



13th September 2021

Dear Parents of Year 6 pupils,

I wanted to write to you because at this time of year I know you are starting to consider your child's secondary school application.

In the past few years we have had many upset pupils and parents on Secondary offer day due to not obtaining a place in their preferred school.

I would urge any parents to visit the Secondary schools on their open days/evening to get a good picture of the school's provision and talk to other parents of pupils who may be there to get another perspective on the school. A lot of the open days **are planned for in the next few weeks** and I have placed **a link on the Y6 class page for all of the dates for Oldham schools**.

I would also consider your child's needs, abilities and aptitudes. They may not be the same as their sibling and therefore the same school choice may not always be the best for them. Please do not assume that because you have another child at a Secondary School that your Year 6 child will automatically get a place. (Check the criteria for siblings)

This year your child also has the opportunity to apply to Oldham's newest school -The Brian Clarke Academy. You will be able to apply to this **school separately** and also apply to your **local authority for another place**.

It is possible for this **year only to hold two places for your child**, if you meet the criteria and requirements. You will then have a few days in which to make a final decision.

I have included the key dates for you at the end on this letter.

When considering a place for your child I would urge you to consider the following:

1. If there are enough places available at a school for all pupils who request entry, then everyone will be allocated a place.
2. If a school receives more applications than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine who will be offered those places.

Please check the over subscription criteria carefully, they are different in each school.

3. Arm yourself with the facts and be fully informed:

- Which oversubscription group do you fall into?
- Each school application should be discussed with **all those with parental responsibility** for the child as only one application per child can be accepted
- Have you read the admissions policy for the school?
- Were pupils offered a place in that criterion group in previous years?
- What is the geographical priority area of the school?
- Were people from outside the geographical priority area offered places in previous years?

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- Does your child attend a linked school?
- For religious or faith schools, is your child or family of the particular religion or faith served by the school? Faith schools may ask for confirmation of attendance at a relevant place of worship. For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism is required by the school
- Do you know what will happen **if any of your preferences cannot be met?**

4. How to apply if you live outside Oldham

The Oldham online admissions **process is only for children who live in Oldham.**

If you live outside Oldham you can apply for an Oldham school, but you must apply through your local authority.

Are non-Oldham residents' applications treated differently?

Applications from residents outside Oldham are treated no differently than applications from Oldham residents.

If residents who live outside the borough have priority for a place over Oldham residents, we cannot refuse a place because they do not live within the borough.

5. Attending a school outside Oldham

If you want your child to attend a maintained school outside the Oldham area, you should include this as one of the preferences.

When completing your online application, search for the school by changing the local authority (using the drop down box). Then type in the name of the school.

If you are not sure which local authority the school belongs to, please contact Oldham Council on 0161 770 4213.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask either me or Mr. Scott and we will do our utmost to help you out.

Key Dates for applications and offer days.

	Application deadline	Offer Day	If holding a place at Brian Clarke and a Local authority place
Oldham, Manchester, Rochdale Local authority	31 st October 2021 By 5pm	1 st March 2022	9 th March 2022
Brian Clarke Academy	10 th December 2021	23 rd February 2022	9 th March 2022

Regards

Mrs J Conway-Headteacher

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