



Admissions FAQs

1. I really like the school – how do I apply?

All the details for making an application to secondary school can be found here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>

You can easily find the link by going to our website, clicking on “About Us” and then clicking on “Admissions.”

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any assistance at all.

2. I live out of catchment – will my child get in?

*Although there are no guarantees, there is a **very good** chance that your child would get a place at Testbourne. This year, and for the next few years, the numbers in our feeder schools are lower than usual. This means that we have several additional places that go to students out of catchment. In our 2020 intake, all out of catchment applications secured a place.*

3. My local school tells me that if I don't put them as first choice, I am unlikely to get in. Is this true?

*In a word, no. The preference system exists to take this gamble away from parents. You should select schools in order of preference and nothing else. If, for any reason, you did not secure a place at your first-choice school, your priority place for your second-choice school will be unchanged. In other words, the preference you indicate for a school **has no bearing** on the prioritisation for places and is not one of the admissions criteria. Sadly, this is a myth propagated by some schools to pressurise parents into choosing their school over an out of catchment preferred school.*

4. My local school tells me that they can guarantee places for first choice or for SEND etc. Is this true?

This is another myth. Schools themselves have no control over the students allocated to them. It is done centrally, by the local authority, based on strict admissions criteria to ensure complete fairness and to promote parental choice.

We aim for 100% transparency in admissions. You can fact check all of the statements here by going to the Hampshire admissions webpage (link above) or by contacting the Hampshire admissions team. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.