

Applying for a place at Primary School 2015/16

Information for parents/carers

If your child is due to start reception class in September 2015 you need to apply for a school place by the closing date of **15 January 2015**

You need to apply even if you have registered your child's name at a school, your child attends a school nursery and/or your child has a brother or sister already attending primary school.



Please read this booklet very carefully because it:

- explains how we decide which school to offer your child; and
- gives information to help you decide if you are likely to get a place at a particular school.

We can give you this information in other formats (such as in large print) and languages if you ask.

The information in this booklet was correct at the time it was published. If there are any changes, we will put a notice on our website at www.wigan.gov.uk and take appropriate steps to let you know.

If you need any help with your application please contact:

Wigan Council
People Directorate
3rd Floor, Waterside House
Waterside Drive
Wigan
WN3 5AZ

Phone 01942 486037/ 486039/ 486040
Email schoolplaces@wigan.gov.uk

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Why not apply online?



Apply online for your child's primary school place because:

- It is quick, safe and secure.
- We will confirm we have received your application.
- You can change your application at any time up until the closing date **15 January 2015**.
- There are clear, simple instructions to guide you through making your application.
- The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the application period – no later than November 2014 to **15 January 2015**
- You will receive your result by email and be able to view this online from **16 April 2015**.

What will I need to apply online?

- A computer with internet access
- An e-mail account

Please note that you may encounter difficulties using the online service on smart phones, tablets or other mobile devices. If so please use a computer.

What if I haven't got access to a computer?

- You can use a computer your local Life Centre – we recommend that you book this service beforehand.

To access the online application service you can go to our website at www.wigan.gov.uk and follow the links.

If you need any help or guidance using the online service please contact us:

- by phone on 01942 486030, 8.45am to 5pm Monday to Friday; or
- by e-mail at schoolplaces@wigan.gov.uk.

Part 1 – Applying for a primary school place

Timetable

If your child was born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011, he or she will start reception class at the start of the new school year in September 2015. The timetable for the application process is as follows.

November 2014	Admissions information circulated. Online application service available.
15 January 2015	Closing date for applications.
January 2015 to April 2015	Applications processed.
16 April 2015	Offers go out by email and letter.
By 1 May 2015	Acceptance slips to be returned.
8 June 2015	Closing date for appeals.
July - August 2015	Appeals heard.
September 2015	Admission to school.

How to apply

In Wigan, the School Organisation Team at People Directorate deals with admissions to schools. We will be pleased to help if you have any questions or need extra information.

You can contact us as follows.

Address: Wigan Council
People Directorate: Children, Adults and Families
People Directorate
3rd Floor, Waterside House
Waterside Drive
Wigan
WN3 5AZ

Phone 01942 486037/ 486039/ 486040
Email schoolplaces@wigan.gov.uk

Website: www.wigan.gov.uk.

1. Registering an interest

Parents can register an interest at any local primary school. This needs to be done by November of the year before your child is due to start school.

Registering an interest provides schools with information about who to send an application pack to. You must advise the school if your address changes or you may not receive the information.

Completing a registration of interest is not an application for a school place.

2. Application information

In November 2014 the primary school where you have registered an interest will provide you with an application pack containing:

1. Information about how to access this booklet and the online application service
2. A Wigan Council primary school application form (you can use this if you are unable to apply online)

If you do not receive application information in the post you can obtain this online at www.wigan.gov.uk or on request from the School Organisation Team.

Children going to nursery classes

It is important to remember that if your child goes to a nursery class attached to a school **they do not have an automatic right to a place in a reception class at that school.**

The admission criteria for schools are different from those for nurseries.

You must submit an application for a place by the closing date. This will be considered according to the school's admission criteria.

3. Completing your application

This booklet provides information on the types of primary schools in Wigan and the admission arrangements for each school.

To be considered for your preferred primary schools, you must **apply online** or fill in the **Wigan Council primary school application form**. You can give three preferences of school in order of priority. You will only be considered for schools you name as a preference.

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2015.

When you give preferences, it is important to make a realistic assessment of your child's chances of gaining a place. The information in this booklet will help you to do this. If you need more advice, please contact the School Organisation Team.

You should give three preferences. If you do not:

- it does not increase your chance of gaining a place at your first preference school; and

- we do not know which other schools you are interested in.

If we cannot offer your first preference school, we can only offer the nearest school to your child's home with a spare place. You may miss out on a place at another school you prefer.

Repeating the name of one school three times on your application does not improve your chances of a place.

Preferences for voluntary aided (church) schools and supplementary information forms

Catholic primary schools

Wigan residents

If you live in Wigan and any of the schools you want your child to go to is a Wigan voluntary aided Catholic primary school the governors will need extra information so that they can consider your application against their faith criteria. If you do not give this information your child may be refused a place.

If you apply online you need to complete a separate supplementary information form and submit it to the school by the closing date **15 January 2015**.

You can complete a supplementary form online at www.wigan.gov.uk or get a copy:

- by downloading one from our website
- from the school; or
- by calling the School Organisation Team on 01942 486037

If you apply using the Wigan Council primary school application form please complete the relevant section of the form. We will pass on the information to the schools' governors.

Some Catholic schools ask you to show proof of baptism. The school will ask to see this if your child is offered a place. Please do not send any proofs of baptism to the Local Authority.

If any of the schools you want is a Catholic school in another local authority please contact the school to find out if they use a supplementary information form.

Other Local Authority residents

If you live in another Local Authority and any of the schools you want your child to go to is a Wigan voluntary aided Catholic primary school we strongly advise you to fill in the school's own supplementary information form and return it to the school. You can get a copy from our website or from the school.

Other voluntary aided primary schools

If any of the schools you want your child to go to is a voluntary aided (church) school other than a Wigan Catholic primary school, we **strongly advise** you to fill in the school's own supplementary information form **as well as your online application or the Wigan Council primary school application form**. If you do not fill in the school's own supplementary information form, the school will not have all the information they need to consider your application against their faith criteria and your child may be refused a place.

You can get a copy of the supplementary information form:

- from the school;
- by calling the School Organisation Team on 01942 486037; or
- by downloading one from our website at www.wigan.gov.uk.

Primary schools in other local authorities

You can apply for schools in any local authority. Other local authorities produce their own admission booklets with details of their schools, which are available online or on request from each local authority. There is a list of our neighbouring local authorities, with contact phone numbers, in part 3 of this booklet.

If your child lives in Wigan and you want to apply for a place at a school in another local authority, you must:

- apply online or fill in the Wigan Council primary school application form and put the name of the other local authority school
- submit your online application or return your form to any Wigan primary school **by the closing date of 15 January 2015.**

Whichever way you apply, we will deal with the other local authority for you.

Please make sure you also fill in and return to the school any supplementary information form for a voluntary aided school.

Looked after and previously looked after children

If you are responsible for a looked after or previously looked after child please tell us this on your application. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). Applications for previously looked after children must be supported with appropriate evidence i.e. a copy of the adoption order, residence order or special guardianship order.

Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed forces)

Places can be allocated in advance for children of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting in the area, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in the area. If this applies to your child please tell us on your application. You must also provide evidence i.e. an official letter from your commanding officer containing a relocation date and unit postal address.

Children with a statement of special educational needs or education health and care plan

Children with a statement of special educational needs or education health and care plan that names a school will be offered a place without using the admission criteria. This applies to all types of school.

It is important that you still apply for a mainstream school even if a place at a special school is being considered for your child. This is so you have a better chance of

getting a place at the mainstream school you prefer if your child does not go to a special school.

4. Submitting your application

Online applications

You must ensure that you follow the instructions on screen to submit your application. Please note that if you amend your application after submitting you must re-submit it or your preferences will not be recorded.

You will receive a confirmation email showing your preferences. Please keep this safe until you receive an offer of a school place.

Wigan Council primary school application form

You can hand in your form at any Wigan Primary school.

You will receive a receipt for your application. Please keep this safe until you know the outcome of your application.

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2015. We will only consider applications we receive by the closing date as on time applications.

In 2014 91% of on time applicants were offered a place at their first preference Wigan primary school. 98% of on time applicants living in Wigan were offered a place at one of their preferences.

Changing your mind up to the closing date

If you change your mind about the names or order of schools you have put on your application, you must submit a new application before the closing date on **15 January 2015**.

If you apply online, you can change your preference at any time up to the closing date by amending your application. You must follow the instructions given on the online service to make sure your preferences have been changed. You will receive a confirmation email showing your new preferences. Keep this safe until you receive an offer of a school place.

You can get a new Wigan Council primary school application form from any Wigan primary school or the School Organisation Team. Make sure you hand the new form in at a school. Keep your receipt safe until you receive an offer of a school place.

Changing your mind after the closing date

If you change your mind about the preferences or the order of preferences after the closing date, you must submit a late application. This will be available on our website after the closing date or on request from the School Organisation Team. **It is important to note that changes of preference after the closing date are treated as a late application (see below) and will reduce your chances of being offered a place at the school you want.**

5. Offering school places

Part 2 of this booklet provides important information about how we decide which school to offer your child.

If you have applied online you will receive an email on **16 April 2015** with the result of your application. We will also write to all on time applicants on **16 April 2015** to tell you the school where we are offering your child a place. We will send the letter by first class post. The letter will include a reply slip to return to the school by **1 May 2015**. If you do not return the slip by this date the place may be withdrawn and offered to another child.

If you are unhappy with the school place offered and want to be considered for new preferences please complete a late application. You can do this online at www.wigan.gov.uk or request a form from the School Organisation Team. **This will be classed as a late application (see below).**

6. Late applications

It is important that you apply online or return your application form before the closing date on **15 January 2015**.

We will deal with all on time applications first and at the same time.

All applications and changes of preference made after the closing date will be classed as late. If your application is late, we will only look at it after we have dealt with the applications we receive on time. This means that you are far less likely to get a place at the school you want.

If you apply late, you will not receive an offer until after 16 April 2015, but we will write to you as soon as we can after this date.

Late applications received after the closing date **15 January 2015** will be processed in two stages as follows:

Stage 1 Late applications received **before** 16 April 2015 will be considered at the same time, after all on time applicants have been offered a place

Stage 2 Late applications received **after** 16 April 2015 will be considered after those in stage 1.

If we are unable to offer a place at any of your preferences we will offer a place at the nearest school to your home address with an available place. This may not be a school that is near to you because we will offer places first to children whose applications we receive on time. All places at your local primary schools may already have been filled.

If you have already accepted a place at a school and want to keep this offer you must name this school as a preference on your late application. If you do not we may withdraw the offered place and make it available for another child.

If you need advice about submitting a late application please contact the School Organisation Team on 01942 486037.

Delaying entry to primary school

Legally, your child does not have to start school until the admission date after their 5th birthday. The admission dates set by the Government are:

- 31 August;
- 31 December; and
- 31 March.

Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to primary school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year. Requests should be made to the headteacher of the school where your child has been offered a place.

Where deferred entry is agreed by the school, the place will be held open and not offered to another child. Parents cannot defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which they originally applied.

If you want to defer entry beyond the 2015 academic year we cannot guarantee that there will be a place at the school you want.

Part time attendance at primary school

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until they reach compulsory school age. Requests must be made to the school.

Part 2 - How places are allocated

We will consider the following things when deciding which school to offer your child a place at:

- The three school preferences you name on the application form
- The admission number for the schools
- The admission criteria for the schools
- The order of priority you have given schools on your application

When we consider on time applications, we will use only the information that is correct on your application form at the closing date for applications.

The equal preference system and the priority order of schools on your application

By law, we must use the equal preference system when considering your application for a school place. The equal preference system makes sure that, if you miss out at your first preference school, you still have a fair chance of being offered a place at your second or third preference schools. This is why we advise you to give three preferences.

We offer places by doing the following.

- First, we rank all first, second and third preference applications by using the school's admission criteria only. This process means that some second and third preference applications will be ranked higher than some first preference applications.
- We use schools' admission numbers to find out how many children can be offered a place at each school.
- We then offer places to all children whose first preference we can meet, and remove their second and third preferences from the list.
- We repeat this process for second preferences and then third preferences.

If your child lives in Wigan and following this process none of the schools you have named as preferences are able to offer a place, we will offer a place at the nearest Wigan school to your home address with an available place.

If your child does not live in Wigan, the local authority in their area will offer them a place.

Admission number

Every school has an admission number. This is the number of places in a school year group. The admission numbers for all Wigan primary schools, and information on each school, are given in part 4 of this booklet.

Children with a statement of special educational needs or education and health care plan

Children with a statement of special educational needs or education and health care plan which names the school will be offered a place without using the admission criteria. This is a legal requirement and applies to all types of school.

Admission criteria

When there are more applications than places for a school, we say the school is 'oversubscribed'. If there are more applications than the admission number, a fixed set of rules are used to decide which children will be offered a place. These rules are called the 'admission criteria'.

The admission criteria for all Wigan primary schools are given in part 4 of this booklet.

You will see that the criteria are numbered. Children in criterion 1 will have first priority for places, children in criterion 2 will be considered next and so on through the criteria until there are no places left.

The local authority School Organisation Team ranks applications for community and voluntary controlled schools using the admission criteria. The admission authority of a voluntary aided, foundation or academy school is responsible for ranking applications using their admission criteria. They then give this information to the School Organisation Team.

Brothers and sisters

The admission criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools have children who will have brothers or sisters at the school when they start as criterion two.

We will include:

- half-brothers and half-sisters;
 - stepbrothers and stepsisters; and
 - foster brothers and foster sisters.
- who live at the same address as part of the same family unit.

Tie breaker

When we use the admission criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools, more children might fall into a particular category than the number of places left. If this happens, we use the 'tie-breaker' to decide who to give a place to.

We will give places to the children who live nearest to the school. We measure this distance:

- in a straight line; and
- using a geographical information system (GIS) which is based on Ordnance Survey maps. We will measure from your child's home address to a central point on the school site. If you want more information about the point we measure to at community and voluntary controlled schools, please contact the School Organisation Team on 01942 486273.

If we offer the last place available at a school to one of twins (or triplets, and so on), our policy is to admit the other twin or triplets too.

Occasionally, the distance from home to school is the same for more than one child (for example, if more than one child lives in the same block of flats). In these cases, we will use a system to randomly pick who we will offer a place. If you want more information on this policy, please contact the School Organisation Team.

The tie breakers for voluntary aided, foundation schools and academies, and the admission criteria for each school, are given in part 4 of this booklet.

Your child's home address

Many schools use children's addresses when deciding who to offer places to.

You must give the correct permanent address. This is where the child and parent, or the person who has care of the child or has parental responsibility, normally live.

If you are separated and your child spends time at each parent's address, the address we use for admission to school is that of the main carer. We use the address of the parent who gets the Child Benefit for this.

We carry out checks to confirm that addresses are genuine. If we are unable to confirm your address, or any issues are raised relating to your address, we may carry out further checks.

We may ask to see two forms of evidence of your permanent address at the closing date for applications (photocopies are acceptable). This may include:

- proof of where you are registered for council tax;
- your television licence;
- your current driving licence;
- a utility bill (gas, electricity or water) covering the closing date for applications;

- proof of your Child Benefit;
- proof of your Child Tax Credits.

Any evidence you provide must show that the parent or main carer lives at this address at the closing date for applications.

If your address changes temporarily (for example, if you go to live with a relative), you cannot use this address.

When considering your child's application, we use the permanent home address we have for you at the closing date for applications.

If you move house after the closing date for applications but before we send allocation letters to parents, you must tell the School Organisation Team in writing. We cannot use your new address to consider your application from but we will make sure we write to you at the correct address.

False information

If you give any false information to get a school place (for example, if you give the incorrect permanent address at the closing date for applications), we will withdraw the offer and your child will lose their place.

If you suspect that someone has given false information to get a school place please contact the School Organisation Team on 01942 486273.

Voluntary aided (church) schools

You should remember that some voluntary aided primary schools may have different requirements than Wigan Council. You should check each school's admission arrangements for details.

If you want more information about each school's admission policy, your right to appeal against an admission decision, or applying for a school place part way through the year, you can get details by contacting the school direct.

Waiting lists

Places may become available at a school after the offer date of 16 April 2015. All admission authorities must have a waiting list until the end of the autumn term.

For community and voluntary controlled schools we will:

- put all children who we refuse a place at one of their preferences on the waiting list for the school;
- keep the list in priority order, **decided by the admission criteria for the school only**;
- offer any places that become available to the next child on the waiting list; and
- maintain the waiting list until the end of the autumn term.

Important information about the waiting list

Waiting lists are maintained in accordance with the admission criteria for the school. This is a legal requirement. We cannot take into account the date the application was received or the length of time a child's name has been on the waiting list. This means that your child's position on the list may change if another applicant is refused a place and their child has higher priority in the admissions criteria.

If you tell us, after the closing date for applications, that your address has changed, and you provide documents to prove this, we will take this into account for the purposes of the waiting list.

Please note that your child's name can only be placed on the waiting lists for schools you have named as preferences and have been refused a place. This means that they can only be on 3 waiting lists at any one time. If your child's name is already on 3 waiting lists and you wish to put them on the waiting list for another school you need to decide which of your original preferences you want to change.

Waiting lists for foundation schools and academies

Each foundation and academy school includes details of their waiting list policy in their admission arrangements.

Wigan Council will maintain the waiting list on behalf of the admission authorities of the following schools:

- Bedford Hall Methodist primary school
- Lowton Junior & Infant school
- Platt Bridge Community School
- Tyldesley primary school
- Westleigh Methodist primary school

The Academy Trust for St Wilfrid's CE Primary Academy maintains its own waiting list. Please contact the school for more information.

Waiting lists for voluntary aided schools

Each voluntary aided school includes details of their waiting list policy in their admission arrangements. The governing body of the school will maintain the waiting list. If you are refused a place at a voluntary aided school, please contact the school to confirm that your child's name is on the waiting list.

Giving a place from a waiting list

If a place becomes available at an oversubscribed school and your child's name is at the top of the waiting list we will contact you to ask if you want to accept the place. We will do this by telephone if possible. We will send you a letter to confirm the new offer. The letter will include a reply slip to return to the school by the date stated. If you do not return the slip by this date the place may be withdrawn and offered to another child.

If you accept a place from a waiting list we will withdraw any place we have already offered and make it available for another child.

Admission appeals

You can appeal to an independent appeal panel if you are refused a place at any school you have applied for.

If your child is refused a place at a school, we will write to tell you:

- why we refused your application;
- how to appeal;
- the time limit for sending your appeal (you will have at least 20 school days from the date of the letter);
- where to send the appeal; and
- who to contact if you need any help.

Sometimes, places become available at a school before the admission appeals have been heard. If this happens, we will offer places to the next child on the waiting list. If you appeal, it does not affect your child's place on the waiting list.

Before you decide if you want to appeal, you will probably want to think about:

- the school's published admissions criteria for admitting pupils;
- your reasons for wanting your child to go to the school;
- your child's view on which school he or she should go to; and
- how strong a case you have.

You may also want to visit the school which your child has been offered.

Appeals for children refused a place at a preferred school for admission to reception class in September 2015 will be heard according to the following timetable:

Offer date	Appeals lodged	Appeals to be heard
16 April 2015	by 8 June 2015	within 40 school days
	after 8 June 2015	within 30 school days

The appeal hearing

Before the hearing

Parents/carers will be notified of their appeal date at least 10 school days before the hearing.

A copy of the school's statement of case will be sent to each parent/carer at least 7 working days before the hearing.

Any additional evidence parents/carers wish to submit in support of their appeal must be sent to the clerk at least 5 working days before the hearing. Any evidence not submitted by this deadline may not be considered by the independent appeal panel.

The appeal panel

The panel will have three or five people on it. They are completely independent of Wigan Council and the school you are appealing for. The appeal panel will also have a clerk.

At the appeal hearing

We strongly advise you to go to the appeal hearing if you can. You will not usually need legal representation (such as a solicitor) but you do have the right to bring a legal adviser or a friend along for support.

There will be a Wigan Council or school representative at the hearing to give their reasons for refusing your child a place and you can ask them questions about this. You will be able to put your case for your child to the panel. You will probably want to refer back to your original reasons for applying for that school. If you cannot go to the appeal hearing, the panel will consider all the information you have sent in writing, in your absence.

At the end of the hearing, the clerk will tell you when you can expect to receive the panel's decision.

You will receive the panel's decision by letter.

Admission authorities must keep to the decisions of admissions appeals panels. The decisions can only be overturned by the courts.

Appeals for infant classes (reception, year 1 and year 2) - the '30 children in a class' rule.

The law says that we cannot teach infant children in classes of more than 30.

When your child is refused a place because of infant class size you can only win an appeal if:

- the admission arrangements did not stick to the law and your child would have been offered a place if they did;
- the appeal panel decides that the decision not to offer a place was unreasonable in your circumstances (an unreasonable decision is one that no sensible authority acting properly would make); or
- the Council as Admissions Coordinator made a mistake or did not follow the right procedure when it decided on places at the school and your child would have been offered a place if it had done things correctly.

After the hearing

The parents or guardians of children who have been unsuccessful in their admission appeal may want to consider the following options:

1. Complaints about maladministration

Community schools

The Local Government Ombudsman can investigate written complaints about bad administration by an admissions appeal panel for community, voluntary aided or foundation schools. This is not a right to appeal and has to relate to issues such as failing to follow correct procedures or failing to act independently and fairly. You cannot complain just on the basis that you think an admissions decision is wrong.

You can contact the Local Government Ombudsman at:

Local Government Ombudsman

PO Box 4771

Coventry

CV4 0EH

Website <http://www.lgo.org.uk>

Telephone 0300 061 0614

Fax 024 7682 0001

Academy and Free schools

The Education Funding Agency deals with complaints about bad administration by an admissions appeal panel for academy and free schools. This is not a right to appeal and has to relate to issues such as failing to follow correct procedures or failing to act independently and fairly. You cannot complain just on the basis that you think an admissions decision is wrong.

You can contact the EFA at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/education-funding-agency>

Email academy.questions@education.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone 0370 000 2288

2 Judicial review

You can ask for a judicial review if you consider that the decision wasn't properly made or was 'unreasonable'. An 'unreasonable' decision is one that no sensible authority acting properly would make. You will usually have to contact a solicitor.

Further appeals

Admission authorities will normally only allow parents to have one appeal to a particular school in any school year.

They will only consider an application for the same school in the same school year in very exceptional situations, such as a significant, material change in your circumstances or those of your child.

A material change is something substantial, such as a change of address from a different area which would change the priority of your application or the submission of substantial new evidence that was not available to the original appeal panel. The fact that a pupil is distressed at not being offered a place at the school they wanted is not a significant and material change in circumstances.

Part 3 – Useful information

School meals

School meals are available in all primary schools at the moment.

There is a cafeteria service for pupils who want to buy a school meal. At all schools there are places where pupils can eat food they have brought from home.

Free school meals and pupil premium

You will be entitled to apply for Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium for your child if you or your partner receives one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- The guaranteed part of State Pension Credit
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have a annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by the Inland Revenue)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit.

For more details, or how to claim, go online at;

<http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Benefit-Grants>

Our postal address is: PO Box 100, Wigan WN1 3DS

You can visit us at;

Wigan Life Centre, located at The Wiend, Wigan. WN11NH.

Or at any of our other Life Centres in Atherton, Ince, Leigh, Marsh Green or Platt Bridge.

Wigan Life Centre is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday and 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturdays. For opening times of our other Life Centres go to www.wigan.gov.uk/wiganlife

Phone: 01942 828644 E-mail: benefits@wigan.gov.uk

School uniform

Pupils must wear school uniform at all primary schools in Wigan. Details are available from the individual schools.

Help with travel costs

To find out whether you may be eligible for help with travel costs please see the chart below:

Children Under 8 (of compulsory school age)	Children aged 8 but under 11 from low income families
Entitled to free travel arrangements to the nearest qualifying school over 2 miles.	Entitled to travel arrangements made where they live more than 2 miles from their nearest qualifying school.

Statutory walking distance is 2 miles for children aged 8 and under and 3 miles for children aged 8 and over. The measurement of the distance is measured by the shortest route along which a child accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety.

If you have any questions or want to check if we would offer help before you apply for a particular school, please contact Alison Battersby at the Integrated Transport Unit on 01942 489685, email schooltransport@wigan.gov.uk.

Sustainable school travel

Wigan's Transport Strategy recognises the benefits for the environment, as well as to children's health and well-being in encouraging walking and cycling. It also aims to tackle the issue of local congestion around schools and make education easier for children and young people to get access to.

School travel map

The school travel interactive service provides information for every school and college in the borough on choosing different methods of transport
<http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Home-to-school-travel/School-Travel-Map.aspx>

For more information on your sustainable travel options, please contact Andy Allen on 01942 488250.



Useful contacts

Access and Inclusion Team (special needs) 01942 486132

Wigan Family Information Service email fis@wigan.gov.uk

Customer Services Team 01942 404364

Independent advice on school admissions issues:

Children's Legal Centre

0808 802 0008

<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com>

Neighbouring local authorities

Bolton Council Telephone: 01204 332137
Children's Services Fax: 01204 336235

Pupil and Student Services

2nd Floor Paderborn House

Bolton

BL1 1UA

Email: admissions@bolton.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council Telephone: 01772 532191

Pupil Access Team

Area Education South Office

Joint Divisional Offices

East Cliff

Preston

PR1 3JT

Email: pupilaccess.southadmissions@lancashire.gov.uk

Salford Children's Services Telephone: 0161 909 6508

School Admissions

2nd Floor

Unity House

Chorley Road

Swinton

M27 5AW

Email: school.admissions@salford.gov.uk

St Helens Telephone: 01744 671030 (Secondary)
School admissions 01744 671035 (In year)

Atlas House

Corporation Street

St Helens

Merseyside

WA9 1LD

Email: schooladmissions@sthelens.gov.uk

Fax: 01744 674430

Trafford School Admissions Telephone: 0161 912 4407

2nd floor, Waterside House

Waterside

Sale

Fax: 0161 912 5007

M33 7ZF

Email: school.admissions@trafford.gov.uk

Warrington Admissions Team
Children and Young People's Services

New Town House
Buttermarket Street

Warrington

WA1 2NJ

Email: schooladmissions@warrington.gov.uk

Telephone: 01925 442952

Fax: 01925 443140

Part 4 – Information about Wigan primary schools

Types of primary school

In Wigan there is a range of schools available. Each type of school has an admission authority that is responsible for considering applications. The admission criteria for all types of schools are given in this booklet.

We give details of how we offered places last year to help explain how the available places were allocated. You may want to use this information as a guide to whether you are likely to gain a place at one of your preferred schools. The information is only a guide because the number of applications for a school is different each year.

Community and voluntary controlled schools

Wigan Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools and Wigan Council decide who will be offered places if there are more applications than the number of places available.

Foundation schools

The governing body of a foundation school decides who will be offered places if there are more applications than the number of places available.

Academy schools

The Academy Trust decides who will be offered a place if there are more applications than places.

Voluntary aided (church) schools

The governing bodies of voluntary aided schools decide who will be offered a place if there are more applications than places.

The admission criteria for voluntary aided primary schools usually take account of whether the child is a member of a church or goes to church (or both). They ask for information about this on their own supplementary information form.

If you want a place at a voluntary aided school, **we strongly recommend that you complete the school's own supplementary information form and return this to the school by the closing date of 15 January 2015.** Supplementary forms are available on the Wigan Council website or from the school.

If you use the Wigan Council primary school application form and any of your preferences is a Wigan Catholic Primary school please complete the relevant section of the form.

We strongly advise you to return a supplementary information form as well as a Wigan Council primary school application for each voluntary aided school you name, whether it is your first, second or third preference.

Federated schools

A federation is a formal arrangement between two or more schools to work together under a single governing body, sharing one headteacher. A federation can include all types of school; community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, foundation and academy. The admission arrangements for each school remain the same.

Open days

Wigan schools will hold open days. Dates are advertised in the local press. You can also contact each school for details.

School prospectus

The admission authority of each school publishes a prospectus which provides information about the school, such as its policies, results and curriculum. You can get a school's prospectus free of charge from the school or download it from the school's website. The website address is shown on the page for each primary school.

Ofsted reports

Schools are regularly inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). Copies of Ofsted reports are available from schools or on the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

School achievement and attainment tables

Yearly school achievement and attainment tables are available online at <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance> Information about examination results may also be included in a school's prospectus.

Independent advice

Children's Legal Centre
0808 802 0008
<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com>

Part 5 - Transfer between primary schools

If you want to change your child's school, you should consider this decision very carefully. It is generally in a child's best interest to stay at the same school, as changing schools can cause an unnecessary break in the child's education. If your child is having problems, a change of school is not always the answer. You should discuss any concerns with your child's head teacher or class teacher before you apply for a different school.

If you are thinking of moving house and your child would have to change school, there may not be places available at the school you want. The School Organisation Team will be able to tell you which schools are full or may have places. Some schools are full in all or most year groups and we cannot guarantee there will be a place available in the area you plan to move to.

How to apply for a transfer of school

Wigan primary schools

The School Organisation Team deals with in year applications for all Wigan primary schools except:

Castle Hill St Phillip's CE Primary School
Hindley All Saints CE Primary School
St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

If you want to apply to transfer your child to any of these schools please contact the school direct.

To apply for a transfer to any other Wigan Primary school please fill in the Wigan Council In year Application Form. This form is available to complete online at www.wigan.gov.uk. To request a printed copy please contact The School Organisation Team by phoning 01942 486037. You can name up to three Wigan primary schools in order of preference.

We will write to let you know the outcome of your application. All schools have an admission limit for each year group. If we cannot offer your child a place at the school you want and you live in Wigan, we will offer a place at another school. You may want to keep your child at their current school.

You have the right to appeal if we refuse you a place at a school. For more information on appeals, see part 2. If you are making an appeal for a school and a place becomes available before your appeal is heard, we will consider your application alongside any other applications for the school.

Schools in other Local Authorities

If you want to apply for a transfer to a school in another local authority please contact that authority or the school to find out how to apply.

It is important that your child continues to attend their current school until you have arranged a transfer date.

Offers of school places

You need to inform the school within two weeks of the offer date whether you want to accept the place we offer you. If you do not the place may be withdrawn.

Once we have offered you a place at a school, your child must start within four school weeks. If they do not, we will withdraw the place. If you still want your child to move to the school, you will need to apply again. Please bear this in mind if you are in the process of moving house.

Fair Access Protocol

We sometimes receive requests for places from Wigan residents and are not able to offer a place at a school within a reasonable distance of where the child lives. In these situations, the Director for Children and Families will use our Fair Access Protocol to allocate a place at a community, voluntary controlled, foundation, academy or voluntary aided (church) school, even if the year group is full.

Children who qualify for a place using our Fair Access Protocol must be given priority over children on a waiting list who attend a school.