

Working Together for Wirral's Children

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

COVID revision August 2020



Children and Families

TIMETABLE

31st MAY

Deadline for 11+ assessment requests

SEPTEMBER

On-line application system goes live

Preference forms and booklets available

10th OCTOBER

Birkenhead High School Academy music assessments

13 OCTOBER

St Anselms assessment

17 & 20 OCTOBER

Upton Hall assessment

22 & 23 OCTOBER

11+ assessment

31 OCTOBER

Deadline for preference forms

1 MARCH

ALLOCATION DAY

COVID-19 and Assessments*

Assessment dates for all selective schools have changed from September to October– parents of registered candidates will be informed of the date, venue and general arrangements for the assessments. The arrangements may alter due to DfE or other government guidance.

The number of **preference schools has been increased from 3 to 5** – this allows parents to give up to 3 selective schools and 2 non-selective schools by 31st October. If the child does not reach the standard, the selective preference(s) will be withdrawn and non-selective preferences will be automatically moved up.

Birkenhead High School Academy will not be holding ability banding assessments this year – musical aptitude (10% of places) will go ahead but may be carried out virtually (for example online or via telephone) – register directly with the school.

*COVID-19 arrangements may affect the selective assessments

Non-Catholic 11+ assessments *

- Two multiple choice assessments of about 50 minutes each
- On the same day with a short break between
- Mixture of verbal, non-verbal and maths questions on both papers
- Pencil and eraser are only equipment needed
- Exam conditions apply – no mobile phones or other electronic devices allowed
- Assessments are marked centrally by an independent body, not by the venue
- Parents cannot see question papers or answer sheets

*COVID-19 arrangements may affect the selective assessments

11+ assessments and applying for a place

All parents must submit a preference application by 31st October to be on-time

- Child has been assessed but you don't yet know the outcome?
OR
- Missed the assessment date? (e.g. sick on day of test)
 - Apply and put the grammar school down as a preference **before 31st October**
 - If your child does **not reach the standard**, the grammar preference(s) will be withdrawn. The highest non-grammar preference then becomes the highest preference on the application.
- Been assessed and advised that child did NOT reach the standard?
 - If you already know your child has not reached the standard before 31st October, don't give it as a preference as it will be withdrawn

Parents of children who have not reached the standard can submit a written appeal after 1st March – same as in previous years

*COVID-19 arrangements may affect the selective assessments

Applying on-line

- www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions from 1st September

Why apply on-line?

- It is quick, easy and secure.
- Apply from home 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (from 1st September).
- You can apply from a computer, smartphone or tablet with internet access.
- No risk your application will be lost in the post.
- You receive an email confirming that your application has been submitted and received.
- The system has a series of security features that will prevent others from seeing your information.
- You **receive your offer by e-mail on allocation day.**

Will secondary schools know what rank I have put them down?

NO. Schools are not sent the actual preference forms.

They have access to:

Child's name, address, date of birth, current school, siblings and faith information (if relevant)

Schools are not told in what order their school has been put down as a preference.

CO-ORDINATION

If you live in Wirral but want a school place in another local authority (LA), you must apply through Wirral as your home LA (either on-line or paper).

Parents who don't live in Wirral, but want to apply for a Wirral school, must apply through their home LA.

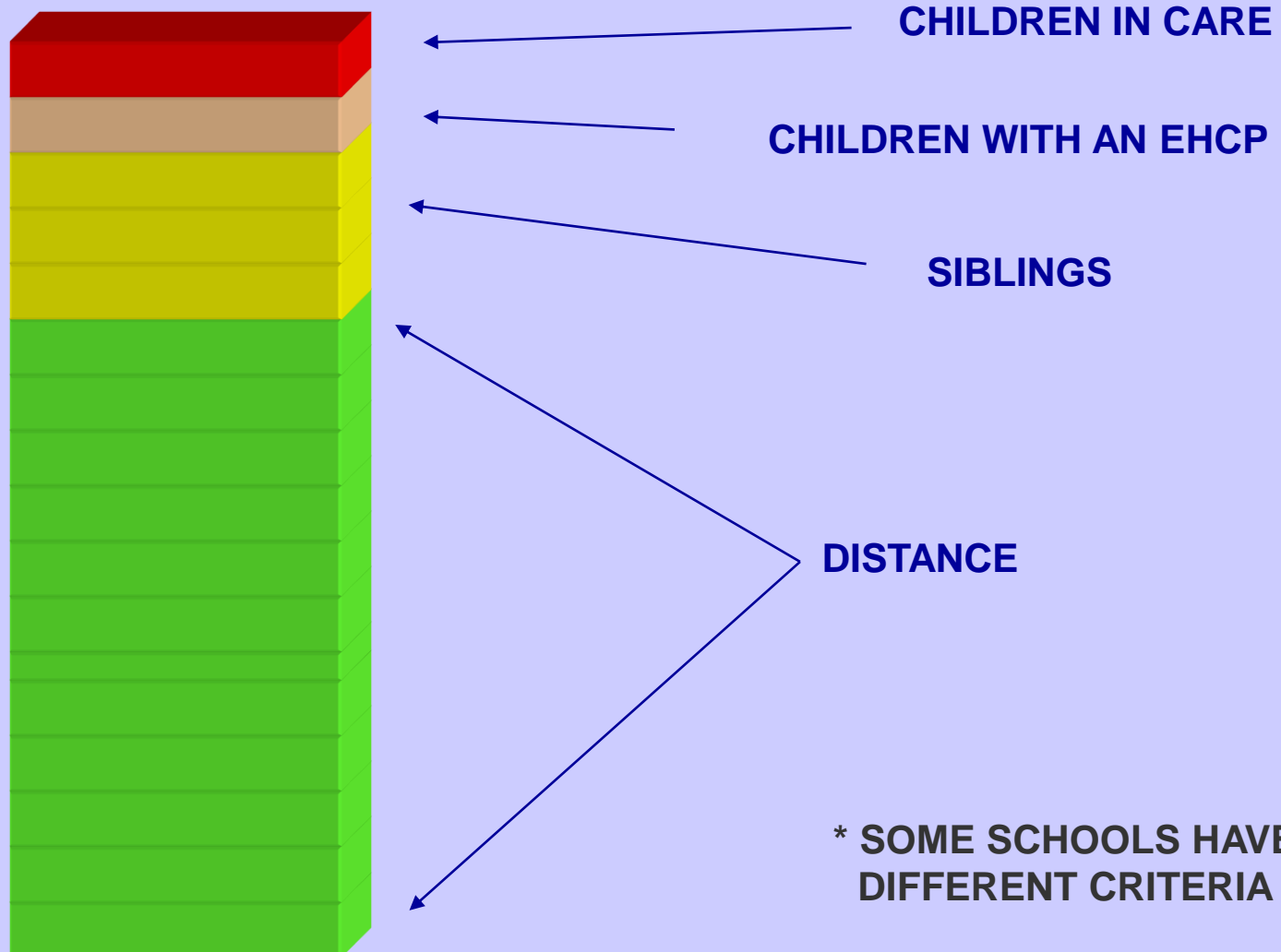
There will be a single offer of a secondary school place.

Parents will be informed of their outcome of their applications by their home LA, not by the LA where the school is located.

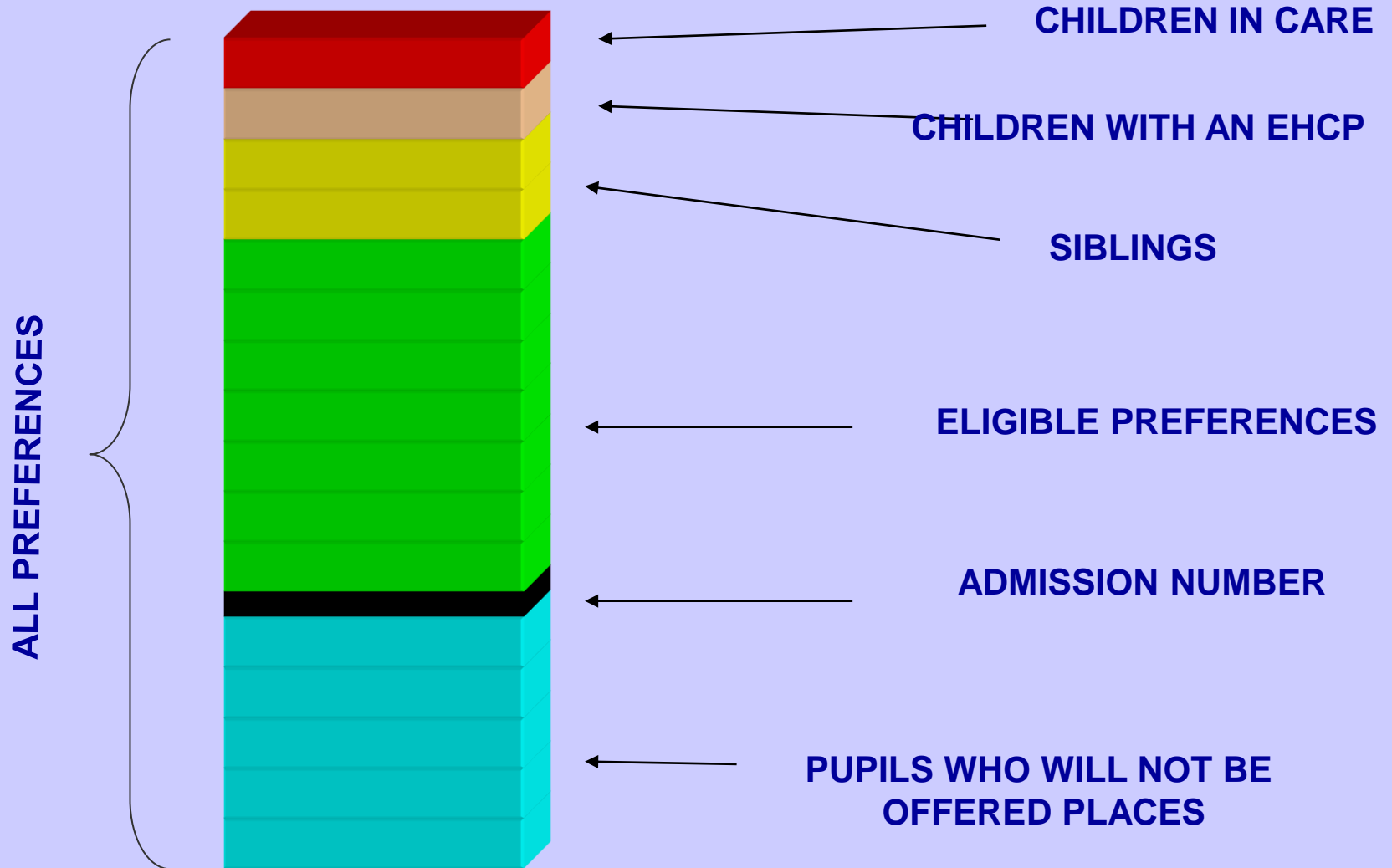
WHAT HAPPENS TO MY PREFERENCES?

THE LA, OR THE SCHOOLS*, DRAW UP A “STACK” OF APPLICANTS PUTTING THEM IN ORDER USING THE OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOOL

- CHILDREN IN CARE, STATEMENTED CHILDREN, SIBLINGS AND DISTANCE

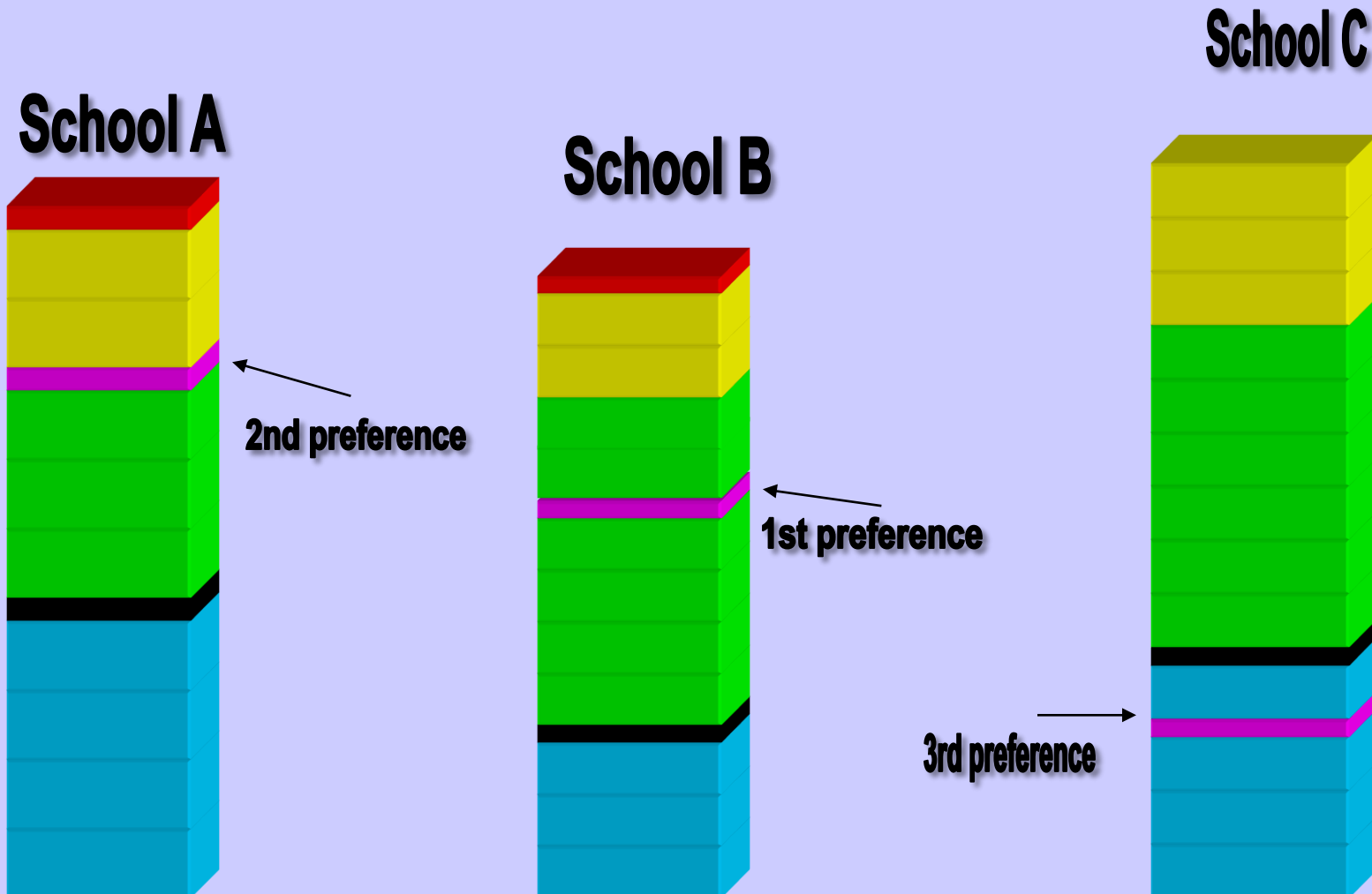


THE ADMISSION NUMBER IS APPLIED TO DETERMINE WHO IS OFFERED A PLACE



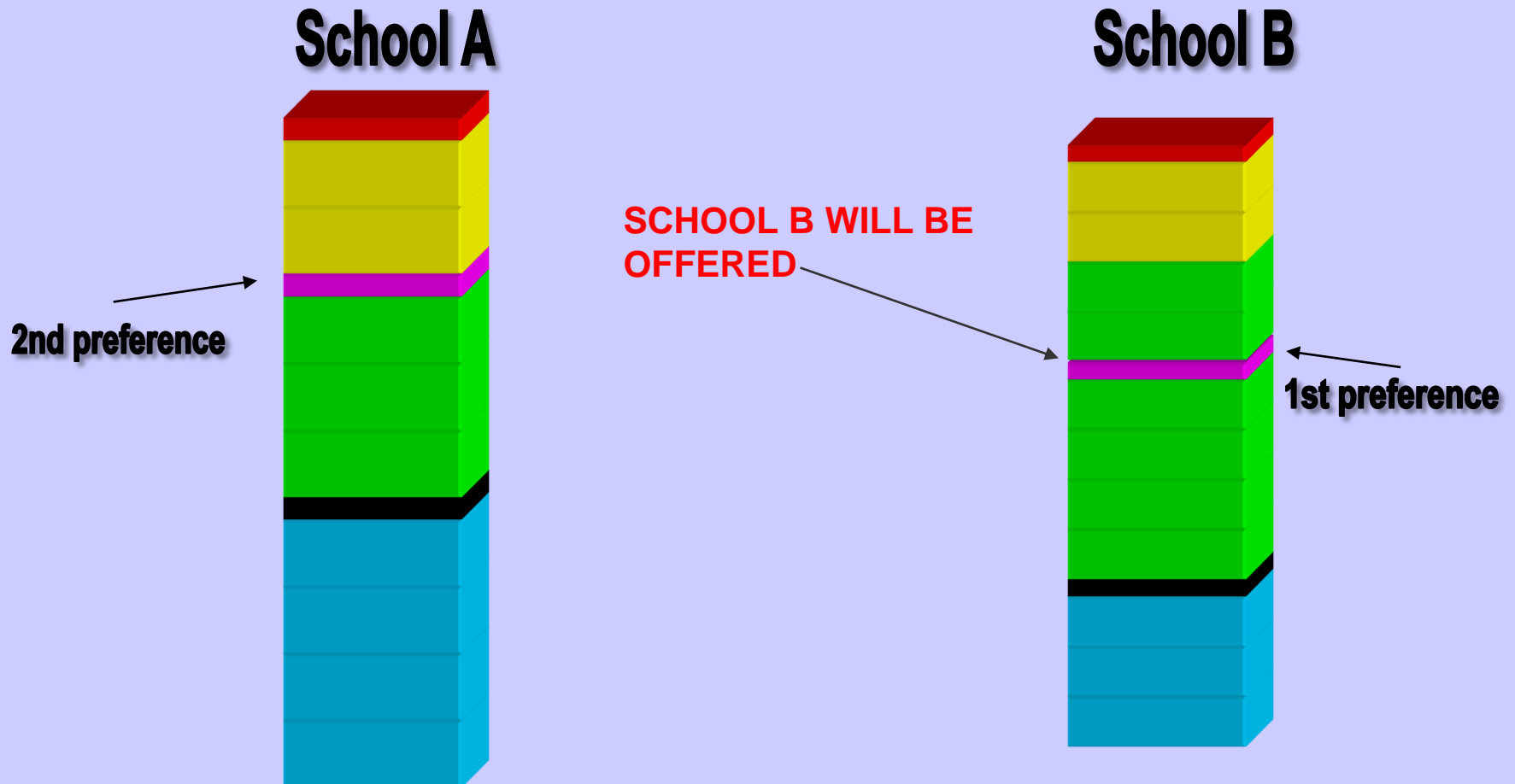
WHAT DOES EQUAL PREFERENCES MEAN?

THIS MEANS THAT WE GIVE EQUAL VALUE TO ALL PREFERENCES WHEN DRAWING UP THE STACKS AND ONLY LATER ON WILL THE ORDER OF YOUR PREFERENCES BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.



IS THE ORDER OF MY PREFERENCES IMPORTANT?

YES IT IS, BECAUSE IF WE CAN OFFER YOUR CHILD A PLACE AT MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL, THEN WE WILL ALLOCATE A PLACE AT THE SCHOOL YOU NAME AS THE HIGHEST PREFERENCE.



National Allocation Day is 1st March 2021

- On-line applicants will be sent an e-mail from the LA on this day.
- Paper applicants will be posted an offer letter from the LA on this day (2nd class post only).
- The offer will come from the home LA and will be the highest preference that can be allocated.
- Each child will only get one offer of a place.
- After 1st March parents can appeal in writing to an independent panel for a place at another school.

For more information

- Go online to

www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions

- Take advantage of information provided by secondary schools including online virtual “open days”