



Secondary Transfer - Handy Hints & Tips St Gildas' Catholic Junior School

- **Visit as many secondary schools as you can**

Walk around the school, talk to the pupils, hear from the headteacher, read the school's OFSTED report, read the school's prospectus, visit during the school day

- **Read the school's admissions criteria**

Consider how likely it is that you will be offered a place, find out how many places are available, look at how many applicants there were in previous years, consider how your child will travel to the school

- **Don't let others influence your decision**

By all means talk to others who have had experience of the school but don't let this be the deciding factor, every child is different and one child's experience will be different to another's

- **Catholic Schools - Proof of Catholicity**

If you are considering a Catholic school you will be asked to provide a priest's reference. As many Catholic secondary schools are over subscribed, the regularity of your attendance at mass will be considered, many are looking for WEEKLY attendance at mass. If you do not attend EVERY week, this could result in you not being offered a place.

- **Application Forms**

You must complete a form in your HOME local authority, i.e. If your child lives in Islington, you must complete an Islington application form. Secondary school application should be made online, this is the best way to apply, it is more efficient. **Some** schools need extra information and require you to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), if this is the case, collect form directly from the school that you are applying to.

- **Choose SIX schools**

You can choose up to six schools on your application, PLEASE MAKE USE OF ALL SIX PREFERENCES, choosing less than six **does not** improve your chances of getting into a specific school!

- **Late Applications**

If your application is late you will disadvantage your application, your preferences will be considered after all the other applications have been processed and it is unlikely that you will be allocated any of your preferences.

Key Dates:

31st October - Your local authority application must be submitted by this date, some schools require a supplementary information form which should also be returned to the school by this date

1st March - Offer letters/emails will be sent to all applicants

2nd March - All applicants should have received their offer by now

15 March - All applicants must accept their offer by today

31 March - Deadline for all appeals

