



Moving on from ESPS to Secondary School



happy curious resilient kind



Aims

- An outline of the process and the options available to families.
- Some top tips about how to approach the process.
- What support East Sheen Primary School can offer.
- Questions from parents.



Key messages

- It is exciting!
- Everyone goes through it.
- Your child will be well prepared for secondary school, wherever they go.
- Although ESPS can't complete the process for you, we are here to help.



The process: timeline for state maintained schools

- **31st October of Year 6** - deadline for all applications to local authority schools and academies.

Richmond Wandsworth

Apply through your child's **home** local authority, but you can list schools from any local authority on your preference form.

- **Early September of Year 6** (this year, 4th September), [register for the Wandsworth Year 6 Test](#) if applying to Ashcroft Technology Academy, Burntwood School, Chestnut Grove Academy or Graveney School.



The process: timeline for state maintained schools with additional admissions criteria (e.g. faith schools or grammar schools)



Some schools are maintained by the local authority and should be applied to using the same local authority form, but they also request 'supplementary information forms'.

This might be because the school has a faith characteristic, or because the school admits pupils based on performance in a test (e.g. a grammar school).

You **must** check the deadlines for registering for those forms with the individual schools, as these are often required before the 31st October deadline (e.g. Tiffin registration closed on **4th September 2026** for 2027 Year 7 entry - it opens in June 2026 for 2027 Year 7 entry).



The process: timeline for independent schools

This varies from school to school - check their websites.

Most schools close registration in early Year 6 (September/October/November).

Children then sit a test (some are school-specific, but some opt for the ISEB, which can be sat at ESPS), usually in November of Year 6 (*if 11+; some schools offer 10+ exams to children in Year 5*).

Children may be offered interviews before offers are then made in February of Year 6.

This is an example from a school website. Most schools have similar 'key dates'.

The closing date for registrations for entry to the First Year (Year 7) in September 2027 is 1 November 2026.

Sunday 1 November 2026	Closing date for registration and bursary applications
Tuesday 17 November 2026	Closing date for scholarship applications
Saturday 21 November 2026	11+ Entrance and Academic Scholarship Examination
Monday 4 January 2027	11+ Interviews (PM)
Tuesday 5 January 2027	11+ Interviews (PM)
January/February 2027	11+ Scholarship assessments
Friday 12 February 2027	Results emailed to parents
Early March 2027	Deadline for accepting places (noon)





When to visit secondary schools?

- ▶ Attend open evenings or open mornings during Year 5, or early in Year 6.
- ▶ Be selective in where you visit.
- ▶ ESPS will authorise visits to schools for open events and interviews, but children must return to school as quickly as possible...Year 5 and 6 is a busy time!
- ▶ Get a flavour of the school from the website, school video, inspection reports, etc. before choosing to visit.

Should I start tutoring for my child?

- ▶ This is a personal choice. Consider that at our school, we deliver the National Curriculum and prepare children for SATs in May. We don't teach to entrance exams.
- ▶ Most selective schools have tried to move away from tests that can be heavily prepared for, as they want students to be able to cope in their school without additional tuition.

Choosing a school: options

- State
- Independent
- Grammar (academically selective)
- Co-educational
- Single sex
- Day/Boarding
- Faith characteristic



Choosing a school: considerations

- Do your personal and educational values align with the school's?
- How far away would you, and more importantly your child, be happy to travel?
- What has your child particularly enjoyed about primary school?
- What makes East Sheen Primary 'Outstanding', and what is most important to you about that?
- How will your child fit socially and academically into a school?
- How does the school enrich the curriculum and the extracurricular offer?
- You can tell a lot about a school by its 'feel'.
- Where will your child feel happy?
- Remember that exam results are often an inaccurate reflection of a school's quality of education - pupils are all different, and exams don't capture the range of needs and progress made in a school.
- Be positive about every school. See the good, and don't create negative messages about any schools; this is something we are strict on in school with the Year 6 children.
- Be realistic about catchment areas and admissions criteria.



Top tips

- ▶ Stay calm!
- ▶ Keep things positive, exciting and celebrate this special rite of passage; children need to enjoy their final year of primary school, so don't create unnecessary pressure for your child.
- ▶ Speak positively about the transition, and about every secondary school - your child will end up at the right school for them.
- ▶ Remember waiting lists change (particularly important in February and March).
- ▶ Make the most of visits, but don't visit too many schools. How does the school feel, and how do pupils talk about their experience there?
- ▶ Fill in all places on the local authority application form. Putting fewer choices does not improve your chances!



Destinations from 2019-2025

Al Risalah School	Greycourt	Reed's School
Ark Academy	Halliford	Richard Challenor
Arts Educational School	Hampton School	Richmond Park Academy
Ashcroft Academy	Hollyfield	Rutlish
Bruern Abbey	Holy Cross	Southfields Academy
Burlington House	Hurlingham School	St Catherine's School
Burntwood	Ibstock Place School	St Cecilia's
Canbury School	Isleworth Boys School	St Joseph's School
Chelsea Academy	James Allen's Girl's School (JAGs)	St Paul's School
Christ's School	Kew House	St Richard Reynolds
Christ's College, Guildford	King's College Wimbledon	Surbiton High School
Claremont Fan Court	King's House School	Sylvia Young Performing Arts School
Coombe Girls	Kingston Grammar School	Teddington School
Dulwich College	Kneller Hall (Radnor House)	The Kingston Academy
Edgebarrow	Lady Eleanor Holles School	Tiffin (Boys)
Emanuel School	Lady Margaret School	Tiffin Girls
Epsom College	Latymer Upper School	Twickenham Academy
Fulham Boys School	Orleans Park	Waldergrave
Fulham Cross	Pinewood Prep	Wallington County Grammar
Garret Park	Putney High School	Wellesley Prep School
Godolphin & Latymer	Radnor House	Wimbledon College



What support do we offer

- ▶ Strong partnerships with secondary schools.
- ▶ Handover between Year 6 teachers and Year 7 leaders.
- ▶ SEN higher need transition programme.
- ▶ Year 6 secondary transition 6-week workshop.

- ▶ Independent references (please complete the [‘Independent School Reference Information’](#) form) *Note that there is a charge for completing references and references will not be sent without payment. End-of-year reports can be sent free of charge.*
- ▶ We will host the ISEB - check the individual school requirements and then book a place through ISEB or email ISEB@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk with enquiries.



Questions?

