# Birmingham primary schools face oversubscription as offers day approaches



As Birmingham families prepare for National School Offers Day, the city's primary schools have been highlighted for their oversubscription rates. On Wednesday, April 16, Birmingham City Council is set to email parents, informing them whether they have secured a place for their children at their preferred primary school for the upcoming September term.

Research conducted by Birmingham’s data team reveals that some of the most sought-after primary schools in the area have limited capacity, accepting only a fraction of first-choice applicants. This situation can lead to disappointment for many families, given that several of the schools feature acceptance rates significantly below half.

The Olive School in Tyseley emerges as the most competitive institution, offering a mere 36% of places to its first-choice applicants. Not far behind is The Olive School in Small Heath, where only 44% of applicants were successful in their bids for admission. St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School in central Birmingham showcased a notable disparity, granting only 30 places to the 56 children who designated it as their first choice, translating to 54% acceptance.

Similarly, Lea Forest Primary Academy in Kitts Green was able to accommodate just 60 out of 107 applicants, yielding a 56% success rate. At Moseley Church of England Primary School, the competition was fierce, with only 30 of 52 applicants (58%) successfully securing a spot in the new intake.

Adam Ames, a headmaster in Birmingham, has contributed insights on selecting the right school for children, sharing tips via the Brummie Mummies Podcast.

The list of the top 20 hardest schools to gain admission to in Birmingham reflects these challenges. The complete rankings, including the number of first-choice requests and places allocated, are detailed as follows:

1. The Olive School, Birmingham - 234 requests; 84 places offered (36%)
2. The Olive School, Small Heath - 130 requests; 57 places offered (44%)
3. St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School - 56 requests; 30 places offered (54%)
4. Lea Forest Primary Academy - 107 requests; 60 places offered (56%)
5. Moseley Church of England Primary School - 52 requests; 30 places offered (58%)
6. Al-Furqan Primary School - 123 requests; 73 places offered (59%)
7. St Thomas CofE Academy - 47 requests; 28 places offered (60%)
8. The Shirestone Academy - 46 requests; 30 places offered (65%)
9. Nishkam Primary School Birmingham - 89 requests; 59 places offered (66%)
10. Acocks Green Primary School - 79 requests; 53 places offered (67%)
11. St Peter's Catholic Primary School - 44 requests; 30 places offered (68%)
12. Grendon Primary School - 43 requests; 30 places offered (70%)
13. Cofton Primary School - 80 requests; 57 places offered (71%)
14. Harborne Primary School - 165 requests; 119 places offered (72%)
15. Barr View Primary & Nursery Academy - 77 requests; 58 places offered (75%)
16. West Heath Primary School - 69 requests; 52 places offered (75%)
17. Chilcote Primary School - 77 requests; 59 places offered (77%)
18. Four Oaks Primary School - 77 requests; 59 places offered (77%)
19. Christ The King Catholic Primary School - 60 requests; 46 places offered (77%)
20. Colebourne Primary School - 78 requests; 60 places offered (77%)

A spokesperson for the Department for Education stated that the proportion of primary school applicants receiving an offer for their first preference increased by 0.7 percentage points to 93.2%. This shift is attributed to a 2.3% decline in the overall number of applicants, totalling around 555,600, marking a trend of reduced applications since 2020. The spokesperson noted that this decline might have been influenced by pandemic-related factors that affected timely applications, alongside a continuing decrease in birth rates observed since 2016.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1330/oversubscription_criteria> - This URL supports the discussion on oversubscription criteria for community schools in Birmingham, including the priority given to looked-after children, siblings, and proximity to the school.
2. <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/27978/primary_school_admissions_arrangements_2025.pdf> - This document provides details on primary school admissions arrangements for 2025, outlining the processes and criteria for allocating school places in Birmingham.
3. <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/school-admissions/primary-school-admissions/print> - While not specific to Birmingham, this URL offers insights into the general principles of primary school admissions and oversubscription in nearby Coventry, reflecting similar challenges and processes.
4. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is claimed as the original publication of the article discussing Birmingham schools' oversubscription rates and related data.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-admissions> - This government guidance provides a general framework for school admissions, which can be applied to understanding the processes in Birmingham, though it is not specifically mentioned in the search results.
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2024> - Although not directly in the search results, this government publication might cover general trends in school admissions and student demographics, indirectly supporting discussions on enrollment rates and capacity.
7. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/most-oversubscribed-primary-schools-birmingham-31400912> - Please view link - unable to able to access data