



TRANSFERRING FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

September 2026

HOW TO START.....2

Find out as much information as you can. Look on school websites, research schools local to your address. Some of these may be in a neighbouring borough. Also look at how schools made offers in the previous year.

Look at the information on the Lambeth Admissions website. The online booklet **Starting Secondary School in Lambeth 2027/2028** is now available.

[How to apply for school place before deadline | Lambeth Council](#)

[How offers were made for Lambeth secondary schools on National Offer Day \(2 March 2026\) | Lambeth Council](#)

The majority of open sessions in Lambeth and other boroughs take place from **September to October** each year. For some, you need to book a visit online (eg Kingsdale, Norwood, Chestnut Grove). Check with the schools.

Look closely at the admissions criteria for **each** of the schools you are considering and check, “does my child meet the criteria ?”

APPLYING – THE CO – ORDINATED ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

Since 2005 every borough across England has been required to co-ordinate admissions to secondary schools in their areas.

This means information is shared between boroughs with a view to making the system more transparent and fairer to children and families.

The system seeks to ensure that on National Offers Day – **Monday March 1st 2027** - all parents who have applied on time, will know whether their child has a school place from a preference expressed on their CAF Application. If successful, your child will be offered **1** place.

The offer of a place at a preferred school, even if a CAF Application is submitted on time, is **not** guaranteed.

HOW TO APPLY

You **MUST** apply on a Common Application Form (CAF) through the local authority **in which you live**.

You apply online through the eAdmissions portal of your council website. You will have created an account in the past when applying for primary schools. Please note, if you have not used it in the last 3 years, you may need to create a new one.

As the majority of you live in Lambeth, you apply to eAdmissions through Lambeth at the link below.

[How to apply for school place before deadline | Lambeth Council](#)

The deadline for your application is : Saturday 31st October 2026.

If you need help completing your CAF – you can contact the Lambeth Civic Centre in Brixton Hill and book an appointment.

[Customer Service Centre face-to-face support service](#)

If you can't apply online, there is a paper CAF you can download from Lambeth Admissions. See the first link above for further information.

HOW MANY SCHOOLS CAN I CHOOSE?

You can choose up to **6** anywhere in London.

We recommend you list at least **4**, including **1 or 2**, closest to your home, to increase your chances of an offer. This may mean a school that is near your address, but in a different local authority.

ONLY list schools that you would be happy to send your child to, in the order you prefer them – don't just "fill up the form"

Make your number **1** choice the school you really want for your child. List your other preferences in priority order.

If more than one school is able to offer a place, Admissions will look at your list of preferences and offer the school that you placed highest . The schools will not know the order of your preferences – the information on your CAF is treated confidentially.

Oversubscribed local schools

There is increasing demand for secondary places within our local community and most are over subscribed.

Eg Dunraven is a through school and their intake for 2027/28 is 218 places. 60 places are automatically available to the children in its primary phase. This leaves 158 for other children who meet their admissions criteria.

Oversubscribed local schools

To give you an idea of the number of on time applications for some of our local/popular secondary schools, in 2026:

Dunraven : 1,011 applications for 158 places

Elmgreen : 686 applications for 180 places

Norwood: 853 applications for 180 places

Kingsdale (Southwark): 2,883 applications for 420 places

Graveney (Wandsworth): 2,228 applications for 280 places (2025)

Chestnut Grove (Wandsworth): 1,445 applications for 210 places(2025)

Harris Academy Crystal Palace (Croydon): 939 applications for 210 places

Admissions – How places are offered

Generally speaking, children are prioritised for places in the following order :

- 1) **Looked after children and previously looked after children**. This is a child who is or has been in foster care or a child who has been adopted/or made subject to a special guardianship order
- 2) **Sibling**. A brother or sister already attending the school
- 3) **Medical/Social need**. Applications must be supported by 2 letters from appropriate professionals, eg Doctor, SENDCo, Social Worker, stating why a particular school would be the most suitable. This criterion also takes into account a parent/carer who has a physical, mental health or social need that is significant and demonstrable for their child to attend a specific school.
- 4) **Children of staff at the school**
- 5) **Distance**. How far away you live from the school?

Children with EHCP's are also prioritised and follow a separate application process via Lambeth SEN. Please speak with Unta!

ADMISSIONS

For most of you, your child will be considered for a school place under either the **sibling** or **distance** criteria

Where last years children went.....

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Elmgreen	25
Dunraven	20
Norwood	10
Kingsdale (Southwark)	7
Chestnut Grove (Wandsworth)	5
Graveney (Wandsworth)	2
Landsdowne	2
Harris Academy Beulah Hill (Croydon)	1
Harris Academy Crystal Palace (Croydon)	1
Harris Academy Merton (Merton)	1
Bishop Thomas Grant	1
Burntwood (Wandsworth)	1
Trinity Academy	1
London Nautical	1
Sydenham Girls (Lewisham)	1
St Marks Academy (Merton)	1
La Retraite	1
St Joseph's (Croydon)	1
Bensham Manor (Croydon)	1
Croydon High (Independent)	1
Streatham & Clapham High (Independent)	1

WHAT IF I DON'T LIVE IN LAMBETH?

You apply online through eAdmissions of the local authority in which you live. Eg if you live in Southwark, you apply through Southwark School Admissions.

Check the schools admissions section on your local authority website to find the portal.

Every local authority publishes a guide to choosing secondary schools within their borough. Details of open days/evenings are included.

Check also what documentation you will need to provide with your application.

PROOF OF ADDRESS AND YOUR CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH

As well as submitting your CAF application through eAdmissions, Lambeth ask that you also submit proof of your address and your child's date of birth. They ask for :

2 documents to prove your name and address as parent/carers (even if this is a temporary address)

1 document to prove your child's name and address

1 document to prove your child's date of birth

All documents **must** be from the current financial year.

ACCEPTED DOCUMENTS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

2 copies from the following to prove your address as parent/carers are accepted. They must be from the current financial year:

- **Council Tax letter or statement**
- **Tenancy agreement**
- **Income support or Benefit letter or Universal Credit notice**
- **Current TV Licence**
- **Utility bill (no older than 3 months)**
- **Drivers licence**

Copies of mobile phone bills will NOT be accepted

PROOF OF YOUR CHILD'S ADDRESS

1 copy from the following to prove your child's name and address is accepted.

- **Child Tax Credit award or Universal Credit notice for current financial year (copy all pages)**
- **Child Benefit Letter (copy all pages – HMRC will provide a confirmation letter on request, even if you do not receive payment)**
- **Child's NHS Registration card**
- **Medical letter or prescription (no older than 12 months old – can also be used to confirm child's date of birth)**
- **Immigration documents that show the address**
- **Letter signed by social care if child is a looked after child (must state child and carer's names and address)**
- **Letter signed by the No Recourse to Public Funds team - must state child and parent/carers address**

PROOF OF YOUR CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH

A copy of **1** from the following list is accepted:

- **Birth certificate (full copy)**
- **Current Passport**
- **Current EU national identity card**
- **Medical letter or Dr's prescription stating child's name and date of birth**

Proof of address and date of birth documents for school admission applications

If you don't have the required documents

If you are unable to submit any or only some of the necessary documents, you will need to obtain either a sworn affidavit, statutory declaration or affirmation through a practising solicitor.

This must include you and your child's full names and address, the date you started living at your home address and your child's date of birth.

An affidavit, statutory declaration or affirmation is payable by you and costs in the region of £5-10. Lambeth will not reimburse the cost.

SENDING DOCUMENTS

Documents can either be scanned or a clear photo taken on a smart phone or tablet, uploaded to your online application.

If you can't send your documentation through eAdmissions, you can send it to Lambeth by post or email. Posted documentation is sent to the Lambeth Admissions Team, and must have your child's name, date of birth, plus the online application reference number at the top of each copy. Lambeth advise posting by signed for or recorded delivery.

Lambeth School Admissions Team
London Borough of Lambeth
PO Box 80771
London
SW2 9QQ

schooladmissions@lambeth.gov.uk

0207 926 9503

Lambeth advise that you use a secure email address - for security – such as Egress switch, which is free.

IF YOU MISS THE 31ST OCTOBER DEADLINE.....

Late applications are considered after **National Offers Day**

This means, on time applications will be processed first and offers of places made to those who applied on time, first.

National Offers Day is: **Monday March 1st 2027**

BURSARIES, SPECIALIST PLACES & SCHOLARSHIPS

If your child has a particular talent or aptitude eg the Arts, Sport, Music, you may wish to apply to a school that offers a scholarship, specialist place or bursary.

You usually apply for bursaries/scholarships on a special application or supplementary form (SIF), obtained directly from the school or school website. Your child will be required to sit an aptitude test. Check with schools for special application/ SIF deadlines as well as dates for aptitude tests. Deadlines vary from school to school. Eg For Norwood bursaries, you apply directly through the schools website and the closing date is **Midday October 9th.**

In **Lambeth**, Norwood School offers 18 Performing and Visual Arts Bursaries. Platanos College offers 16 Art and Music scholarships. St Gabriels College offers 12 Music Scholarships.

BURSARIES, SPECIALIST PLACES & SCHOLARSHIPS

In **Southwark**, Kingsdale offers 63 Music & Sports scholarships.

In **Croydon**, Harris Crystal Palace offer 18 places to children with an aptitude in technology.

in **Wandsworth**, Graveney offer 70 places to those who scored highest in the Wandsworth Test. Chestnut Grove offer 60 specialist aptitude places in Art & Design and Modern Foreign Languages

For Chestnut Grove specialist places, you apply directly through The schools website. The closing date is **Midday Friday September 11th**

Aptitude test day at Chestnut Grove is **Saturday 19th September, day after PGL**

Achieving the standard required for a scholarship **does not** guarantee your child being offered a place. This is especially true of Kingsdale who have a scholarship oversubscription waiting list.

FAITH SCHOOLS

Please check **carefully** the admissions criteria for these schools as it is usually very specific.

Applications usually need to be supported by evidence that you and your child regularly attend church or other places of worship, ie a letter from a priest, minister or religious leader.

La Retraite and Bishop Thomas Grant schools in Lambeth require evidence of baptism.

KINGSDALE

One of the most sought after secondary schools in London.

Big school - 2027/2028 intake is 420 places. Competition for places is fierce (2,883 applications last year). 55 places are available to 6 designated feeder primary schools. Not Hitherfield! 63 places will go to scholarship students

Kingsdale do **not** offer places based on distance criteria.

If you are applying for a general place and **not** a scholarship, your child will be required to sit a banding test. There are 3 ability bands. Places within each band are allocated in the following order of priority : children with ECHP's, children in foster care/have previously been in care then adopted or granted an SGO, siblings, children of staff, children with medical/social needs, children from local feeder primary schools. Remaining places are then offered through a random allocation process.

Kingsdale banding test dates : **16th September, 3rd October, 30th Nov-13th December**

If you are interested in applying for a Music or Sport Scholarship, you submit a scholarship supplementary form and book an assessment for your child online via a link on the school website. The application deadline for a Scholarship, is **5th October 2026**.

Assessment dates are offered at the weekends from **19th September onwards, to mid October** <https://kingsdalefoundationschool.org.uk/school-admissions/>

LAMBETH SUPPLEMENTARY FORMS (SIFS)

9 Lambeth Secondary Schools require you to complete a supplementary form (SIF) as well as your CAF to eAdmissions. Links to can be found on Lambeth's website below. They are also available from each school.

[Supplementary information forms \(SIFs\) | Lambeth Council](#)

For some schools, Dunraven, Norwood, La Retraite, London Nautical, Lilian Baylis, the SIF'S are electronic. You complete these through the school websites

Dates to complete SIF forms can vary throughout October. Please check with each of the schools or Lambeth Admissions, in the link above.

ADMISSION BANDING TESTS

WHY TEST?

So schools can get an idea of the academic potential of your child

To offer places to children across a broad range of ability

To be fair in applying the admissions criteria

ADMISSION BANDING TESTS IN LAMBETH

This year, 4 Lambeth schools require your child to sit an Admission Banding Test at their schools. These are: Dunraven, Norwood, Platanos College & Lilian Baylis. The test consists of maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning.

Dunraven test date : Saturday November 14th

Norwood test date : Monday 16th November

Lilian Baylis test date: Tuesday November 17th & Thursday 19th November

Platanos College test date: Saturday November 14th

If your child does not sit the test at a school that requires it, they will not be prioritised for an offer.

Once your child sits an admission test, they will be placed in 1 of 5 ability bands. Places within each band are prioritised in the following order: Looked after/previously looked after children who are either adopted or have SGO's, siblings, children with medical/social needs, children of staff, distance.

Eg Dunraven offer 158 places. 20% of those places will be offered to children within each of the 5 ability bands. This means around 30/31 children per band.

You can buy practice banding tests, sometimes called 11+, from shops such as TJ Jones (WH Smiths) , bookshops or online. GL Assessment also have some free materials to download from their website. As well as test examples there are answer booklets and parent guides.

[Free familiarisation materials](#)

THE WANDSWORTH TEST AND SELECTIVE SCHOOLS

If you are considering any schools in Wandsworth, such as Graveney, Chestnut Grove or Burntwood, your child will need to sit the Wandsworth Test. This consists of Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

Closing date for test registration was **3th September 2026**

Test dates for this year fall across 4 days and your child will sit the test in a selected Wandsworth Secondary School :

24th, 25th, 26th, 28th Sept.

Wandsworth will inform you of a day and time for your child to sit the Test. They will notify you of your child's test results (score) on or before October 23rd.

Many Independent selective schools also offer scholarships or bursaries. Eg. Streatham & Clapham High in Lambeth, The Whitgift Foundation schools in Croydon, Emanuel School in Wandsworth and Alleynes & Dulwich College in Southwark.

ADMISSION BANDING TESTS IN HARRIS SCHOOLS

The Harris Academies in Crystal Palace, Beulah Hill and South Norwood will require your child to sit the Harris Test. The test consists of non-verbal reasoning and your child will sit it once. If you choose more than one of the Harris schools from the list above, the schools will share the results.

Test Date: **December 2026**

Please note, The Harris Academies in Clapham, Merton & East Dulwich, do not require your child to sit an admissions test.

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

- Deadlines for **SIFS** (Supplementary forms) and special application forms for scholarships or bursaries, can vary from school to school. Whilst the deadline is usually at the end of October, like the CAF, please check with each of the schools you apply for.
- **SIFS** must be returned to each individual school or completed online through the schools website – Dunraven, Norwood, La Retraite
- **CAF's** are completed through eAdmissions and must be completed online by **midnight 31st October 2026** with appropriate documentation attached.
- Lambeth online secondary transfer meetings (links on Lambeth Admissions pages):
Thurs 10th Sept 6.30-7.30pm
Mon 14th Sept 1.30-2.30pm

By Post

Lambeth School Admissions Team
PO Box 80771
London
SW2 9QQ
schooladmissions@lambeth.gov.uk
0207 926 9503

By Hand

Lambeth Civic Centre
6 Brixton Hill
London
SW2 1EG
Mon-Fri 9-5pm
Book an appointment online
lambeth.gov.uk

LINKS TO OTHER BOROUGHES

[Secondary school admissions - Wandsworth Borough Council](#)

[School admissions | Croydon Council](#)

[Secondary school applications | Merton Council](#)

[Secondary admissions - Southwark Council](#)