Applying for admission to a secondary school

If you have a child who was born between **1 September 2015** and **31 August 2016**, you must apply for a secondary school place for **September 2027.**

This brochure shows you how to transfer your child from a primary to a mainstream secondary school and set out how to maximise your chance of getting a school place that you want.

Last year Thurrock Council co-ordinated the admissions to Thurrock secondary schools and **76.2%** of parents who applied on time had their first preference met in the initial round of offers.

When to apply

You must get your application to us by **31 October 2026**. You must get your application to us on time to maximise your chances of being offered one of your preferred schools.

If you miss the closing date

Applications received after the closing date will be considered after those that are received on time and after the first round of offers have been made.

How to apply

The easiest way to apply is online – go to thurrock.gov.uk/admissions and follow the instructions on screen to make your application. If you do not have internet access at home, you can still apply online at your local library.

Your login account for this service is separate to the login accounts you may use for other Thurrock Council services, such as council tax, benefits or housing.

Once you create or log into your account, you will be able to complete an application, review, amend and submit it online. You will receive an automatic confirmation that your application has been received.

Once you have submitted your application online, you can still edit your application in the online account until the closing date for applications. Please make sure you re-submit the application once you have made the changes. Applications must be re-submitted by the closing date to be considered as on-time.

If you change your email address, you must notify our School Admissions team via the email address above. Please include your child's name and date of birth within the email.

Schools you should apply for

There are different types of secondary school in Thurrock – **9** are academy schools, **3** are free schools, and **1** is a voluntary-aided school.

These schools are all comprehensive, which means they cater for children of all levels of ability and all except one are mixed. Some have specialist status and some offer places based on aptitude for specific subjects or curriculum areas.