to sit a non-verbal reasoning test after applications are submitted



Number of preferences and published admission number (PAN) per school

School Name	September 2024 intake			September 2025 intake			September 2026 intake		
	PAN	1 st Prefs	All Prefs*	PAN	1 st Prefs	All Prefs*	PAN	1 st Prefs	All Prefs*
Bristnall Hall Academy	220	247	658	220	235	696	220	271	877
George Salter Academy	250	248	590	250	199	497	250	158	499
Gospel Oak School	240	171	323	240	116	226	240	144	284
Holly Lodge High School	280	136	418	280	127	352	280	149	364
Oldbury Academy	310	84	467	270**	71	334	270	84	475
Ormiston Forge Academy	310	291	491	310	254	438	310	221	430
Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy	240	237	382	240	209	355	240	198	374
Perryfields Academy	240	61	288	240	59	236	240	61	248
Q3 Academy- Great Barr	210	237	597	210	202	514	210	192	507
Q3 Academy- Langley	300	403	899	300	355	854	300	353	932
Q3 Academy- Tipton	300	258	391	300	269	369	300	277	464
Sandwell Academy	200	419	1248	200	395	1124	200	322	1133
Shireland Biomedical UTC	120	42	195	120	56	186	120	69	273
Shireland CBSO Academy	150	83	233	150	84	256	150	119	418
Shireland Collegiate Academy	250	340	677	250	304	627	250	341	734
St Michael's CE High School	240	282	496	270***	293	508	240	332	574
Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School	150	87	278	150	86	273	150	95	295
The Phoenix Collegiate	350	214	494	350	184	386	350	151	413
West Bromwich Collegiate Academy	150	185	570	150	204	590	150	213	617
Windsor Olympus Academy	180	121	256	180	149	310	180	128	304
Wodensborough Ormiston Academy	230	235	393	230	187	350	230	209	412
Wood Green Academy	260	303	674	260	285	658	260	242	620

* All preferences are those made on time by a parent (Preference 1-6)

** Permanent decrease in PAN

*** Temporary increase of PAN for one year only

Furthest distance offered (Miles) for on time applications

School Name	Distance 2024/2025	Distance 2025/2026	Distance 2026/2027
Bristnall Hall Academy	0.882	1.195	0.818
George Salter Academy	1.155	1.941	N/A
Gospel Oak School	N/A	N/A	N/A
Holly Lodge High School	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oldbury Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ormiston Forge Academy	2.230	N/A	N/A
Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy	0.971	1.532	N/A
Perryfields Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A
Q3 Academy- Great Barr	1.124	1.322	1.248
Q3 Academy- Langley	0.833	1.232	1.171
Q3 Academy- Tipton	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sandwell Academy	N/A (Use banding system)	N/A (Use banding system)	N/A (Use banding system)
Shireland Biomedical UTC	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shireland Collegiate Academy	N/A (Use banding system)	N/A (Use banding system)	N/A (Use banding system)
Shireland CBSO Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A (Use nodal points)
St Michael's CE High School	0.791	1.088	0.844
Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School	N/A	N/A	N/A
The Phoenix Collegiate	N/A	N/A	N/A
West Bromwich Collegiate Academy	N/A (Use banding system)	N/A (Use banding system)	N/A (Use banding system)
Wodensborough Ormiston Academy	1.356	N/A	N/A
Windsor Olympus Academy	N/A	1.927	N/A
Wood Green Academy	0.798 (Non-Catchment)	1.068 (Non-Catchment)	1.098 (Non-Catchment)

How to apply

- www.sandwell.gov.uk
- Click – Schools and education
- Click – School admissions
- Click – Apply for a school place
- Click – Parent Portal
- Account requires an email address to set up / log in
- Enter parent details, child details, add one school at a time
- DO NOT submit until you are 100% sure.

Sign In

Sign in for Client and Administration Users Only

Sign in with Windows

or

Sign in or create an account with us.

Enter your username

Next

Back

Create Account



Sandwell schools with additional application forms

Aptitude:

- George Salter (Arts Aptitude)
- Shireland Collegiate Academy (Arts Aptitude)
- Wood Green Academy (Sporting Aptitude)
- Sandwell Academy (Sporting Aptitude)
- Shireland CBSO (Musical Aptitude)
- Windsor Olympus (Sporting Aptitude)

Denominational grounds

- Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School

Medical grounds:

- Holly Lodge High School
- Oldbury Academy
- Ormiston Community Sandwell Academy
- Ormiston Forge Academy
- Perryfields Academy
- The Phoenix School
- Wodensborough Ormiston Academy

Deadlines for additional forms can be as early as September. Additional forms go directly to the school. You must also complete the usual online application form to the council.

Appealing a school place

If you do not get the school you wanted:

- Accept the place you have been given, even if it is not the school you want.
- Download, complete and post appeals form (sandwell.gov.uk)
- **or** appeal the decision online (My Sandwell)
- You can only appeal for a place at a school that you put on your preference list
- To appeal for Sandwell Academy, contact them directly
- To appeal for a school outside of Sandwell you will need to contact the relevant local authority

Appeal Data

School Name	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Appeals Heard	Appeals Won	Appeals Heard	Appeals Won	Appeals Heard	Appeals Won
Bristnall Hall Academy	33	2	38	3	15	4
George Salter Academy	17	0	14	0	3	0
Gospel Oak School	8	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ormiston Forge Academy	19	2	9	1	N/A	N/A
Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy	26	3	20	4	5	2
Q3 Academy- Great Barr	16	1	32	2	12	1
Q3 Academy- Langley	36	2	47	0	35	5
Q3 Academy- Tipton	13	3	1	1	5	1
Sandwell Academy	103	5	92	8	85	7
Shireland Collegiate Academy	50	5	38	1	53	3
St Michael's CE High School	48	2	33	8	22	5
West Bromwich Collegiate Academy	38	2	25	2	33	2
Windsor Olympus Academy	-	-	-	-	3	0
Wodensborough Ormiston Academy	12	0	15	2	N/A	N/A
Wood Green Academy	21	0	21	1	7	1

Please note the above table only includes schools that have had appeals heard (if the school is not in the above list they have not been in Year 7 September appeals for the past 3 years)

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Hints and tips



What to look for in a school



- Open days
- Open evenings
- Tours



What to look for in a school



What to look for in a school



Practicalities



What to look for in a school



- Pastoral staff
- Form Tutor
- Transition lead
- Head of Year
- SENDCO



What else to consider



- Performance tables

<https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>



What to look for in a school

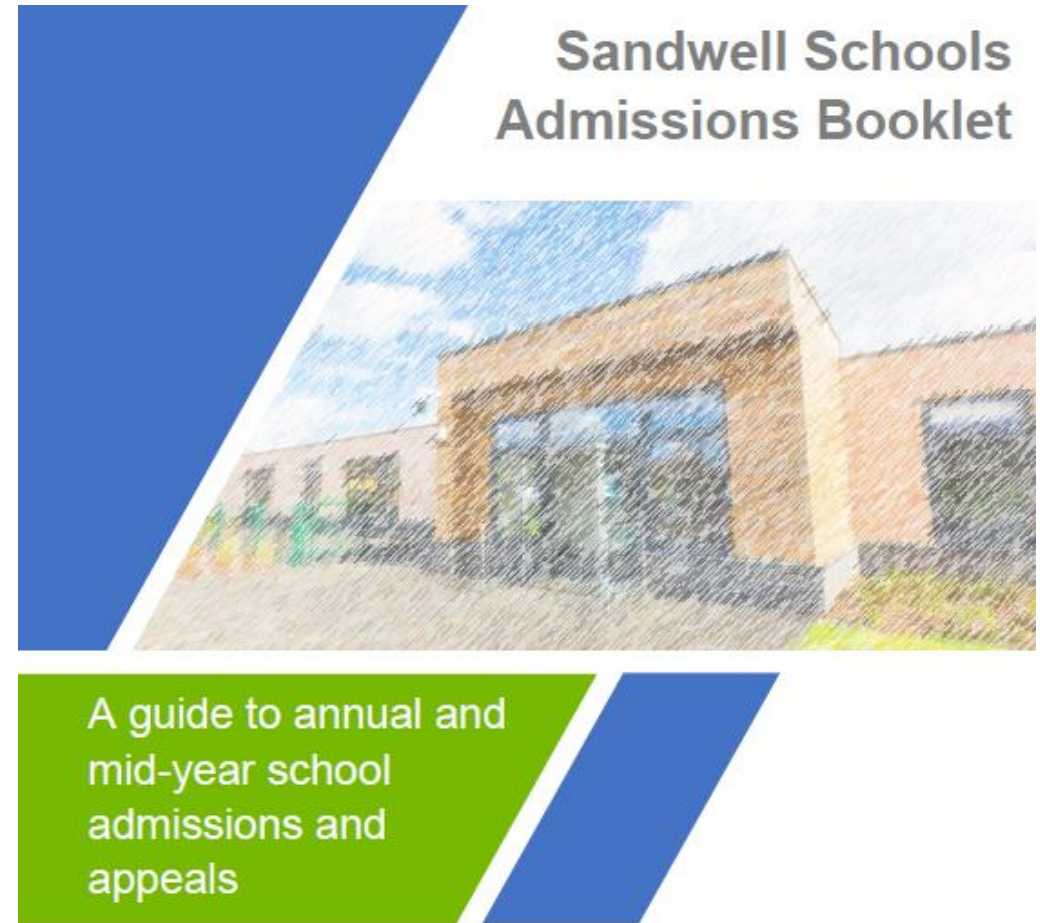


- Enrichment
- School teams and clubs
- Curriculum subjects
- Personal development
- Skills
- Career information



For more details

- Sandwell School Admissions Booklet available on the [sandwell.gov.uk](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk) website:
- <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/201/parent-guide>



Sandwell Schools
Admissions Service



Website support: Just Youth Transition



Questions

