

Before you apply – Things to think about

In deciding whether to apply for a transfer, please look at the details below and consider the following question: **“Will a transfer be the best way to meet the educational or social needs of my child?”**

Discussions with the current school

Have you fully discussed the problems your child is facing with their current school? In many cases schools can put measures in place to deal with any problems that a child has. It may be that they are unhappy due to bullying, or finding it difficult to make friends; they might not be getting on with a teacher; they may be struggling with their work, or maybe not being challenged enough. Whatever the problem, simply changing schools may not be the answer to solving it. Indeed, the problems could get worse in a new environment.

Curriculum/exams

Although there is a National Curriculum that every child is expected to follow, each school will teach a different part of the curriculum at different stages and different times of the year. If you change your child’s school, they are likely to miss important work and their exam results are likely to suffer. This is particularly relevant when considering a move for those children in Year 9, 10 or 11. Research has shown that pupils moving schools are far more likely to achieve poorer examination results than those who remain at the same school.

Alternative schools

There is likely to be a small number of schools that have places available, particularly for some year groups. The distances your child has to travel may therefore be considerably longer. If there are no places available, and you still would like a place at a particular school, your child will be placed on the waiting list for the school requested and you will have the right to appeal to an independent appeals panel. There is however, no guarantee that this would be successful. For information on a schools waiting list and appeal process, please [view the schools admissions policy](#).

Whatever year group your child is in, it's important that if you are considering moving schools, you need to make sure that the school you choose is the right one for your child. The best way to find this out is to visit the school you are interested in - speak to the head teacher (with an appointment) if you can. Remember the question above, and find out how this school is different from the one they are at now. Is your child going to find it easier to achieve at this school than their current one?