



To contact your
Choice Advice Service
please call
01942 486016
or write to
Choice Advice Service
Progress House,
Westwood Park Drive,
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WN3 4HH

We can make this information available
in other formats and languages on request.
Contact us at the above address
Phone: 01942 486123.
Website: www.wigan.gov.uk



Choice Advice Service

Choosing a School

Things to consider



August 2008

Children and Young People's Services

What information is available

There is a lot of information to help you choose a school. The Council publish an admission booklet every year. You have been given one of these booklets. The booklet, which is available online, contains a lot of information. It explains all about how and when to apply. It explains the admission criteria for schools and how places were allocated last year.

Look at the admission criteria to see how likely it is that your child will be offered a place.

Study the internet as most schools have their own websites with updated information for parents. Schools may be able to send you information in the post if you do not have access to a computer. There are also websites which show you which schools are in your area if you are new to Wigan.

Government produces reports and statistics on how well they think schools are performing (Ofsted reports and league tables). If you would like help finding these or making sense of this information just ask. Contact your Choice Advice Service for more information.



What does your child want?

It is important to consider your child's views. Children are all different. They have different abilities and are interested in learning different subjects. Schools may be different in the range of subjects and out of school activities that they offer.



Visit schools

Visiting is perhaps the best way to see what the school, the teachers and the pupils are like. Schools have open evenings around the time parents have to apply for a school. Find out when these are by contacting the school.

If you miss any open evenings arrange to see the school another time.

Fill in the form

You can put up to 3 preferences on your application form. This can be completed online.

You should put the schools in the order you prefer them. See the admissions booklet for full details on how places are allocated. If you are applying for a church school, make sure you have completed the schools own form.

Hand your form in on time - late applications are considered after everyone else's!

Ask for help?

If you're having difficulty getting any of the information you need contact your Choice Advice Service. Your Choice Advisor will be able to provide independent and impartial advice and support to help you consider your options.

The Choice Advisor will hold drop in sessions where you can ask about:-

- Applying online
- Schools are in your area (or out of it)
- Travel entitlements
- Admission criteria
- Appeals

Contact us to find out where these are being held.

