

# **Working Together for Wirral's Children**

## **SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026**



# **TIMETABLE**

**31<sup>st</sup> MAY**      **Deadline** for 11+ assessment requests

**SEPTEMBER**      On-line application system goes live

Preference forms and booklets available

**15th SEPTEMBER** Non-Catholic selective assessments

**19th SEPTEMBER** St Anselm's assessment date

**20th SEPTEMBER** Upton Hall assessment date

**1st OCTOBER**      Birkenhead High School Academy music  
assessments\*

**31 OCTOBER**      **Deadline** for preference forms

**2 MARCH**      **ALLOCATION DAY**

\*tbc

# Non-Catholic 11+ assessments \*

- Two multiple choice assessments of about 50 minutes each
- On the same day with a short break between
- Mixture of verbal, non-verbal and maths questions on both papers
- Pencil and eraser are only equipment needed
- Exam conditions apply – no mobile phones or other electronic devices allowed
- Assessments are marked centrally by an independent body, not by the venue
- Parents cannot see question papers or answer sheets

# 11+ assessments and applying for a place

The outcome of **September** assessments will be sent to parents prior to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

*Reached the standard?*

- Apply and put the grammar school down as a preference **before 31<sup>st</sup> October**

*Not reached the standard?*

- Apply by 31<sup>st</sup> October, but don't give the grammar school as a preference as it will be withdrawn
- Parents can still submit a written appeal after 2nd March

*Assessment date delayed or your child is unable to be assessed in September (for example due to sickness)?*

- Apply and put the grammar school(s) down as a preference **before 31<sup>st</sup> October**
- If your child does **not reach the standard**, the grammar preference(s) will be withdrawn. The highest non-grammar preference then becomes the highest preference on the application.

# Applying on-line

- [www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions) 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 have access to:**

**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.**

# **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.**

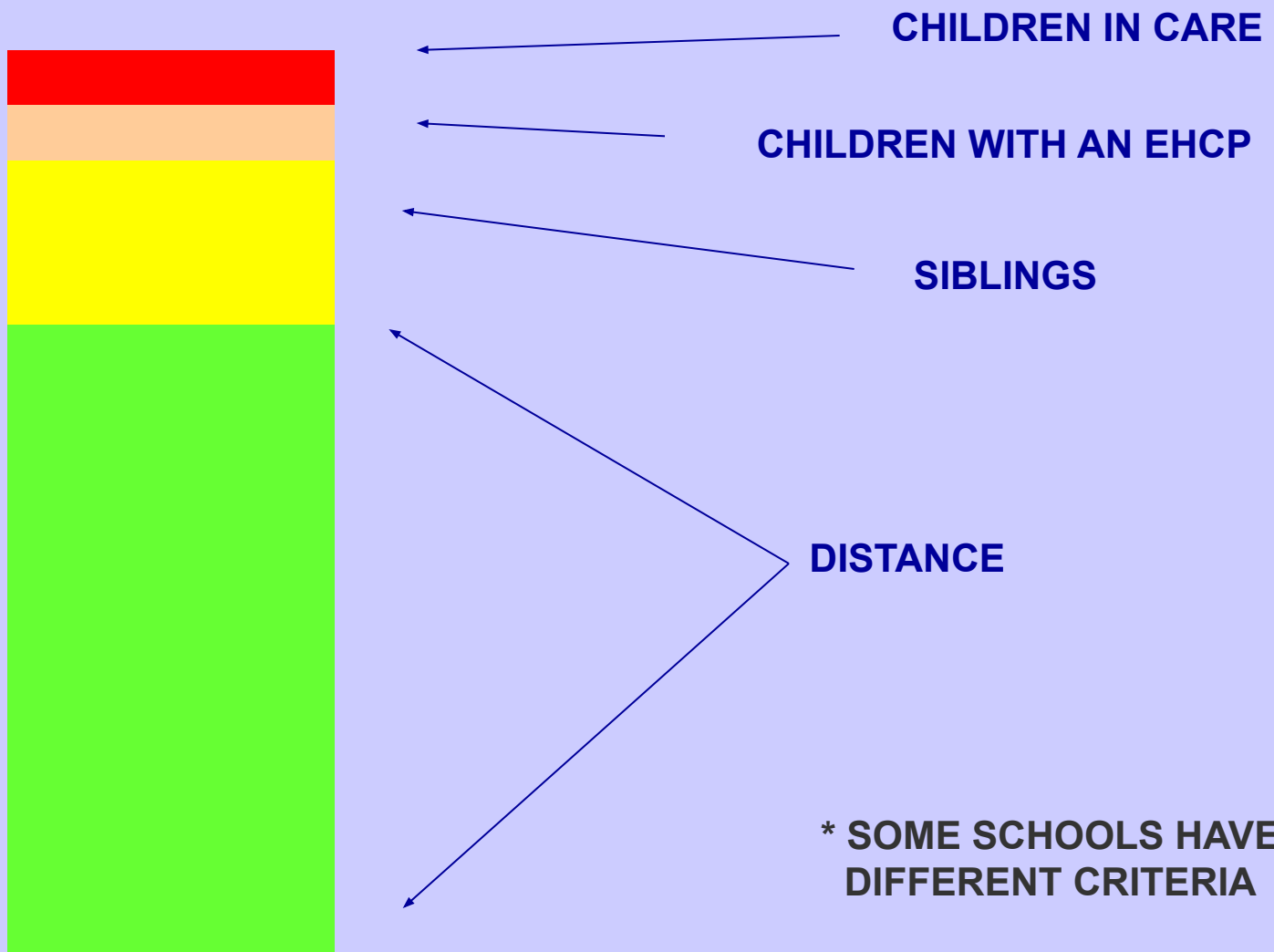
**There will be a single offer of a secondary school place.**

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

## WHAT HAPPENS TO MY PREFERENCES?

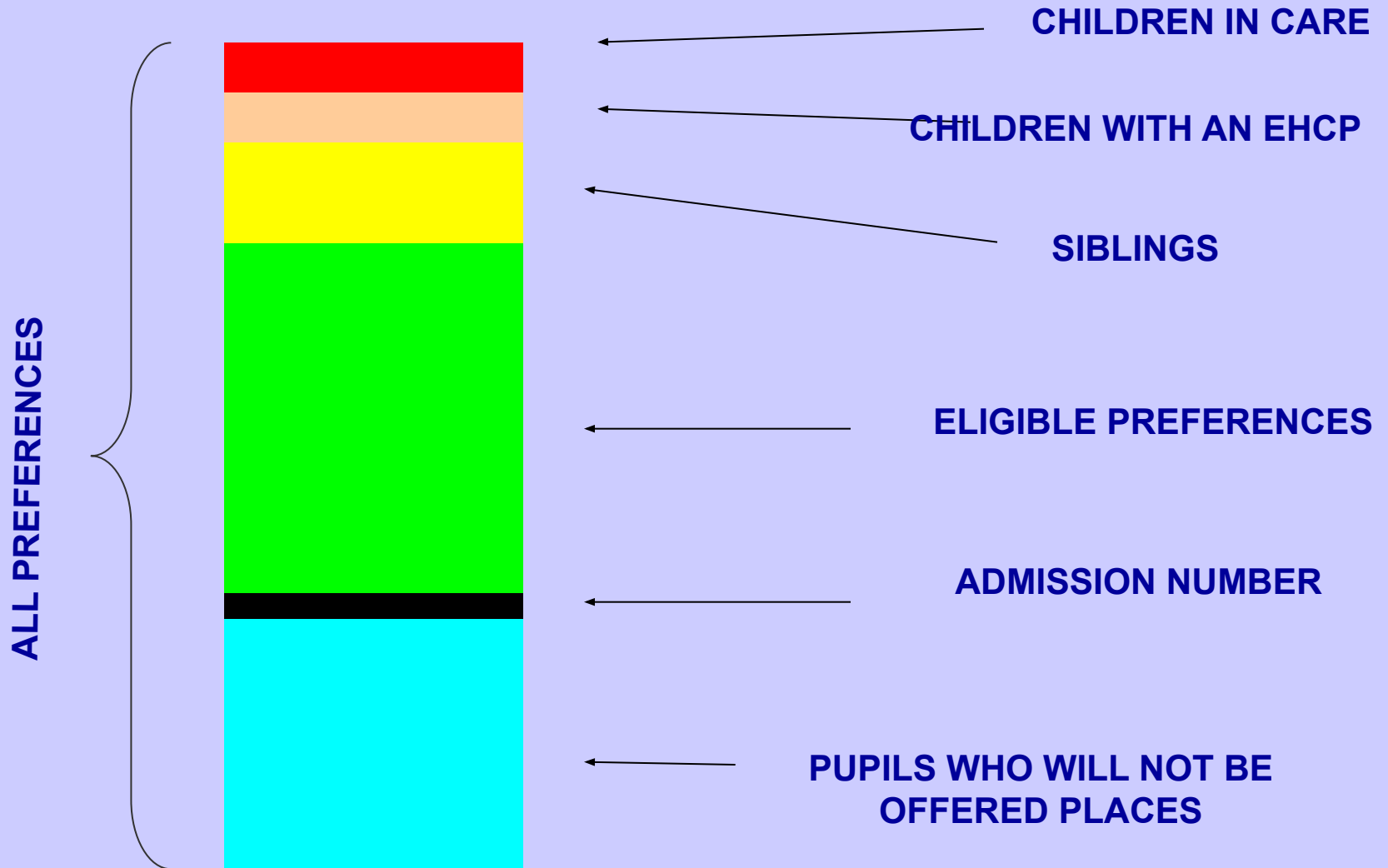
THE LA, OR THE SCHOOLS\*, DRAW UP A “STACK” OF APPLICANTS PUTTING THEM IN ORDER USING THE OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOOL

- CHILDREN IN CARE, STATEMENTED CHILDREN, SIBLINGS AND DISTANCE



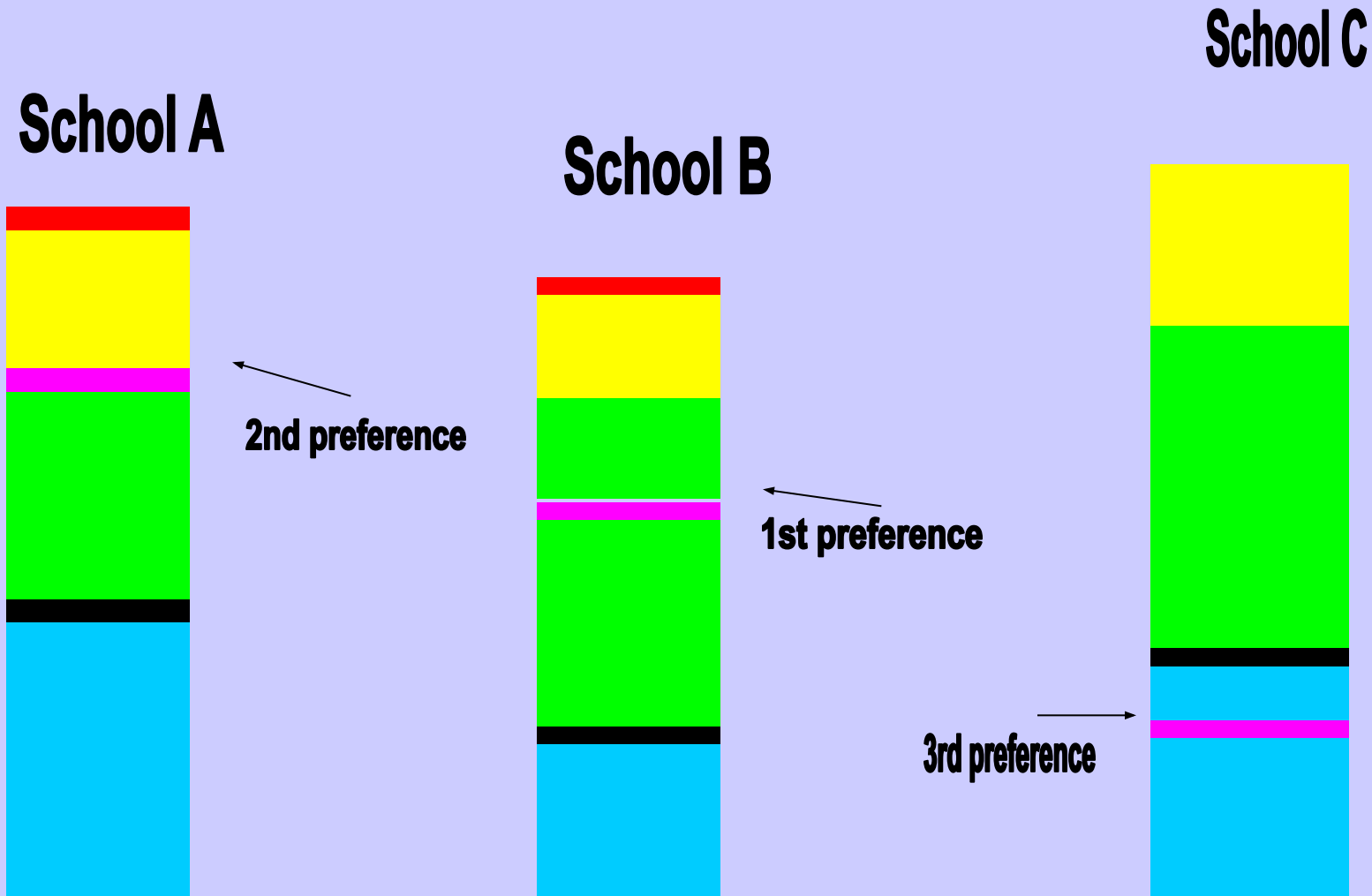


**THE ADMISSION NUMBER IS APPLIED TO DETERMINE WHO IS OFFERED A PLACE**



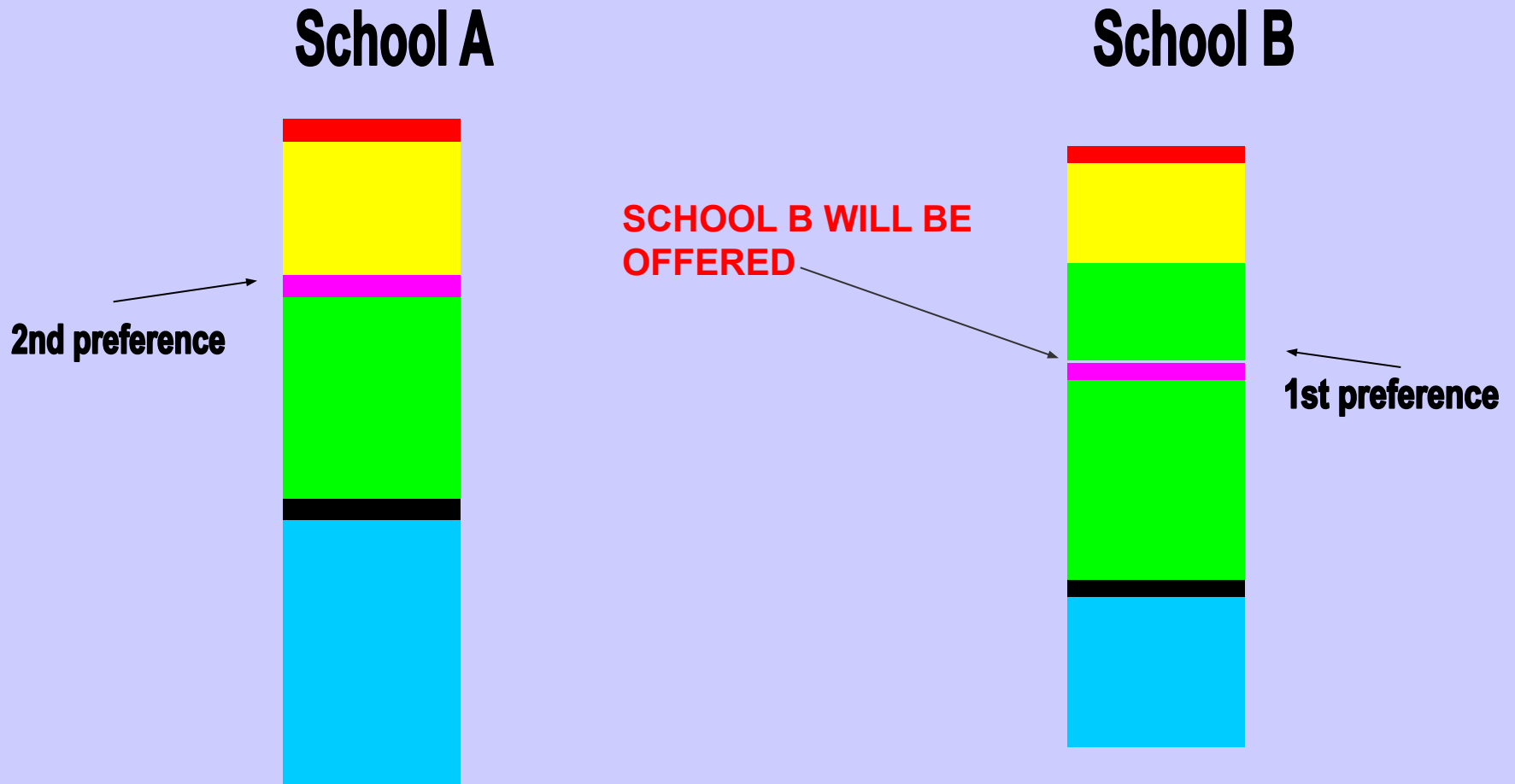
## WHAT DOES EQUAL PREFERENCES MEAN?

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 2nd 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> class post).**
- **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 2nd March parents can appeal in writing to an independent panel for a place at another school.**

# For more information

- Go online to  
**[www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions)**
- Take advantage of information provided by secondary schools including in person and online virtual “open days”

# Appeals: LEA instructions to Primary Schools

> Appeals for a place at a particular school are between the parent and the school being appealed for.

> Primary schools are not part of the appeal process and can only provide academic data on Form HT1

> Primary schools cannot provide character references or any other additional information other than that provided on Form HT1

No other documentation from the Headteacher (eg letters) will be accepted by the panel

#### A PUPIL DETAILS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

#### B ACADEMIC INFORMATION – Evidence of the child's academic ability and potential.

Information should provide quantitative evidence of appropriate academic performance. This must include measured data and the results of standardised tests (non-verbal, reading/spelling, Maths), SATs and Teacher Assessment for any relevant year.

For end of Year 4 and Year 5 teacher assessments, **please circle** the appropriate result code. If a different grading system is used in school, please explain this.

	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Year 4 TA	WTS EXS GDS	WTS EXS GDS	WTS EXS GDS
Year 5 TA	WTS EXS GDS	WTS EXS GDS	WTS EXS GDS
Year 6 TA Prediction for Year 6 SATs	WTS EXS GDS	WTS EXS GDS	WTS EXS GDS

Key: WTS = Working towards the standard; EXS = Working at the expected standard; GDS = Working at greater depth

NFER / GL Non-Verbal	Year group the test was taken	Result
Score (prior, e.g. Year 3)		
Score (most recent, e.g. Year 5)		



ANY OTHER RELEVANT TEST DATA VR tests, other <u>standardised</u> tests	Year group in which the test was taken	Result
<i>Test type</i>		

ATTENDANCE DATA (%)	
YEAR 4	
YEAR 5	
YEAR 6 TO DATE	

Signed (Headteacher) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form should not be expanded beyond this point.



# Lessons learned:

- Attendance is a key factor.
- Meeting the standards for Upton Hall does not guarantee a place.
- Don't take advice from other parents - this can often be the wrong advice for your child.
- Be careful how you talk about schools in front of your child - be calm as parents - hide your stress
- Be certain about the schools you choose.
- BSHA is a lottery
- Check admissions criteria for all schools e.g. Catholic schools

## Appeals

- We will support and share advice if you need to appeal.
- For any appeal we will give you the best data from school.
- Data from private tutors is not always helpful