

Please can you disseminate this bulletin to all parents.

Applying for a secondary school place for September 2022

It is important to list four school preferences on your application and make sure you have submitted your application by the 31 October deadline. This way you are more likely to be offered a place at a school you are happy for your child to attend. All the information you need to make an informed decision when listing your school preferences is on the Council's website. Visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions, where you will find the 'Admissions to Schools: Guide for Parents 2022-23'.

Try to make sure you list at least one school where your child would meet higher criteria. If you include only one school on the application and your child does not meet one of the higher criteria for that school, you risk not being allocated a place. If you have not listed other schools, it will not be possible to consider your child for a school place at other local schools until all preferences made have been considered. This could mean that places locally will have been offered to those families that did list those schools as a preference on their application. Your child would then be allocated a place at the next nearest school that has places available after all other applications have been processed, which could mean your child is allocated a school further away.

Last year, almost 97% of families who applied for a secondary school place on time were offered one of their preferred schools, so it is really important that you get your application in on time with all four preferences listed.

Admission to Schools and Travel Assistance - Primary to Secondary Transfers

You should consider carefully how your child will get to and from the school(s) you apply for before you make your application for a school place. Children will only be entitled to free home to school transport if they are assessed to qualify under the Council's Home to School Transport Policy. There is no guarantee that a child will receive home to school transport, even if a sibling or other local child is already receiving it. All applications are assessed individually, and the policy criteria must be met in all cases. Where a child does not qualify, parents are fully responsible for all financial costs and transport arrangements for their child.

The full Home to School Transport Policy is published on the County Council website [Under 16 Mainstream Travel Assistance | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

The Council, in accordance with its statutory duty, will provide free home to school transport for secondary aged children to the **nearest** available school to their home address, if they live 3 miles or more from that school. The Council will also provide, as a discretionary award, free home to school transport for secondary aged children to the **nearest** catchment school to their home address if they live 3 miles or more from that school.

Changes to admission arrangements including catchment boundaries

Most secondary schools in Nottinghamshire are now academies and are responsible for their own admission arrangements. The Council is aware that some schools have changed or are consulting on changing their admission arrangements including changing their catchment boundaries. It is therefore essential if entitlement to school transport is important to you that you check which is your **nearest** school and **nearest** catchment school before you make your application for a school place. Information on catchment areas can be accessed on the County Council website and will

be correct and up to date when the admissions round is open. School catchment areas | Nottinghamshire County Council

For information, the Council will measure using the shortest available walking route to calculate distances to establish which is the **nearest** school to the home address.