

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School



Year 6 Welcome Meeting

Safeguarding



If you have any concerns about the safety and/or welfare of a child or young person please contact school. Mr Carroll is the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Finnegan, Miss Di Pierri, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Hill are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

You can make a referral directly to Children's services by calling the Children's Advice & Support Service (CASS) on 0121 303 1888.

Our School Mission Statement



At St. Bernadette's Catholic School you will find us caring, hardworking and co-operative. We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special. We show respect to all and welcome you.

Our School Motto



Love to Learn, Learn to Love

Staff in Year 6



Miss Boron 6ZB

Mrs Brownhill 6CB

Miss Connaire 6CC

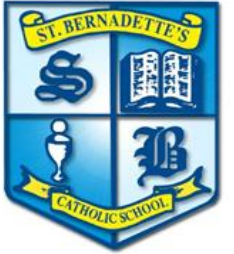
Mr Carroll (Maths)

Ms Ryan (English)

Mr Lavin (English)

Miss Odeta (Teaching Assistant)

Communication with School



- Fortnightly newsletter emailed to all parents and carers – key dates included
- Text messages and emails are sent with updates and reminders
- Bluesky – please follow!
- Termly reports
- Parents evenings'
- Communication record
- You can talk with teachers and TAs afterschool

School Fund



We are incredibly proud of the exciting and enriching experiences we offer our children throughout the school year.

To help us continue providing these memorable opportunities, we kindly ask each family to contribute £10 towards our **School Fund**.

This donation will go directly towards:

- ✨ Workshops and hands-on learning activities
- Food tasting and cultural experience days
- 📖 Visitors such as authors, theatre groups, or scientists
- 🎉 Whole-school events and celebrations

We understand that times are challenging for many families, and this contribution is entirely voluntary. Any amount you are able to give is very much appreciated and will make a real difference to the experiences we can offer. Please donate via ParentPay.



Birthday Celebrations



We are introducing a new way for children to celebrate their birthdays at school! On their birthday (or as close as possible if it falls on a weekend or during half term), children will be allowed to wear their own clothes to school.

As part of the celebration, children are also welcome to donate a birthday book to their class if they wish. This is a lovely way to mark the occasion and help build our class libraries.

Please note that we kindly ask families not to bring in sweets or treats, as we need to be mindful of dietary requirements and allergies.



Uniform



- Children should now be in winter uniform (hard collar shirt and tie, jumper or cardigan with the school logo –jumpers/cardigans can be purchased through ParentPay).
- Please ensure children are wearing school shoes and not trainers. Children should not be wearing boots in school.
- Children in EYFS and KSI should have a school book bag with the school logo in order for it to fit into their drawer. This should be in school every day.
- Children need a water bottle in school every day, filled with water only.
- Children should not be wearing jewellery or watches (unless they can tell the time).
- No smart watches are allowed.
- Please label all uniform items.



PE

PE Kit

- All items should be labelled.
- PE kit should be kept in school for the half term.
- The children may bring in a tracksuit for outdoor P.E. once the weather becomes cooler.
- Please encourage children to do their own laces and ties.

PE Days

6CC – Week 1 Wednesday & Thursday

Week 2: Monday & Tuesday

6CB – Week 1: Wednesday & Friday

Week 2: Monday & Thursday

6ZB – Week 1: Wednesday & Friday

Week 2: Monday & Thursday



Swimming Provision 2025-2026



Who?

All children in Years 2-6 will receive swimming sessions this academic year.

When & Where?

We will have a pop-up swimming pool on the Junior Playground in Summer 1 for 6 weeks. Each child will receive at least 6 x 30 minute swimming lessons.

Why?

The PE Curriculum requires all schools to provide swimming instruction in either KS1 or KS2:
All children should be able to: swim 25 metres by the end of KS2, be fully water confident, possess basic lifesaving skills and use a range of strokes effectively.

The DFE highlights swimming as statutory for health, safety, and physical development.

More detailed information will follow from Mr. Markham-Jones.

<https://www.mavericksport.co.uk/pop-up-pools>



Important Events to note

Parent Evenings'
Termly Reports
Production
Confirmation
Cadbury World
SATs
France
Alton Castle

Stay and Pray
Reading Open Day
Maths Open Day
Carol Service
Year band Masses
KS2 Masses
Sports Day

All dates are subject to change and parents/carers will be notified as soon as possible.

Confirmation



All children take part in the programme of preparation through work completed in R.E. lessons.

Confirmation has been confirmed for Thursday 5th December at 6PM.

In order to be confirmed, children will need:

- ✓ Their date of baptism.
- ✓ The name of the church they were baptised.
- ✓ To have made their First Holy Communion
- ✓ To have selected a sponsor, who must be Catholic

Confirmation



- Application for Confirmation forms went out in the Summer term of Year 5— please take a from today and return by Monday 15th September so that your child can be prepared to make their Inscription Promise on Wednesday next week.
- We will not be chasing these forms — non-return means we will assume your child does not wish to make their Confirmation.

Class Saints



Each class has a special saint who is their role model. The children learn about their saint's life, why they are important today, and how we can follow their example. On their feast day, children can:

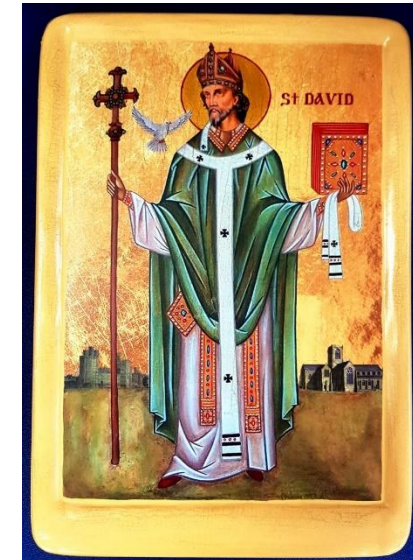
- Wear their own clothes to celebrate
- Bring in a 50p donation to support charity



St Anthony of Padua
Feast Day: 13th June
Own clothes: Friday 12th June



St Teresa of Calcutta
Feast Day: 5th September
Own clothes: Friday 5th September



St David
Feast Day: 1st March
Own clothes: Monday 2nd March



Statutory Assessments

National Curriculum Tests (SATs)

Currently scheduled nationally to take place in the week beginning 11th May 2026

English

- Reading comprehension test
- Grammar, punctuation and spelling test (2 papers)
- Writing to be teacher assessed

Mathematics

- 1 arithmetic test
- 2 written reasoning papers

Homework – Year 5 and 6



Year 5 and Year 6: Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

As parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child's education. Encouraging good homework habits helps your child to build confidence, independence, and a positive attitude towards learning. Homework is an important extension of what your child is learning in class and helps consolidate key knowledge and skills.

We kindly ask that you support your child with the following tasks each week:

- ✓ **Reading** – Your child should read each night. Please sign their reading diary at least *three times per week*.
- ✓ **Spelling Practice** – Complete at least *10 Spelling Shed activities* each week to help reinforce spelling patterns.
- ✓ **Times Tables Practice** – Spend at least *20 minutes per week* on Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) to build speed and accuracy.
- ✓ **Weekly Comprehension Task** – Complete the comprehension exercise provided to support reading skills and understanding. Handed out Thursday – due back in the following Thursday.
- ✓ **Weekly Maths Task** – Complete the maths task set to reinforce key concepts covered in class. Handed out Thursday – due back in the following Thursday.
- ✓ **RE/Prayer Bag** – This is sent home *once a week with a different child*. When it is your child's turn, please take the opportunity to share the contents with them and enjoy the activities together before returning the bag to school.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we can help your child develop strong learning habits and feel confident in their learning.

Reading for Pleasure



Reading for pleasure is one of the most powerful ways you can support your child's learning and wellbeing. When children enjoy reading, it has a lasting impact not just on their education, but on their confidence, imagination, and language skills.

"Children who read for pleasure are more likely to succeed academically, develop empathy, and lead happier lives."— National Literacy Trust

Reading for Pleasure



Why is reading for pleasure so important?

Boosts learning: Children who enjoy reading often do better in all subjects—not just English!

Builds vocabulary: Regular reading introduces children to new words and ideas.

Develops empathy and imagination: Stories help children see the world through different eyes.

Supports wellbeing: Reading can be relaxing and calming, helping children feel safe and focused.

Creates special moments with family: Shared reading time builds stronger connections at home.

How you can help:

Read with your child regularly – even a few minutes a day makes a difference.

Let your child choose books they enjoy – comics, magazines, audiobooks all count!

Talk about stories together – ask questions and share your own opinions. Be a reading role model – let your child see you reading too.

Year Band Charity Fundraising



At St. Bernadette's, each year band takes responsibility for leading charity work each half term by choosing a charity to support. This helps our children grow in generosity, compassion, and a sense of social responsibility. By serving others, they learn to live out Jesus' call to care for all members of God's family. Supporting local, national, and international causes helps them become thoughtful, caring individuals who want to make a difference in the world.

Year 6 lead our school's charity work in Summer 2.



*"Those who are gracious to the poor lend to the Lord,
and the Lord will fully repay them."* Proverbs 19:17

Our Behaviour Expectations



We will always show respect and celebrate the efforts of others.



We will always remember that we are all part of the St Bernadette's family.



We will always respect our school environment, making sure it is clean and tidy.



We will always solve our differences with love and kindness.



Our Behaviour Expectations



We will always show good manners to everyone we meet in school.



We will always try our best in our work and never give up even when it is difficult.



We are always quiet and calm when moving around our school.



We will always speak kindly and play considerately with others.



Shining Light Award

Each week, we celebrate two children in every class with a Shining Light Award. This special award recognises children for their good effort, good work, or positive behaviour.

The award winners will receive a certificate to take home and share with their family. In addition, they will be given a 'gold tie' to wear for two weeks as a visible symbol of their achievement.

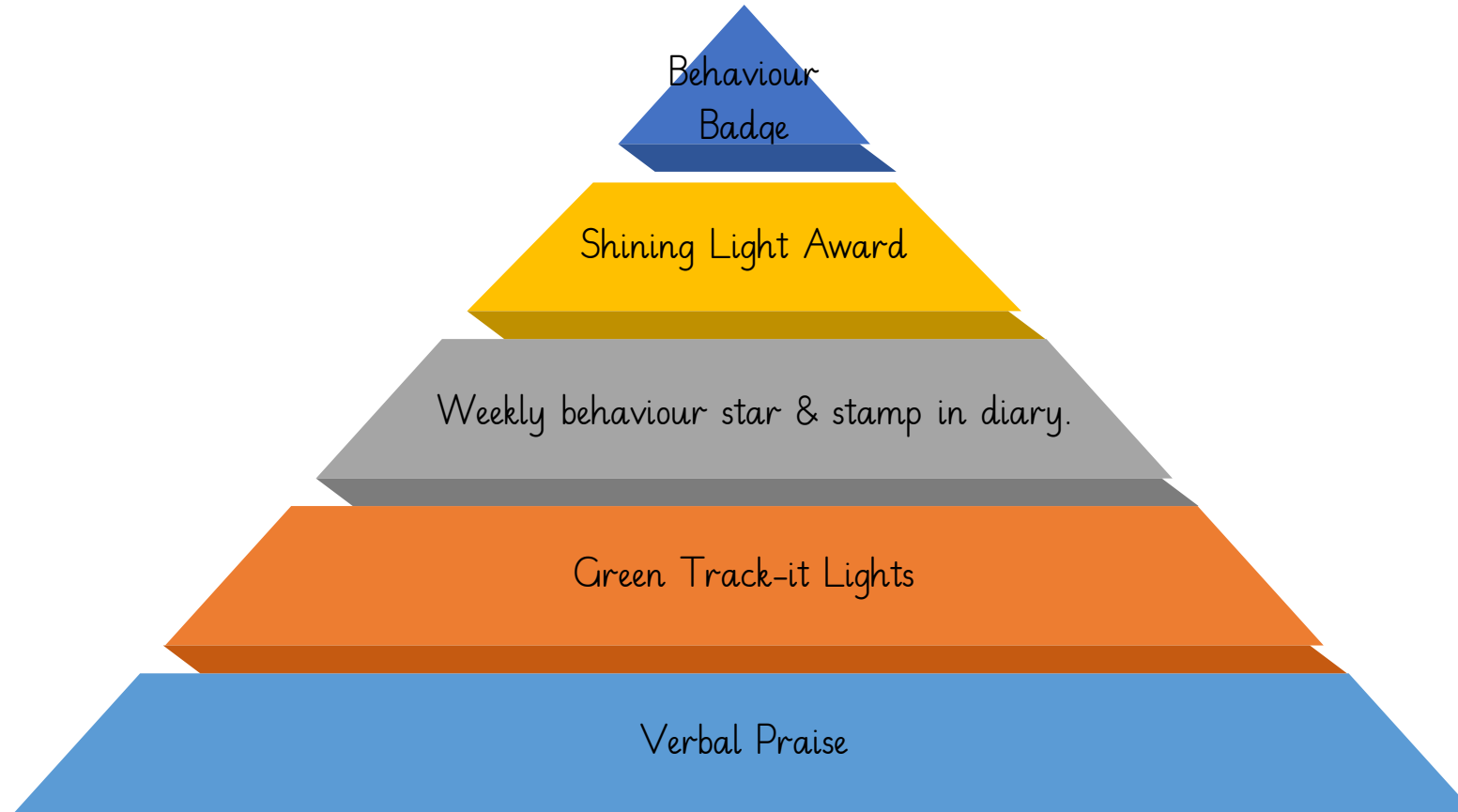
This award is inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:14, "*You are the light of the world,*" reminding us that every child has a light within them that can brighten the lives of others through their actions and attitude.

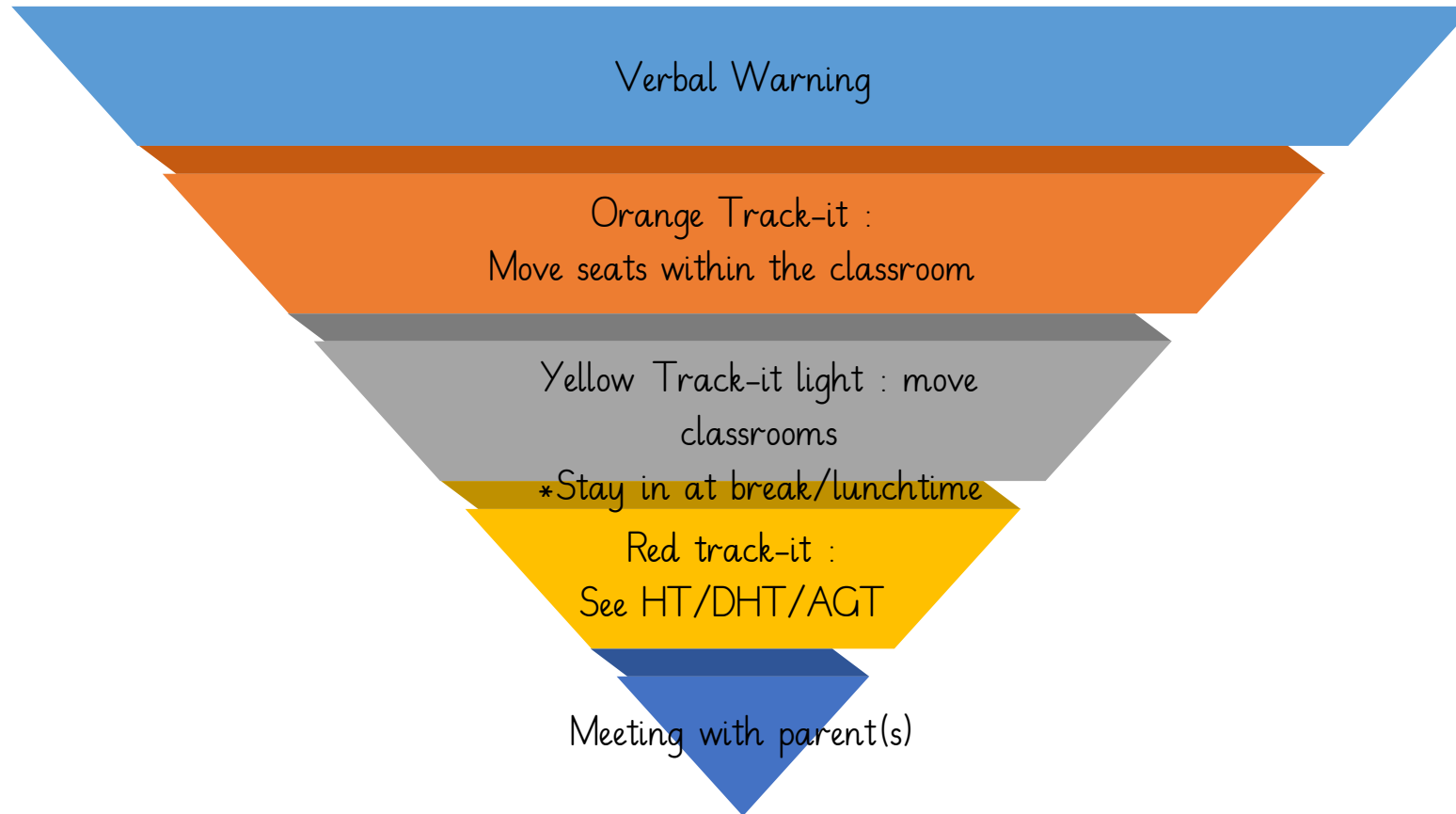
Over the course of the academic year, we hope that every child will have the opportunity to receive this award.

Behaviour Stars



- Every Friday, the children are given the opportunity to reflect on their own behaviour and how well they have demonstrated our behaviour values and expectations – see next slides.
- If they feel they have done a good job with this, they are awarded a star sticker and a stamp in their communication diaries.
- Stars are displayed in every classroom with the behaviour expectations around them.
- Once the children had earned a certain number of stars, they first receive their behaviour certificates and then they receive their Behaviour Badge for maintaining their excellent behaviour.





Special Educational Needs and Disabilities



Mrs. Taylor is our school SENDCO

She works with children, teachers, parents and agencies to ensure that our pupils' needs are met.

Please visit our school website to find out what we can offer you if you think your child has Special Educational Needs.

<https://www.stberns.co.uk/send>



- We are proud to be an inclusive school, where every child is valued and supported to achieve their full potential. We celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure all pupils have access to high-quality teaching and learning.
- We use the **graduated approach** to meet the needs of pupils with SEND:
- Quality-first teaching and classroom strategies
- Targeted interventions where needed
- Personalised support from our SEND team



- We work closely with a range of external professionals to ensure the best possible support for our pupils. These include:
 - **Pupil and School Support (PSS)** – providing advice on learning and progress
 - **Communication and Autism Team (CAT)** – supporting pupils with autism and social communication needs
 - **Educational Psychologist (EP)** – offering specialist assessment and guidance
 - **Occupational Therapy (OT)** – helping with physical, sensory and fine motor needs
 - **Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT)** – supporting communication and language development
 - **Compass** – providing emotional health and wellbeing support
- These services also host **coffee mornings throughout the year**, giving parents the chance to share concerns, ask questions and receive tailored advice. We are committed to working in partnership with families and professionals to help every child thrive.



How to speak to the SENDCO if you have a concern:

- We always encourage you to talk to your child's class teacher in the first instance
- Speak to a member of the office team to find out when the SENDCO may be available for an appointment
- You can also email her directly at SENDCO@stberns.bham.sch.uk

Attendance



Every minute counts

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

- 5 minutes late every day means around 3 days of education are missed.
- A score of 90% in a test would be a good result but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed around 100 lessons over a school year.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!			
ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS APPROXIMATE DAYS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY WEEKS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11 ½ weeks	230 lessons
65%	67 days	13 ½ weeks	270 lessons

Bluesky



bsky.app/profile/stbernsprimary.bsky.social



Join the conversation

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English



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Learn to love, love to learn.
A Catholic Primary School in Yardley.

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All of this information can be found on the school website.



Frequently Asked Questions



What times do the doors open in the morning?

Doors open around 8:30am and close at 8:45am.

Are children allowed to bring a snack to school?

Children are allowed to bring a **healthy** snack to school for break time which should be a piece of fruit. Although all children will receive a free piece of fruit.

Who is the year band governor?

Our Year 6 School Governor is Mrs Wrench

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

School meals are charged for in KS2. If you believe you are eligible for free school meals or are unsure you can check at www.link2ict.org/FSM



Secondary School Transfer

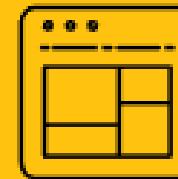


https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/apply_for_a_secondary_school_year_7_place/3

School admissions

This content is subject to regular updates.

**Secondary school
(year 7)**





Secondary School Transfer Information

- You can list up to six different secondary schools as preferences in your application. This can include schools outside of Birmingham.
- Birmingham City Council runs a co-ordinated admissions scheme with neighbouring local authorities.
- If you are applying for schools in another local authority then we recommend that you contact them for their admissions arrangements as this will help you to decide if your application is likely to be successful.
- Birmingham City Council will only deal with applications for school places if you live in Birmingham and pay council tax to the authority.
- If you live in Birmingham your application must still be made to Birmingham City Council, even if applying to schools outside of Birmingham.



Secondary School Transfer Information

- You must read the admission arrangements for the secondary schools you are interested in to see how likely it is that your child will be offered a place there.
- How close you live to a school is very important. Schools have cut-off distances which change each year based on demand.
- Schools may have open sessions or evenings that you can attend to have a look around the school or instead hold virtual events throughout September. Visit the schools' own website for further details.
- If your child has special educational needs or a disability (SEND) consider whether your chosen schools are suitable for their specific educational needs. Talk to school staff at the open days or evenings where they are taking place or contact them via other methods such as by phone or email.



Grammar Schools

- If your child will be sitting the selective test for entry to grammar schools, we **strongly recommend that you do not submit your online application** until you know the results of your child's grammar school test.
- The test results for grammar schools in Birmingham will be available before **31 October**.
- Once you have received your child's test score for the Grammar Schools in Birmingham, if you still want to apply for a grammar school, it is essential that you list it as one of your preferences in your online application. Make sure you also check the admission arrangements as most of The Grammar Schools in Birmingham still operate catchment areas.



Grammar Schools

- Do not lose the opportunity to list other school preferences before knowing the results from the selective test. We are aware that with grammar schools in other local authorities you may not receive your test scores after the closing date to apply for your preferences (31 October). However, online applications must be submitted by 31 October to be classed as on time. Therefore, you must ensure that if you are applying for a grammar school in another local authority you include it as a preference on your application.
- If you apply after the final closing date of 31 October your application will be considered as a late application and will not be processed until after the offer of places on 3 March 2025. Late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools.



Applications

- Applications open on 1 September for secondary school applications for entry in September 2026. The closing date is 31 October at 11:59pm.
- You will receive an email confirmation that you have submitted your application form. Check this to make sure everything is correct.
- You can amend your preferences right up to midnight on the closing date.



Transfer Process – Tips

- Refer to Birmingham City Council website for information on schools and the transfer process.
- Using the online application process, identify six *different* schools you would like your child to attend.
- Rank your six preferences in the order of schools you most prefer.
- Check the online booklet to make sure your child meets the entry criteria for the schools you prefer.
- Has your child satisfied the entry criteria for the *past 2 years?*



Transfer Process – Tips

- *Make sure that you choose at least one school where your child meets ALL entry requirements.*
- List your choices in order of preference (include grammar schools and schools in other authorities).
- Give the name and date of birth of any brother or sister who is already at a school you are applying to.
- Check how far you live from the schools you prefer (by straight line measurement in Km or m). Help can be obtained from Admissions and Appeals on 0121 303 1888.



Secondary School Transfer Information

- You must apply online. All relevant information, including the Secondary Education Booklet which outlines this process, is available from:
- www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions
- If you do not have access to the internet, you can make an appointment to complete the form here.



Information to Note

- You must complete the form belonging to the local authority that you pay council tax to. List any schools (regardless of authority) on this form. The only exception to this is independent schools who must be contacted directly.
- You must only fill in one form.



Information to Note

- If you live in Birmingham and list only one school as a preference, and your child cannot be offered a place at that school, then a place will be offered at an alternative school. This will be one of the nearest schools with a place available after offers have been made to all other applicants who applied on time. It is well worth listing more than one preference even if you are confident that your child will be offered a place at a certain school based on previous years' admission patterns. Due to demographic changes from year to year, there is no guarantee that a pattern will continue in future.



If you would like some support with your online application, we have two mornings where a member of staff will be available in school to assist you.

Monday 13th October at 9:30am and Tuesday 14th October at 9am.

Thank You



Thank you for attending this meeting. Please visit the school website for school policies and further information. Please feel free to ask a member of staff if you are uncertain about anything.

We look forward to working in partnership with you.