

MYTH BUSTERS

If I have a child in school, their brother or sister will automatically be given a place.

You must still apply. Although brothers and sisters may be entitled to sibling priority, there is no automatic allocation of places.

The earlier I apply, the greater chance I have of getting my first preference.

No, all applications are treated equally, regardless of when they are received as long as they are received by 31st October 2021.

I will be guaranteed a place at my catchment school even if I don't put it as a preference.

No, you must name your catchment school if you want to be considered for a place there. If we cannot offer any of your preferences we will try to offer a place at your catchment school. However, if this is over subscribed then this will not always be possible.

If I put the same school down three times it will make me three times more likely to get that school.

No, this is only the same as listing one school. You should use all your preferences to maximise your chances of getting your preferred school.

If I only put one preference I will get a place there.

No - We encourage you to apply for three schools to maximise the chances of your child being offered a place. If you name only one school and that school is over-subscribed, applications will be prioritised according to the school's admission criteria. We have a responsibility to offer your child a school place but this does not have to be at one of the schools you prefer nor at your nearest school.

I go to a feeder school so I'll automatically get a place.

Bury does not have feeder schools. You must still apply for a place and your application will be assessed under the admissions criteria.

My child's grandparents will provide childcare during the week, therefore I can apply from their address.

No, we can only accept the child's main residence. For example where the child benefit is paid, or where the child is registered with a GP. The Local Authority reserves the right to withdraw offers of places where the address given is not one where the child is normally resident.

I will be guaranteed a place at my nearest school even if I don't state it as a preference.

No, you must name your local school if you want to be considered for a place there. If we cannot offer any of your preferences and you have not applied for your local school, it is unlikely you will be offered a place there.

My child has been baptised so I am guaranteed a place in a faith school.

No, if the school is over-subscribed places will be offered in line with the schools admission criteria. The admission policies can be found in the Transfer to Secondary School Information Guide.

Children on my street go to that school, so my child will too.

The number of pupils offered under each criteria can change every year, so can the demand at schools. Please see our historical information for details of the previous 5 year allocations.

I can only apply for Bury schools.

You can apply to any school in any area, by naming them on your Bury application. If you are applying for faith schools, please check their admission policy and whether you may need to complete a supplementary form.

I don't want my child to go to a "bad" school.

Each school has pupils who achieve to very high standards academically. However, a good or a poor reputation can often be gained by schools based on evidence/memories from many years ago. Things can change in schools very quickly. It is important to look at all the available information and research the schools.