

School Entry Registrations – A Quick Guide by Naijamaican.

Although care is taken in compiling this information to assist with getting your children into school; You are advised to check with your local authorities Children Information Service to obtain the most up to date and accurate information regarding admissions, applications and securing a school place for your child/ren.

Register your child/ren for a school place.

For children born All children born between 1 September 200x and 31 August 200y can start primary school in the school year beginning September after they turn 4. Children born between 1 September 199x and 31 August 199y can start secondary school in September after their 10th birthday. Most local authorities nationwide are open for you to complete a registration form indicating your choice/s of preferred place of education for your children.

- Most independent and voluntary assisted schools will or may request you complete a set of supplementary forms or even have a separate procedure for applications. You have to make contact with the schools and ensure you follow their in house protocols.
- General Criterion is usually the distance from your home to the school, whether you attend the associated churches and religious gatherings associated with voluntary assisted schools, whether your child has a UK disability, a statement of needs or supporting statement from relevant professionals and whether you want to donate money to, get involved with designated activities or volunteer to work for the school free.
- The key guide to the whole thing is to make sure you are clear, professional and straightforward with the school or schools you choose and able to state clearly what your choices are.
- Don't be pressurised into taking up churchgoing activity hypocritically just to get your child a school place, don't be swayed by any kind of pressure, what we all want is a good, sound education and foundation skills for our children.
- Interpreting the reports is standard, the reports should provide you with information on the areas of performance at the school from social interaction to teaching skills, subjects of strength and weakness, performance by students at key stage 2, assessment of ethos and practices and points/comments related to these.

Overall, with the newer reports you should have the opportunity to upload and read full reports covering all these areas. For a ready reckon, performance educationally is usually a good assessment indicator and key stage 2 exams are taken by all children from age 7 to age 10 or 11. Generally a trendline should be provided so you can gauge the percentage of children that remained at school over the years to take these exams, and then the scores achieved or percentage achieving a score above pass level will be shown. These should again

be shown as a trend over years so you can see if the school is generally improving with time or depreciating.

- Most parents will be interested in the final key stage exams, remember this determines to some extent the kind of secondary education you can bid for so attention needs to be paid to how many students took the exam and how many passed at levels 4 and or 5 i.e. above 75% in all subjects rated i.e. English, mathematics and science. You do need to look at the ratings for value i.e supported progression levels in the school and of course finally if you can, visit the school, liaise with the staff and gauge their response to your questions, enquiries and openness, these are key to your child's success.
- Also do remember that it is your job as well as the schools to get your child a good education, help with homework/supervise homework well, give them additional homework and get them into doing chores alongside so they get a well rounded feel for living and schooling and get them self help books to use for extra lessons on those long Saturdays, monitor their performance reports that they bring home and test their knowledge and understanding yourself and encourage them to take education seriously. In Africa, supplementary lessons, classes and so on are not a rarity, most people that grew up in Africa still remember what page and exercise of Longmans they got to do sums from when they started getting lippy. During long holidays, supplementary lessons took the bore out of the days and helped progression and transition into a new school year. It is rare to find children loitering, playing truant or generally being a nuisance during school holidays. Lets pull together to bring out the shine on an achieving child's face.
- Check out your nearest schools in your phonebook, thomsons or local yellow pages.
- A useful point to note; you are allowed to educate your children at home instead of school if you choose to do so. Under UK law it is education that is compulsory, not schooling, though the vast majority of parents do choose to send their children to school. Finally let us know your experiences good or bad, join the discussion about schools for our children on our online forum