



The Green
Datchet
Berkshire
SL3 9EJ

Tel: 01753 542982
Fax: 01753 593492

School founded 1843
Academy established 2012
Head teacher: Miss N Green
Company number: 8143249

email:office@datchetstmarysacademy.co.uk
www.datchetstmarysacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you with the intention of helping you to unpick the school system that we have in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), as several parents have asked me how it all works.

In RBWM we have infant, first, primary, junior, middle, upper and secondary schools. This means you have several options when looking beyond Year 6 and schooling after Datchet St Mary's Academy.

To clarify: middle schools and secondary schools can begin at Year 7, upper schools begin at Year 9.

At the start of the school year, many of the RBWM schools provide open days and evenings. It is recommended that you attend as many of these as you can, to get a real taste of each school. Every child has different needs and requirements for a successful school life and so it is important that as parents you choose the school that best suits your child and not choose the school where their friends are going.

When you attend the open days and evenings, you may be told by some middle schools that they cannot guarantee places in year 7 and it is best to apply before year 6. **THIS IS NOT THE CASE** and below are some facts to consider that dispute this misleading statement.

Year 7 Academic year	Middle School	Number on Roll in Year 7	Published Admission Number	Undersubscribed places
2017 to 2018	Trevelyan	101	150	49
2017 to 2018	St Peter's	48	60	12
2017 to 2018	St Edward's	116	120	4
2016 to 2017	Trevelyan	116	150	34
2016 to 2017	St Peter's	57	60	3
2016 to 2017	St Edward's	117	120	3
2015 to 2016	Trevelyan	93	150	57
2015 to 2016	St Peter's	53	60	7
2015 to 2016	St Edward's	96	120	24

This information was taken from the RBWM numbers on roll summary report.

This shows that the middle schools have had places available for entry in Year 7 for the last 3 years.

On average in RBWM primary schools achieve better Key Stage 2 results than middle schools:
65% of primary school children meeting the Expected Standard for Reading Writing and Maths.
58% of middle school children meeting the Expected Standard for Reading Writing and Maths.

This information was taken from the Gov.uk website: Compare Performance of RBWM Schools.

The process to apply for the school(s) of your choice must be through your home authority. This is where you live and the local authority you pay your council tax to.

Attached to this letter is a section on steps to take when applying for school places. This is taken from the RBWM website download (Admissions into Secondary Schools 2018). The RBWM website is updated every year to help parents with this process.

I hope this letter has helped to clear up some of the misconceptions surrounding moving on to secondary school. If you require further help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Miss N Green



Steps in applying for a school place taken from RBWM Website November 2017

You apply for a school place through your home council. This is the council where you live and pay your council tax.

The application process is the same if you are applying for a grammar school in another local authority. We will notify them of your interest in the school(s) and inform you of the outcome of your application on National Offer Day.

Step 1: Understanding the admission process

- You apply for up to six schools, academies or free schools on one form. You must list the schools in the order that you prefer them, including any out of borough schools.
- Applications to transfer from first to middle school in Windsor will be limited to the four Windsor middle schools. If you wish to transfer to a primary school for Year 5, this is considered as an application outside of the normal admissions round and will require a separate in-year transfer application.
- You should check whether you need to complete a supplementary form (SIF) for any of the schools you are applying for. If the school is out of the Royal Borough, please refer to the relevant local authority or contact the school.
- If you apply online you will find out which school you have been offered on 1 March 2018. If you apply on a paper form you will receive a letter which will be sent out by first class post on 1 March 2018. School preferences
- The order of preference in which you list your schools is confidential. Schools are not told the preference order in which you have listed them.
- Putting only one preference does not mean you will be allocated a place at that school. If you do not meet the admissions criteria or the school is oversubscribed, we will offer you a place at the nearest appropriate school with vacancies. This may not be your most local school. Do not name the same school more than once; it will only be considered as one preference. Closing date for on time applications is 31 October 2017 10am
- Each school is considered under an equal preference scheme which means that an application from a parent who has ranked the school as sixth preference is considered equally to an application on which the school is ranked as first preference. The equal preference allocation process is set out below.

Equal preference allocation process

The local authority to which you pay your council tax is where you apply for a school place, even if any of your preferred schools are in a different borough.

Make sure you apply to your home local authority by 31 October 2017. We put your child's name onto the list for each school named on the application form.

Applications received before the closing dates are not dealt with on a first come first serve basis. We do not look at your order of preference at this time. Your child's name will be on the list for each school named in the application. We look at the published admission number (PAN) for each school and mark the names of children at the top of each list up to the PAN.

Each school now have a list of potential applicants up to their PAN. We see how many lists your child's name appears on. In some cases your child's name might appear on more than one list.

In rare cases they might not appear on any list. Where a child's name appears on more than one list it means that s/he is eligible for a place at more than one school.

We will allocate a place at the highest eligible school on your list. This is the point when order of preference is considered.

It is only at this point that we look at your ranked order of preference. Where your child's name does not appear on any list, it means that s/he will not be allocated a place at any of the schools you requested. The home authority will allocate a place at the nearest school to you with a vacancy where your child meets the admission criteria, where possible.