

SECTION 1.0: WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS

1.1 How does the school system vary within the county?

All schools in the County are co-educational, and all high schools are comprehensive. However, there are different types of school and there are also differences across the County in the **age groups** that the schools provide for, as explained below.

Types of School

The County maintains four types of primary and high school - **Community, Voluntary Controlled (VC), Voluntary Aided (VA)** and **Foundation**. These terms are explained in [Section 18 Glossary](#). The main difference between the types of school is the way in which they are governed and for Voluntary Aided schools the ethos that they engender. These schools follow the terms of the Foundation under which they were established. Copies of the admission policies for Aided and Foundation Schools are available from those schools and details are also available in this publication, [Section 17 Admissions Criteria for Foundation and Voluntary Aided Schools](#). There are also **Special Schools** for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) whose needs cannot always be met by mainstream schools, and information on these arrangements can be found in [13A](#) and [13B](#) of this booklet.

Age groups for which schools provide

In the **County** there are two systems: **Please refer to area information for details.**

Three-Tier System

The areas served by a three-tier system of first, middle and high schools are as follows:

Bromsgrove	Evesham	Redditch
Droitwich	Pershore	

The three-tier system consists of **first** schools for pupils from 5 to 8, 9 or 10 years, **middle** schools for pupils from 8, 9 or 10 years to 12 or 13 years, and **high** schools which provide for pupils of 12 or 13 years to 18 years. A two-tier system of **Catholic schools** also serves Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore areas. ([Please see Section 15](#) for details of schools).

Two-Tier System

In the other areas of Worcestershire, there is a two-tier system of **primary** schools for pupils up to the age of 11, with **high** schools for pupils over the age of 11.

There is also one infant school for pupils up to the age of 7 and one junior school for pupils from the age of 7 up to the age of 11.

There are also some differences in the way **high** schools are organised. In the following areas, the high schools provide for pupils aged 11 to 16 years. Students then transfer to the Sixth Form College in Worcester (or Ludlow in the case of Tenbury) or to the Worcester College of Technology:-

Martley

Tenbury

Worcester City

In the following areas, the high schools have their own sixth forms and cater for pupils from 11 to 18 years of age:-

Bewdley

Hagley

Kidderminster

Malvern

Rubery

Stourport

Upton

Wythall

(Hanley Castle)

1.2 How to find out about schools?

We have included key information about all Worcestershire schools (except independent schools) in this booklet.

By far the best way to find out about a school is to arrange a visit to the school. While all schools follow the national curriculum many have their own unique ethos. Each school publishes its own prospectus and many have a website you can visit to give you an indication of what the school has to offer your child, but visiting the school and talking to the staff will give you a far greater insight into the provision made for pupils.

Details of school Open Evenings are provided within this booklet, Section 15, next to each school. For applications outside the normal round of admissions you are advised to contact your preferred schools to make an appointment to visit.

If you visit your local library, you can see copies of reports on your local schools from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). The reports are also published on Ofsted's website (www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports).

Information for Key Stage 3, GCSE and 'A' level can be found on the Department for Education and Skills website at www.dfes.gov.uk/performanceables

1.3 The LA's Parent Partnership Service

Within the Parent Partnership Service is a Choice Officer. This person can give advice on the range of school provision in Worcestershire and give independent advice on such issues as; completing an application form, consideration of transport to school, the importance of catchment areas in admission applications etc. This service is provided free of charge.

Tel: 01905 727940

Fax: 01905 727949

e-mail: ppservice@worcestershire.gov.uk

web-site: www.pps.networcs.net

1.4 The Family Information Service

Parents of school-aged children may find it useful to know about the **Family Information Service (FIS)**, which provides information and advice on out of school childcare, holiday playschemes, children's activity clubs and family support services. The FIS also provides information on nursery education and childcare for the younger age range. Advice is offered on tax credits, rights/benefits for working parents and career options in working with children. The FIS can be contacted on **01905 790560** or by emailing familyinfo@worcestershire.gov.uk. Further information can also be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyinfo

1.5 Making an application for a school in a neighbouring Local Authority (LA)

Parents may express a preference for High schools in other LA's than Worcestershire. Under the national, Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements, parents have to apply for places on their home LA form. For parents residing in Worcestershire they should complete the preference form SA1 and return it by the closing date of 2nd November 2007.