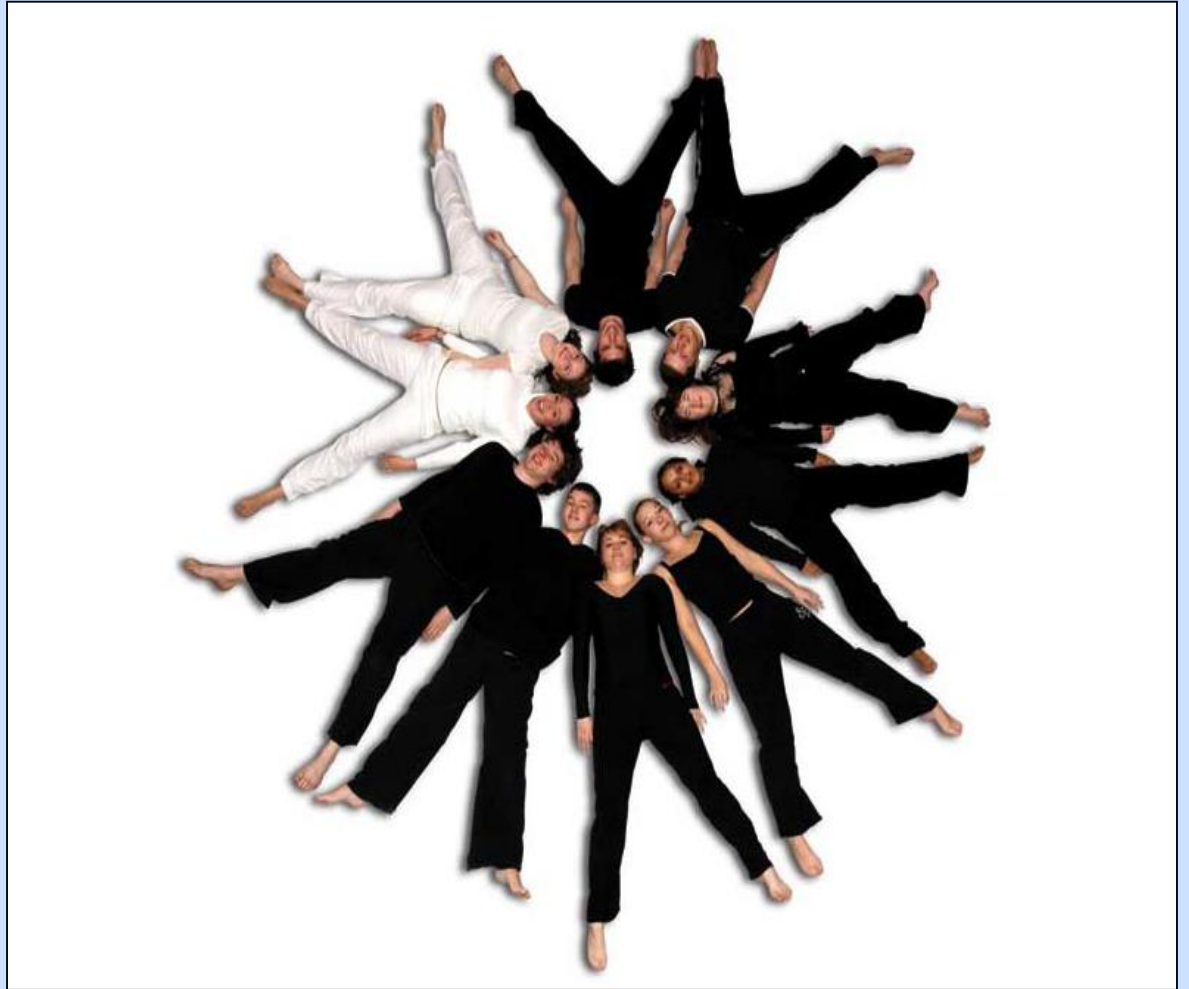


Working Together for Wirral's Children

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026



Children & Young People's Department

TIMETABLE

1st May	Registration opens for selective assessments
31st May	Deadline for 11+ assessment requests
1st SEPTEMBER	On-line application system goes live Preference forms and booklets available
20th September	Upton Hall assessment (Saturday)
15th September	Wirral selective assessment date
19th September	St Anselm's assessment date
2nd October	Birkenhead HS Academy Music Aptitude
24th October	Upton Hall results at latest
21st October	Wirral RESULTS issued by this date
31st October	Deadline for preference forms
2 MARCH 2026	ALLOCATION DAY
16th March 2025	Parents to return reply slips
End March 2026	Appeals submitted

Applying on-line

- <https://parentportal.wirral.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/admissions> from 1st September

Why apply on-line?

- It is quick, easy and secure.
- Apply from home 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (from 1st September).
- You can apply from a computer, smartphone or tablet with internet access.
- No risk your application will be lost in the post.
- You receive an email confirming that your application has been submitted and received.
- The system has a series of security features that will prevent others from seeing your information.
- You **receive your offer by e-mail on allocation day.**

Will secondary schools know what rank I have put them down?

NO. Schools are not sent the actual preference forms.

They are sent:

Child's name, address, date of birth, current school, siblings and faith information (if relevant)

Schools are not told in what order their school has been put down as a preference.

Admission information

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions>

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions/secondary-education-information-parents>

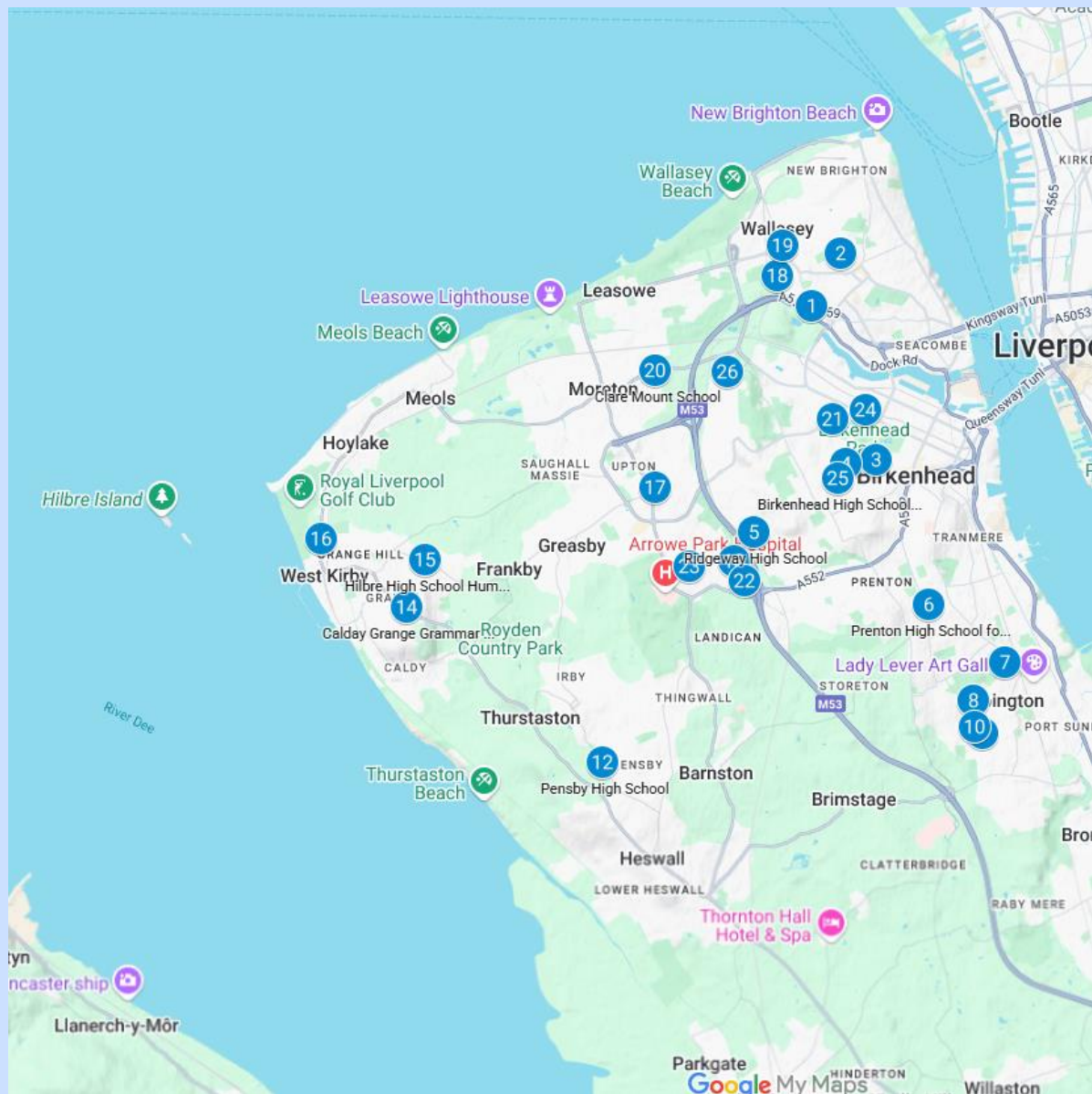
Admission criteria for community schools

Applications for community schools will be dealt with in order according to the following criteria:

- a.Children who are Looked After or previously Looked After as defined in the Admission Code 2021.
- b.Children who have a valid medical reason for a specific placement. You must give details on the preference form and this may be checked by a medical officer of the health authority. A letter in support from a senior health care professional will be required as evidence when you submit your preference form. You need to make it clear why only this school is appropriate for your child's medical needs.
- c.Pupils who have a brother or sister (including half-brothers and sisters or step-brothers and step-sisters living in the same household) on roll at the school and of statutory school age when it opens in September.
- d.We will then take account of where your child lives. We will give priority to those pupils who live nearest to the school.

Admissions to academy, foundation, trust and voluntary-aided schools

The admission arrangements for these schools are decided by the governing bodies and you can get them directly from the schools concerned. Wirral Local Authority will co-ordinate the preferences for those schools and the governing body will rank their applicants against their policy.



<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions/secondary-education-information-parents/wirral-secondary-schools>

CO-ORDINATION

If you live in Wirral but want a school place in another local authority (LA), you must apply through Wirral as your home LA (either on-line or paper).

Parents who don't live in Wirral, but want to apply for a Wirral school, must apply through their home LA.

There will be a single offer of a secondary school place.

Parents will be informed of their outcome of their applications by their home LA, not by the LA where the school is located.

Home address

This must be the child's permanent home address, where he or she lives with a person of parental responsibility as the main carer (as defined by the Children Act 1989). You must not give the address of a business, relative, childminder, friend, a temporary address or an address to which you hope to move.

The Council will require proof of residence which may include proof of sale of a previous property.

Arrangements where parents leave and collect children from another relative or carer on a daily basis will be regarded as childcare arrangements, and the child will not be deemed to be 'ordinarily resident' with that person.

Applications from separated parents

Only one application can be processed for each child; therefore it is important that both parties in shared custody arrangements are in agreement over the preferred school(s) named. The parent with whom the child is majority resident should submit the application giving their address as the child's home address—this is the parent with which the child resides most days in a week. In a situation where a child spends exactly equal time with both parents, the child's main permanent residence should be submitted as their home address.

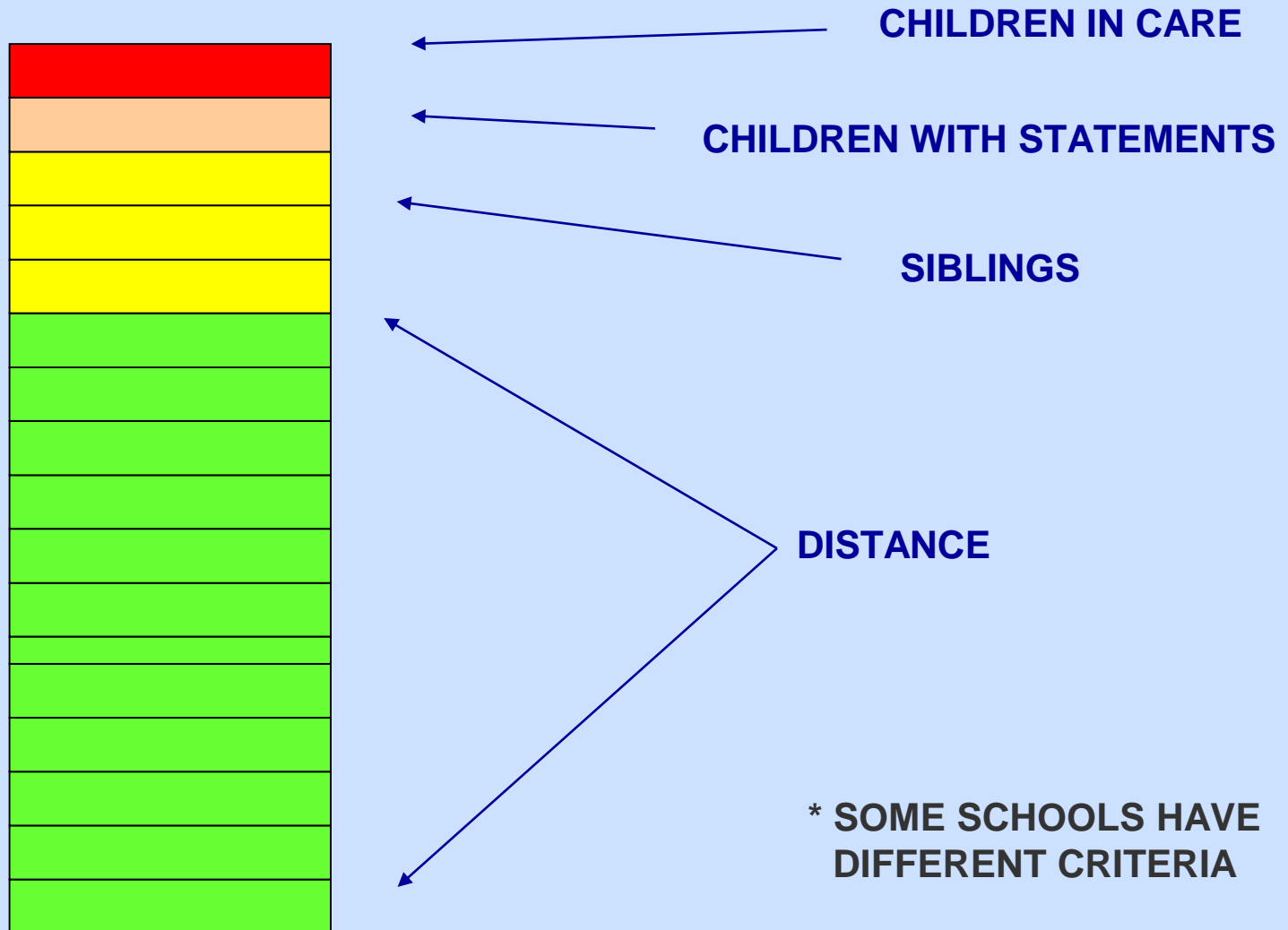
Changes of address

Parents and carers must inform the council immediately of a change of address, even if details of a future change of residency were included on the application form. The council will require supporting evidence to show that the place of residency has changed; e.g. a letter from the solicitor confirming the completion date; a signed rental agreement showing the start of the tenancy and its duration. Information and supporting evidence must be received by 31 December 2024. Proof of residency received after 31 December 2024 will not be used to assign a higher criterion for admission but will be used to send the decision letter on the published offer date. We may remove a place where it has been identified that a change of address has taken place before 31st December 2024 and has not been declared.

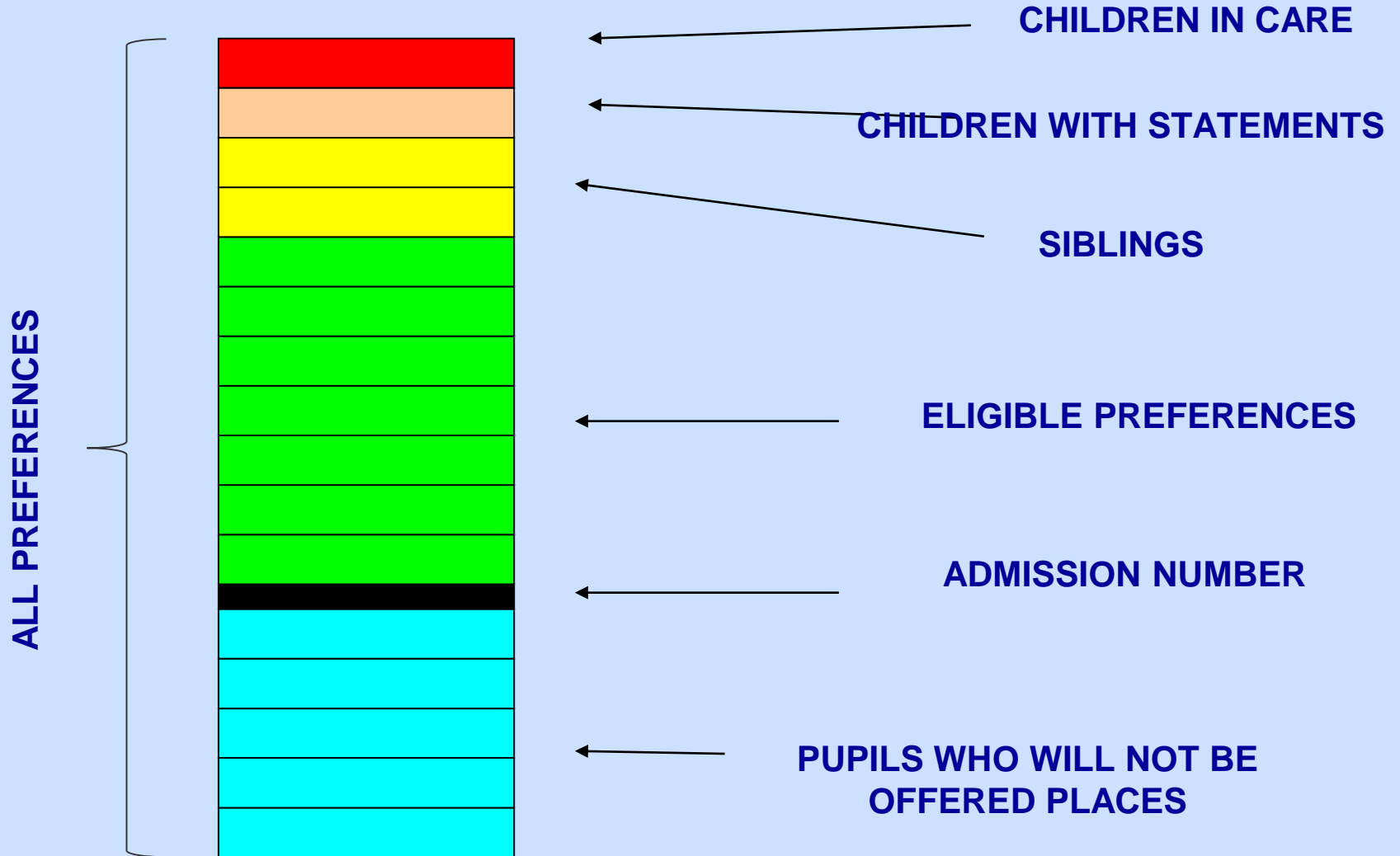
WHAT HAPPENS TO MY PREFERENCES?

THE LA, OR THE SCHOOLS*, DRAW UP A “STACK” OF APPLICANTS PUTTING THEM IN ORDER USING THE OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOOL

- CHILDREN IN CARE, STATEMENTED CHILDREN, SIBLINGS AND DISTANCE

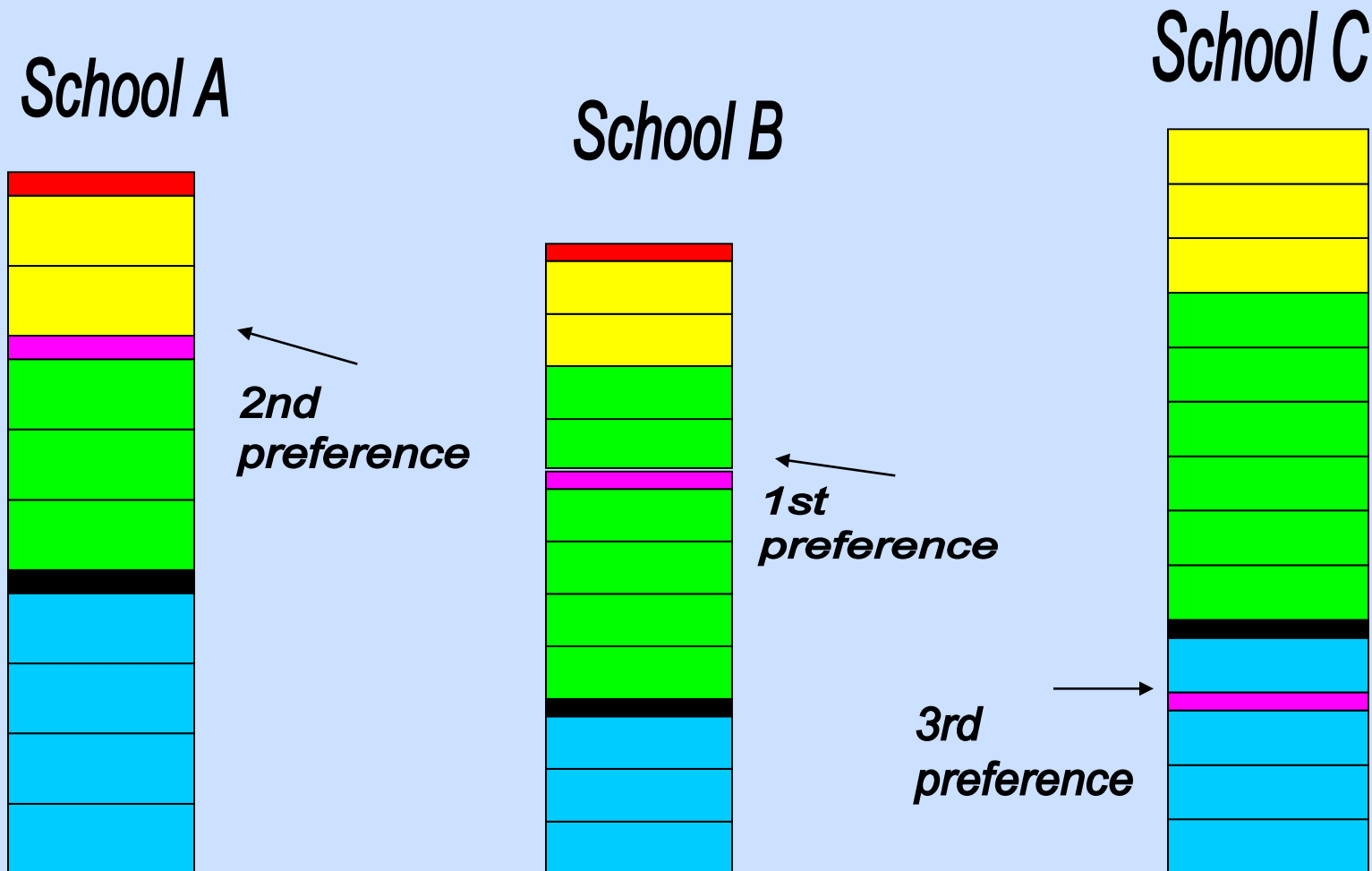


THE ADMISSION NUMBER IS APPLIED TO DETERMINE WHO IS OFFERED A PLACE



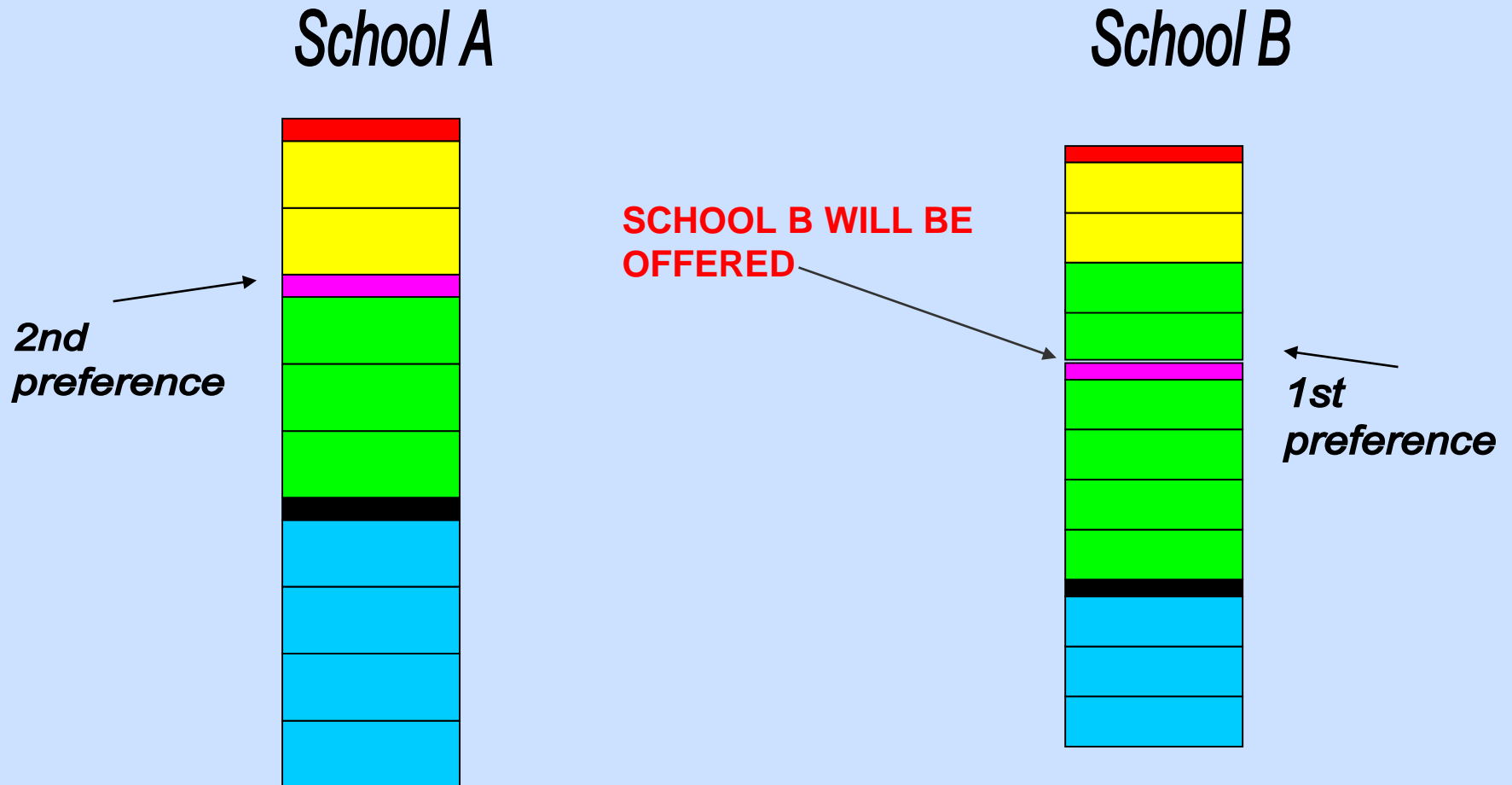
WHAT DOES EQUAL PREFERENCES MEAN?

THIS MEANS THAT WE GIVE EQUAL VALUE TO ALL PREFERENCES WHEN DRAWING UP THE STACKS AND ONLY LATER ON WILL THE ORDER OF YOUR PREFERENCES BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.



IS THE ORDER OF MY PREFERENCES IMPORTANT?

YES IT IS, BECAUSE IF WE CAN OFFER YOUR CHILD A PLACE AT MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL, THEN WE WILL ALLOCATE A PLACE AT THE SCHOOL YOU NAME AS THE HIGHEST PREFERENCE.



National Allocation Day is 1st March 2026

- On-line applicants will be sent an e-mail from the LA on this day.
- Paper applicants will be posted an offer letter from the LA on this day (**2nd class post only**).
- The offer will come from the home LA and will be the highest preference that can be allocated.
- Each child will only get one offer of a place.
- After 1st March parents can appeal in writing to an independent panel for a place at another school.

For more information

- Go online to

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions>

Make sure you look at secondary school websites for information and to find out what they can offer you

- **secondaryplaces@wirral.gov.uk**
- **0151 606 2000**

**Secondary schools hold open evenings
and days during June/July and
September/October.**

**Please see handout of dates that have
been published so far and keep a look on
websites of schools you are interested
in. We will send updates on open
evenings as we receive them.**

QUESTIONS

11+ selective testing

Grammar School

PAN (Year 7)

Calday Grange Grammar
School (Boys)

210

West Kirby Grammar School (Girls)

180 210

Wirral Grammar School (Boys)

155 170

Wirral Grammar School for
Girls (Girls)

180

Upton Hall

156

St.Anselms

156

Non-Catholic 11+ tests

https://my.wirral.gov.uk/service/11_Plus_assessment_application_form

- Parents advised their child's test venue in August
- Two multiple choice tests of 45-50 minutes each
- Tests taken on the same day with a short break between
- Mixture of verbal, non-verbal and maths questions on both tests
- Sections are timed using an audio CD
- Pencil and eraser only equipment needed
- Exam conditions apply – no mobile phones or other electronic devices allowed
- Tests are marked centrally by an independent body, not by the test venue
- Parents cannot see test papers or answer sheets
- **GL practice materials - downloadable**
- <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/11plus-series-11-plus-practice-papers/11plus-familiarisation-materials/>

11+ KEY CHANGES (FROM SEPT 2016)

- GL Assessment until 2016
- CEM for 2017, 2018, 2019
- Additional test content (NVR and Maths)
- No familiarisation materials in school
- No practice tests
- Both tests on same day
- **From 2019 – tests NOT taken at school**
- **2020 back to GL assessment**

Assessment Preparation

- The test is designed so that children should not need excessive coaching and preparation.
- Learning is a lengthy process which begins from birth, developing and building upon conceptual understanding and skills.
- Aim to measure abilities that rely on **genuine understanding rather than rote learning.**

Questions assessing verbal ability

Verbal Reasoning (VR) mainly involves reasoning with words. This includes the production of words, use of words and relationships between words. Some VR item types also involve reasoning with letters and numbers; these question types are not testing mathematics, but use letters and numbers as symbols to predict, for example, a sequence or relationship.


Questions assessing non-verbal ability

Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR) mainly involves reasoning with abstract figures. For some questions you might look at relationships between shapes and sequences of shapes, by identifying common features from a set of figures and applying them to a new figure. Some NVR question types involve codes, in which features of a shape have to be matched with letters.

Questions assessing mathematical ability

- The real 11+ mathematics tests assess mathematics in line with the new National Curriculum and cover a variety of curriculum areas taught in schools up to the start of Year 6. The areas assessed typically include aspects of number, measurement, geometry and statistics. Some questions involve using current mathematical skills to solve new kinds of mathematical problems.

Format of the tests

- Two papers - both cover VR, NVR and Maths
 - 1 hour each, including instructions etc
 - Audio soundtrack
 - Multiple choice format
 - Question Booklet + OMR answer sheet
 - Assessments carried out under test conditions
 - Pupils require a pencil and eraser only
 - No mobile phones or electronic devices are allowed
- 

Advice for candidates from all 11+ test providers

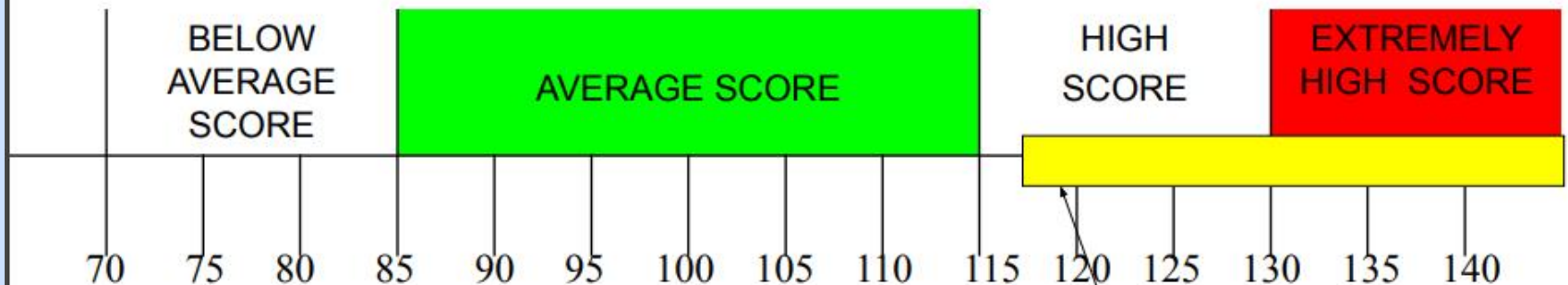
Encourage children to:

- ✓ take time to complete homework set by school, discussing any errors they make
- ✓ work quietly without distractions
- ✓ work independently but be prepared to ask for support when they encounter difficulties
- ✓ read widely and discuss words they don't understand
- ✓ improve independent organisational skills



- Selecting the RIGHT school
- Schools on the Wirral / Cheshire
- What makes it the right school?
- Take the time to visit
- Pressure (parents and children!)
- Preparing for the test – tutor?
- BEST way to prepare

THE REQUIRED STANDARD



11+ required standard

11+ tests and applying for a place

- Selective test results are sent to parents by 21st October at latest.
- **All parents must submit a preference application by 31st October to be on-time.**
- If their child has **not reached the standard**, parents should not give the grammar school as a preference as it will be withdrawn.
- Parents of **children who miss the test date** must still apply by 31st October – if they do not reach the standard then the highest non-grammar preference becomes the highest preference.
- Parents of children who have not reached the standard can submit a written appeal after 1st March if they wish to do so.
- **Please think carefully about whether your child is an appropriate candid**