

9th September 2021

Dear Parent,

I hope this new term finds you and your family well.

Your child is now in Year 6 and that means it is time for you to be choosing the secondary school that you think is best for them and fill in the transfer form by 22nd October.

This email is to give you information and help you know what to do. This year everything is online.

Y6 secondary transfer virtual information meetings - sign up for a session

Here is a link from the Tower Hamlets Transition Support Service for Y6 secondary transfer information meetings

To check dates and to book a place, visit <https://thst2021.eventbrite.co.uk>

Ready for School in Tower Hamlets 2022 booklet - now online

The 'Ready for School in Tower Hamlets 2022' is available to view online on the Tower Hamlets website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions along with information and advice on the secondary transfer process.

Useful films to help you

Tower Hamlets have produced a short information film to support transfer this year <https://youtu.be/JZTekdXKwMo> in addition to updating our more comprehensive video outlining the process from application to Year 7 <https://youtu.be/ViMagheFVjU> both films are available at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions.

Children with EHCP plans

We have attached the form and a covering letter for those children who have an EHC Plan. Th

There are 3 attachments

1. **'Parents Leaflet'** All the main dates to remember and links to the website and films are in the parents leaflet
2. **EHC Plan form - please note that this form is not online and you are asked to complete a paper copy. We can print this at school**
3. **Letter for parents of children with an EHC Plan**

Banding

Your child has been placed in a Band for the purpose of allocating secondary school places. You will receive your child's Band in a letter which your child will bring home. You will need this band to complete the eadmissions form.

How was my child given a band?

As a result of Covid-19 it wasn't possible to carry out the usual testing arrangements of Year 5 pupils in the school summer term 2021, in order for this data to then be used for secondary school banding. The band for a pupil attending a Tower Hamlets primary school has been determined, this year, by a teacher assessment in reading. The assessment has been based on where the pupils would have been predicted to have been working at the end of Year 5 had schools been functioning 'as normal' and following the national curriculum Year 5 programmes of study. The results of the assessment are used to place a child in one of four bands Band A, B, C and D. D indicates the highest attainment band.

How can I get some help?

For some families this will be the first time you have a child going to secondary school. Even if you have done it before it is all a bit different now. We understand that this can be a worrying time and, as always, we are here to help you - to talk, to listen and to support with completing paperwork. Please don't hesitate to speak to us:

- Jahanara leads in the school office
- Susan and Lorraine from our Family Services team
- Annie Clark (upper KS2 Assistant Head)
- Ms Stewart and myself
- Sureya, our SENDCo, will support families who have a child with an EHC Plan

Important dates to remember!

- remember to submit your form by 22 October (31st October at the latest)
- 1 March is National Offer day when you will find out which school your child has been allocated

A note from me

I am often asked for advice about secondary schools and here are three things I would say:

1. Find out as much as you can about schools you might be interested in. Try to visit some schools (probably virtually at the moment), look at their website and talk to friends and neighbours about their experiences.
2. You know your child best so think about what could suit them best.
3. You can choose up to 6 schools so be prepared for not necessarily getting your first choice. Oh, and try not to worry too much.

With best wishes

Ms Argent
Headteacher