

Transferring to Secondary School

Guidance for Parents & Carers

Pan-London Co-ordination

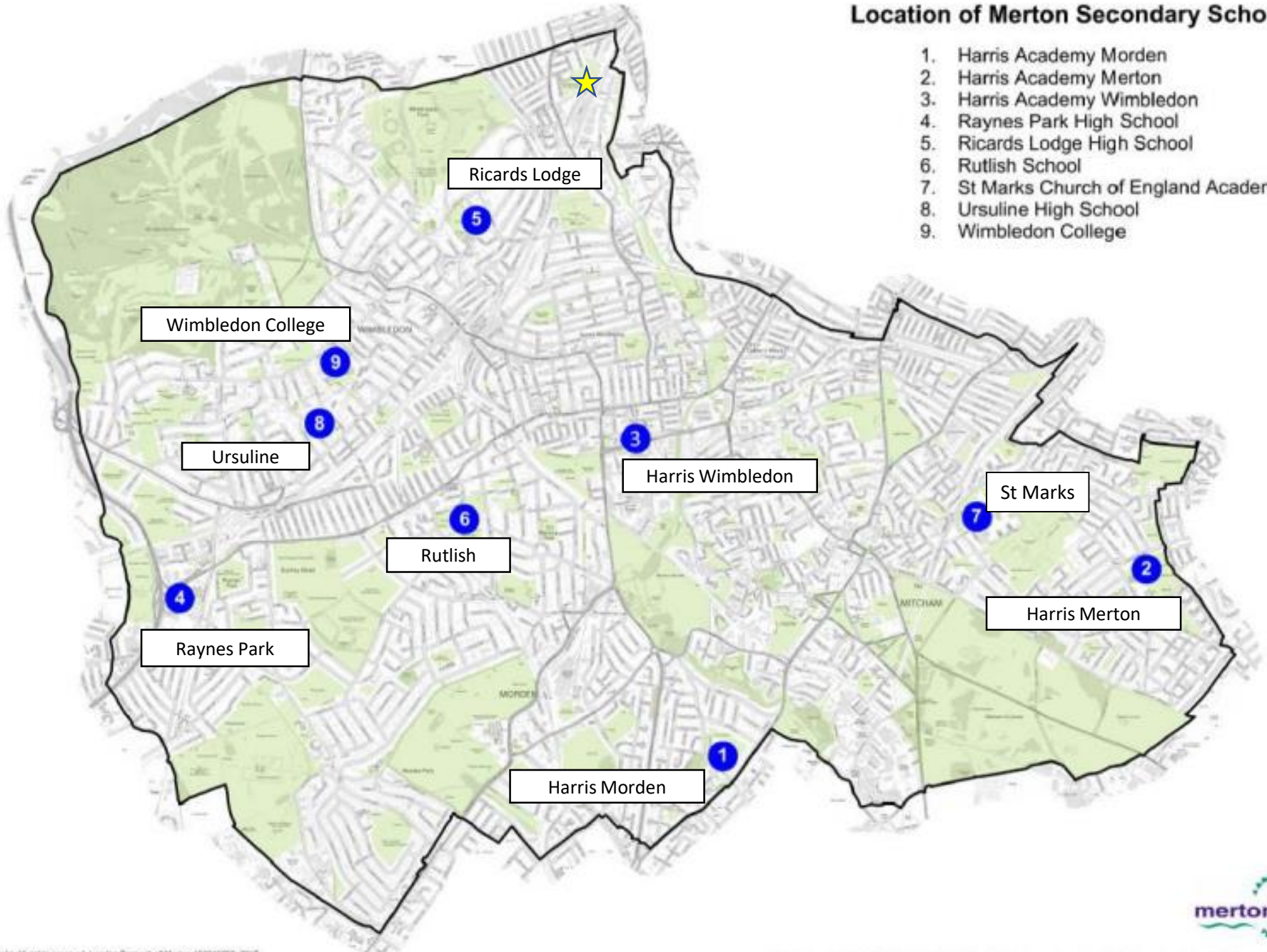
- All London boroughs and some of the surrounding boroughs participate
- Around 90,000 children apply across London; over 20,000 apply to schools outside their own borough
- Parents receive one offer on 1st March

Performance of Merton secondary schools

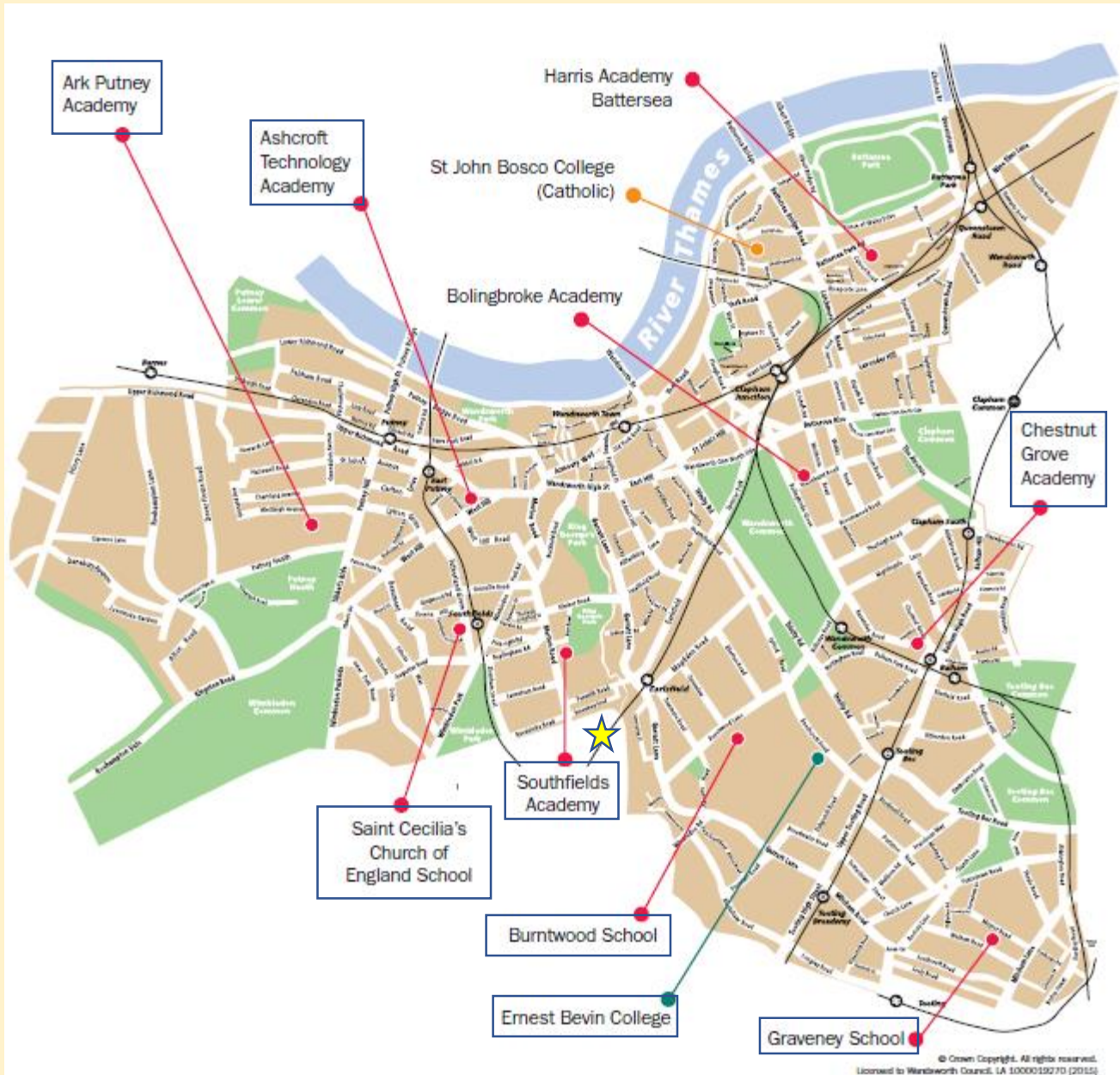
- In 2023, 76% of students achieved at least a pass grade (4-9) in GCSE English and maths, above the national average of 66%.
- 57% of Merton pupils secured a 'strong' pass (5-9), compared with 49% nationally.
- All Merton secondary schools are judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted.

Location of Merton Secondary Schools

1. Harris Academy Morden
2. Harris Academy Merton
3. Harris Academy Wimbledon
4. Raynes Park High School
5. Ricards Lodge High School
6. Rutlish School
7. St Marks Church of England Academy
8. Ursuline High School
9. Wimbledon College



Wandsworth School Map



Making Applications

- Obtain school prospectuses, visit school websites and go to open evenings
- Consider your likely chances of success by looking at application criteria on school and borough websites.
- **Use all 6 preferences** – include Merton schools and any out-borough schools on the same application
- Apply online
- Don't use false addresses!
- Independent School application process is completely separate

Deadlines

- 31st October is a national closing date
- Changes of address can be considered up to 12th December
- Deadlines for supplementary forms or test registrations may be different – check with the schools you are applying for

Admissions Criteria (Merton)

Criteria applied by Merton borough funded schools:

1. Looked after or previously looked after children
2. Professionally supported medical reasons
3. Sibling is already in the main school at the time of admission.
4. Children of permanent staff.
5. Straight line distance between the child's home address and the main school.

Wandsworth Test

- The Wandsworth Test must be taken if you are considering applying for a place at Ashcroft Technology Academy, Burntwood School, Chestnut Grove Academy or Graveney School.
- Children with EHCPs do not need to take the test.
- Check the following website for the deadline for applying for this:

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/about-the-year-6-test/>

- Need to register by start of September.
- Results sent out in October before the application deadline.

What is covered on the Wandsworth Test?

- Two papers (non-verbal reasoning and verbal reasoning)
- Just under 2 hours to complete
- Multiple choice questions

Part 1: Non-verbal reasoning (55 mins including time for practice questions)

- Tests ability to solve problems using abstract figures.
- Work out similarities and differences between shapes and codes and identify sequences.

Part 2: Verbal reasoning (50 mins including time for practice questions)

- Tests ability to reason using written information.
- Involves word games

Helping Children to Prepare for the Wandsworth Test

1. Read widely

2. Play puzzles and games

3. Refine exam technique

Grammar Schools

11+ Entrance Exams – examples of practice papers can be found online.

Face to face interviews.

Register for tests from May (depending on school).

How the Offer Process Works

- Schools do not know your preference order
- Applications are ranked solely according to the admissions criteria for the school
- If you are eligible for more than one school, the higher preference of these will be offered
- Those who are not eligible for any of their preferences will receive an alternative offer

After Offer Day

- If you don't get your first preference school, don't panic
- Read the outcome information fully
- Don't reject an offer without an alternative school place secured
- Remain on waiting lists
- Appeal for preferred schools

Independent Sector

Separate process.

Apply to schools individually.

References – send information detailing extra-curricular activities and any notable achievements.

gpreedy@wimbledonpark.merton.sch.uk

2024 Destinations

St Cecilians	13%
Ricards Lodge	19%
Ashcroft	5%
Burntwood	1%
Rutlish	5%
Harris Academy Wimbledon	5%
Wimbledon College	5%
Other Merton	1%
Other Wandsworth	1%
Other state schools	13%
Grammar school	8%
Independent	22%

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is it hard for a non faith boy to secure a school?
2. Do I put grammar schools and independent schools on the same form?
3. What if I'm not in the catchment area?
4. Do I need to take the Wandsworth Test if I'm not considering those schools?
5. What's the difference between selective and non-selective places at state schools?
6. How does the Rutlish/Ricards sibling policy work?

Help & Support

Information about the admissions process is available from your home authority website.

www.merton.gov.uk/admissions

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schools-and-admissions/admissions/secondary-school-admissions/>

If you have any further questions, please email:

gpreedy@wimbledonpark.merton.sch.uk