

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

### Southwark Governors Association (SGA) submission

Choosing your child's primary school is an important decision?

What should you do?

1. Visit, the schools that your child is eligible for
2. Book an appointment to visit the schools.
3. See if you like the school.
- 4 do you like the head and the Staff
- 5 Do you like the atmosphere in the school?
- 6 Arrange a visit for as many schools that you can and make your own mind up about whether you like the school.
7. When you get your form from the local authority right your choice of school in order, starting with the one you like most.

It is not sensible to make your child travel a long way to school. This can be tiring and stressful. Remember your child is familiar with the area nearby and he will feel secure to know you are not far away.

8. Once your form has been completed send it to the Local authority.

It is sensible to keep your choices to yourself. This is not a joint effort with your friends it affects you your family and your child... Wait and see which school you are allocated. The schools have nothing to do with admissions. So wait and see where your child is placed. You will always have the power to disagree with your placement. Remember schools will fill up quickly.

My suggestion is that schools are carefully placed in list clearly showing what school is available in each area. The more transparent the system appears the fewer parents will worry about their places. Also the fewer tribunals will occur. There is a great deal of mistrust because unfortunately in Southwark everyone is very aware of the salaries that are paid. That is why an open system is important. Also language is vital, I am afraid education is blighted with language no one else understands. This causes the lack of trust. I do feel that this approach would also work for year 6 placements.

Descriptions of schools should be brief and to the point.

Admission policy should be clear and precise.

The admission department must be aware of their position and react as quickly as possible. This needs to be a fluid situation. School budgets are reliant on having their places full. Schools should be aware of the situation and the department must regularly up-date the school.