



Guide to choosing a secondary school



Choosing a secondary school may seem like a fairly straight forward process especially for parents living in Crowthorne. Over the years children that live within Crowthorne and just beyond have been allocated Edgbarrow as their child's first choice secondary school, however we have recently seen an increasing number of children not being allocated places even though their addresses fall within the designated catchment area. For September 2025 Edgbarrow had 525 applications for 210 spaces. The furthest allocated place based on the home address was 1.2 miles. School to home distance is measured 'as the crow flies' rather than by road distance. This guide is not designed to alarm anyone but to help inform so that you are aware of some of the other options.

It is always advisable to visit at least 4 different secondary schools. Your closest school may not necessarily be the right fit for your child. Ofsted reports are helpful to give an overview of what the school does well and performance tables can also give an insight into how well pupils have done, however it is important to look at all aspects of the school not just data. Visiting the school for open events with and without your child, talking to members of staff and other parents who have first hand experience of the schools is just as important. For parents with children that have SEN it is important to understand how the school will meet your child's needs. Do not be afraid to ask questions about what support can be put in place and how they will manage the transition process. It is perfectly acceptable to ask for a more individualised tour to ask important questions relating directly to your child.

It is always important to ask your child about how they feel about a school following a visit. You may find that they have different opinions about likes and dislikes to what you feel. Most of the time children are just happy to go where their friends are going which is important to them however friendships often change at secondary school due to the nature of the class arrangements.



You will be asked to submit your application for secondary schools by **31st October 2025**.

Do not miss this deadline as you are unlikely to be allocated your preferred school or even one off of your list.

Wokingham Borough residents—you apply through Wokingham Brorough council even if your preferred schools are located within another Local authority

It is always advisable to read the guidance that comes with the secondary application packs. Also you can search for your catchment schools by going to:

[School Catchment Areas](#)

It may say that Edgbarrow is your catchment school but be aware that there is still a matter of distance from the school when allocating places.

If Edgbarrow is unable to offer a place then Wokingham Borough council will expect that parents will have chosen other Wokingham schools to send their child to. St Crispins, Emmbrook and The Forest School have all taken children from the Crowthorne area. Schools such as Sandhurst and Kings Academy Easthampstead Park come under Bracknell Forest and will not be allocated automatically if a preference hasn't been stated on the application form. You can still apply for Yateley School, Frogmore, Sandhurst or Kings Academy Easthampstead Park however if spaces are not available at these schools you will then only be allocated what is left within Wokingham.

You get four choices in order of preference. It is very important to fill in all 4 spaces other wise you could be allocated whatever is left within Borough if all schools are full based on the admissions criteria.

Bracknell Forest residents—you apply through Bracknell Forest even if your preferred schools are within another local authority.

Again you need to make sure that you read the admissions criteria for each school. You get 4 choices also and again these can be schools within Bracknell Forest, Wokingham or Hampshire. Bracknell Forest will only allocate schools within their own local authority so if you want a school in another local authority it needs to be on your list. You can check your designated schools by going to:

[Bracknell Forest School Admissions](#)



Check list

- Visit at least 4 local schools so that you can compare them and decide what may suit your child
- Take your child to visit and hear their views
- Apply to the local authority where your home address is situated and to whom you pay your council tax
- For separated families, the home where a child spends the majority of the school week is seen as the primary address. Local authorities will also deem the address of where the parent claiming child benefit is paid as the main address.
- It is always advisable to name your designated school as one of your choices
- Check the allocation history which is available on all local authority websites. This gives information on how many applications were made to that particular school and how many places were allocated. It also gives information on the oversubscription criteria.
- Many schools are regularly oversubscribed, and there is no guarantee of a place at your catchment, nearest or preferred school, so it is important to think carefully about the schools you are applying for.
- If you apply for a school which is not your nearest school (this only counts for schools within your borough) you will be responsible for organising and paying for your child's travel to and from school for the time that they remain at the school, even if your circumstances change.