

Key dates for 2008

- **Application packs sent out**

Primary schools: November 08
Secondary schools: September 08

You will receive your application pack and booklets early in the month. Make sure you receive yours and get filling it in – call your Choice Adviser if you need any help.

- **Important closing date for applications**

Primary schools: December 08
Secondary schools: October 08

Your application forms will be due in this month. Please check the application form and booklet provided for specific date.

Don't miss this important deadline and don't leave until the last minute – call your Choice Adviser if you need any help.

- **Application forms processed**

Primary schools: up to March 09
Secondary schools: up to February 09

Once your application form has been received by admissions, you will receive a receipt. You then don't need to do anything further.

- **Receive your school place**

Primary schools: April 09
Secondary schools: March 09

You will receive an offer of a school place by mail.

Useful websites

www.dfes.gov.uk
www.schoolswebdirectory.co.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk
www.parentscentre.gov.uk
www.choiceadvice.dfes.gov.uk

Further information

Your Choice Adviser is:

Barbara Pogorzelec
Family Information Service
Oldham Council
5 Barn Street, Oldham OL1 1LP
T: 0161 770 1806
M: 07515 188 783
E: choiceadvice@oldham.gov.uk

For all queries relating to childcare, childcare funding or activities contact the Family Information Service on:

Family Information Service
Oldham Council
5 Barn Street, Oldham OL1 1LP
Freephone: 0800 731 1518 (8.40am–5pm)
Answer phone outside these hours
F: 0161 652 4366
E: familyinfo@oldham.gov.uk
www.oldham.gov.uk/childcare

Office opening hours:

9am – 5pm Monday to Friday
(except Bank Holidays).
Accessible to wheelchairs.

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Choosing the right school for your child

A free and impartial advice service for parents and carers



Choosing a school for your child is an important decision and one that can often seem complicated and confusing.

Now you can get access to free, impartial and confidential advice from Oldham Council's Choice Adviser. The Choice Adviser is there to provide parents and carers with help and support when applying for primary or secondary school places.

Who is the Choice Adviser and what do they do?

The Choice Adviser is part of Oldham Council's Family Information Service and aims to make the process of applying for a primary or secondary school place as stress-free for you as possible.

Their role is to provide parents and carers with information and support to help make realistic and informed choices about the most suitable school for the children in their care. The Choice Adviser will listen to your questions and concerns and provide support and guidance by telephone or in person to help you ensure that your child gets the best possible education.

What sort of help can I get?

Your Choice Adviser can help you on a number of issues, such as:

- How to apply for a school place
- The admissions system and process
- Completing the application form
- School policies
- Information on individual schools e.g. their current performance rating
- Travel details
- Uniform policies

You can also talk to the Choice Adviser about any aspect of your child's individual needs and any other concerns you may have.

Is this help available to everyone?

The Choice Advice Service is available to anyone who feels they need help in applying for school places.

It may be of particular help if you have:

- Recently moved into the area
- English is not your first language
- You may have difficulty filling in the form
- You are just feeling confused by the system and would like a helping hand

When choosing a school for your child, make sure that you...

Do

- Think carefully about choosing a school
- Ask for advice
- Think of the things you are looking for in a school
- Attend open evenings to find out what different schools are like
- Look at different schools prospectus and find out more about their admissions policies
- Choose more than one school as a possible place for your child

Don't

- Leave the job of looking for a school place for your child to the last minute
- Worry about filling in the form or what school to apply for – you can ask the Choice Adviser for help
- Miss the closing date for the application forms
- Rely on other people's opinions about your preferred schools – make sure you find out for yourself

Remember:

The Choice Adviser can give advice and guidance about schools in Oldham but cannot guarantee a place at your preferred school.

Remember:

Your child will not automatically get a place at your local school. You need to apply for a place and go through the admissions process.

Remember:

The Choice Adviser will offer parents and carers as much support and guidance as possible, but they will not make final decisions for you. Make sure you have the information you need to make your own choices.