

# School Admissions Mythbuster



✗ **Myth:** If I get my application in as soon as I can after the application system is open I will have more chance of getting a place.

✓ **Fact:** All applications received by the deadline will be considered equally in the allocation process, so there is no advantage in applying early – but there would be a disadvantage in applying after the deadline as it is possible that some schools will already be full.

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✗ **Myth:** If I only put one school preference my child will be more likely to get a place there/the Council will have to offer my child a place there.

✓ **Fact:** Listing only one preference means that, if the Local Authority cannot allocate a place at the school because you do not have enough priority according to the school's oversubscription criteria, you will be allocated the nearest school with a space available. If you have not listed any other preferences, you might be allocated a school some distance away as other parents who did express additional preferences will take priority for the nearer schools. This is why the Local Authority encourages parents to name more than one preference and **strongly recommends** listing your nearest or designated school as one of those preferences.

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✗ **Myth:** It doesn't matter if I don't list my designated or nearest school as one of my preferences.

✓ **Fact:** If the Local Authority cannot allocate a place at your preferred school because you do not have enough priority according to the school's oversubscription criteria, you will be allocated the nearest school with a space available. If you have not listed any other preferences, you might be allocated to a school some distance away as other parents who did express additional preferences will take priority for the nearer schools, even if those schools are designated or nearer to you. This is why the Local Authority encourages parents to name more than one preference and **strongly recommends** including your nearest or designated school as one of those preferences.

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✗ **Myth:** If I don't get a place at my preferred school, I'll get a place at my designated/nearest school anyway.

✓ **Fact:** If the Local Authority cannot allocate a place at your preferred school because you do not have enough priority according to the school's oversubscription criteria, you will be allocated the nearest school with a space available. If you have not

listed any other preferences, you could be allocated a school some distance away from your home address as other parents who did express additional preferences will take priority for the nearer schools, even if those schools are designated or nearer to you.

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**✗ Myth:** Having my child in the nursery/pre-school at my preferred school means I don't need to apply/I get more priority for a place in reception.

**✓ Fact:** All reception places must be applied for, regardless of whether or not a child is attending the attached nursery/pre-school. Schools are able to offer some priority to children with specific circumstances that are attending an attached nursery/pre-school in their oversubscription criteria but this does not guarantee a place if there are other children who rank higher in the criteria.

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**✗ Myth:** One of my children already goes to the school so my other child will automatically get a place.

**✓ Fact:** Each child's school place must be applied for and there is no automatic allocation based on having a sibling at the same school. Many schools do offer some priority to siblings in their oversubscription criteria but this does not guarantee a place if there are other children who rank higher in the criteria.

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**✗ Myth:** Living near to a school gives you more priority for a place there.

**✓ Fact:** Many schools do offer some priority based on designated area or distance from the school in their oversubscription criteria but this does not guarantee a place if there are other children who rank higher in the criteria. Just because someone living near to you was allocated a place last year, does not mean that you will also secure a place there.

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**✗ Myth:** It won't matter too much if I miss the deadline for applications.

**✓ Fact:** Applications submitted after the deadline will not be processed until after all those submitted on time. There will be some delay before a place can be allocated and it is possible that some schools will already be full.

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**✗ Myth:** One of my children receives transport free of charge, so my other child will also receive transport free of charge automatically.

**✓ Fact:** Transport is allocated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, so there is no guarantee of transport free of charge to an additional child in a household.

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