

‘What do I do next – my child has not been offered my first preference secondary school?’

General advice

In all cases we recommend that you:

- Accept the offer your child has received. Please note that school place offers will continue to occur after National Offer Day (1 March). *By accepting the offer, it does not stop an offer being considered for a school listed as a higher preference on your child's CAF later on, but it will secure a place for your child.*
- Ask for your child's name to remain on the waiting list at any of the schools applied for.
- Contact Lambeth School Admissions Team after 23 March 2026 for details of any vacancies in Lambeth schools and apply for another school if you wish.

Q1: Why wasn't my child offered a place at any of the schools I selected on the Common Application Form (CAF) as a higher preference?

A: For each of these schools there were more applications than places, offers would have been made according to the school's published admissions criteria, and other children had a higher priority than your child under the school's published admission criteria.

We strongly recommend that you accept the offer your child has received and ask to remain on the waiting list for any higher preference schools, as there is no guarantee that you child will be offered a place at a school you listed as a higher preference on the CAF.

Details about how offers were made for Lambeth schools will be published online via lambeth.gov.uk/eadmissions shortly after 2 March 2026.

If you would like more information about the reason why your child was not offered a place at any of the schools you placed as a higher preference, you should contact the admissions authority that is responsible for allocating places at each school.

- To speak to the admissions authority for Lambeth community schools please telephone 020 7926 9503 and speak to an officer in Lambeth School Admissions Team
- To speak to the admissions authority for a Lambeth foundation or voluntary-aided school or an academy please contact the school directly

Please see Table 1, which identifies the admissions status for Lambeth's schools.

Table 1

Lambeth school	Type of school	Admissions Authority telephone number
Ark Evelyn Grace Academy	Academy	020 7737 9520
Bishop Thomas Grant RC School	Voluntary-aided	020 8769 3294
City Heights E-ACT Academy	Academy	020 3691 4600
Dunraven School	Academy	020 8696 5600
The Elmgreen School	Academy	020 8766 5020
Harris Academy Clapham	Academy	020 4513 9350
The Elms Academy	Academy	020 7819 4700/4718
La Retraite RC Girls School	Voluntary-aided	020 8673 5644
Lilian Baylis Technology School	Community	020 7926 9503
London Nautical, City of London Academy	Academy	020 7928 6801
The Norwood School	Community	020 7926 9503
Oasis Academy South Bank	Academy	020 7921 4531

Platanos College	Academy	020 7733 6156
Saint Gabriel's College	Voluntary-aided	020 7793 6301
Trinity Academy	Academy	020 3126 4993
Woodmansterne School	Community	020 7926 9503

To check who the admissions authority is for a school in another borough, contact either the school directly or the School Admissions Team for the borough where the school is. Please see Table 2 for telephone numbers for neighbouring local authorities.

Table 2

Local Authority	Telephone number
Bromley	020 8313 4044
Croydon	020 8726 6400
Lewisham	020 8314 8282
Merton	020 8274 4906
Southwark	020 7525 5337
Wandsworth	020 8871 7316
City of Westminster	020 7745 6433

Q2: Can I request that my child's name remains on the waiting list of any of the schools that I applied to but did not receive an offer from?

A: Yes. Please contact the school's admissions authority for the schools concerned to request this - refer to Tables 1 and 2 for contact information. For Lilian Baylis Technology School, The Norwood School and Woodmansterne School your child's name will automatically be placed on the waiting list if it was a higher preference from the one received.

Please note that that details of waiting list places will not be available immediately, as lists need to be reordered which may take a week or so to include late applications etc.

Please also be aware that waiting lists are maintained in accordance with the school's admissions criteria. Usually these are kept until 31 December 2026 (one term after the start of the new academic year). This is the case for Lambeth community schools. After this time a new In-Year application is required for your child's name to continue on the waiting list.

Q3: If I accept the offer my child has been given now will this prevent him/her receiving a later offer at a school I prefer?

A: No. We strongly recommend that you accept the offer your child has received now so that it is secured, as there is no guarantee that they will be offered a place at another school later on. **Please note that Lambeth Schools Admissions Team will not accept any rejections of offers until you are able to demonstrate that you have made alternative arrangements for your child's education, or if you have been made an offer elsewhere.**

Q4: Can I appeal against the decision to not offer my child a place at any of the schools I applied for?

A: Yes. Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, you have the right to appeal against the decision not to admit your child to a school. If you wish to appeal against the decision not to offer your child a place at the following schools:

- The Elms Academy
- Lilian Baylis Technology School
- The Norwood School

- Woodmansterne School
- Oasis Academy South Bank

please contact the Clerk to the Independent Appeals Panel, Governance & Democracy, 1st Floor, Room 1-17, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London, SW2 1RW, Tel: 020 7926 2170, Email: democracy@lambeth.gov.uk to obtain an admission appeal information pack. Information can also be downloaded from the Council's website via lambeth.gov.uk/eadmissions

If you wish to appeal against the decision not to admit your child to any other secondary school, you will need to contact the individual school(s) direct, to obtain information about how to appeal.

If your application for a school place was submitted on time, appeals need to be lodged by **30 March 2026** for them to be heard before the summer holidays. For late applications, an appeal should be lodged within 20 school days of receipt of application outcome letter. Appeals lodged after these dates will be heard within 40 school days of the appeal deadline or 30 school days of being lodged, whichever is the later date.

For further information not covered in this Q&A sheet, you can contact an officer in the Lambeth School Admissions Team on 020 7926 9503.

Glossary of terms

Admissions authority = the body responsible for the admission of children to a school.

Admissions criteria = the rules admissions authorities use to look at applications and to decide which children are given places at a school

Appeal = This is a formal request to a "higher" body to review the action, procedure, or decision of an admissions authority, which did not offer a child a place at the school. For school appeals, this higher body would be an independent appeals panel. Pursuing an appeal does not guarantee a place will be offered at the school.

Common Application Form (CAF) = This is a pre-formatted paper or online form that parent/carers **MUST** complete in order to apply for a school place for their child. This online or paper form must be submitted to Lambeth School Admissions Team if this is the child's home Local Authority.

Preference = the school(s) parent/carers list on the CAF that they would like their child to attend. If parent/carers are applying for more than one school then these schools should be listed in the order of your preferred choice, i.e., the school you most want your child to attend as preference 1, your second choice as preference 2, and so on.

Supplementary Information Form = an additional information form that is required by some schools, mainly church schools, If a school requires this form to be completed then parent/carers **MUST** complete both the Common Application Form and the supplementary form.

Waiting list = the list of children who have applied to a particular school which was not able to make an offer at the time of application, but who are willing to place the child on this "list". Children who reject an offer will have their place filled by children on this list. This list is managed in line with the school's admissions criteria.