Myth busters – get the facts!

It is easy to make assumptions about how school admissions work. Here are some of the common myths and misunderstandings, as well as the facts.

MYTH	FACTS
My child has a right to a place at one of my preferred schools.	The local authority must offer your child a place at the highest **available** preference school. If there are more children with greater eligibility in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria – it is not possible to offer a named preference. There is no right to a place at your preferred school, but you have the right to make an application and have this ranked fairly in line with the admissions criteria. If it is not possible to offer your child a place at your preferred school, your child will be allocated a place at an alternative school with a vacancy.
I have an older child already at the school so I do not need to apply.	Everyone must apply for their child even if they have a brother or sister already at the school. Most schools give priority to siblings, these vary with certain requirements, but if you don't apply you could miss out on a place.
Listing one school will mean that you will have to offer me that school.	Listing only one school does not increase your child's chances of being offered a place. If your child does not qualify for that school, then they will be allocated a place at the nearest school to your home with a vacancy. It is important you name your schools in order of preference and in your child's best interest to name as many schools as possible. Allocations can only be made when all named preferences have been considered. So only naming one school means your child will not get considered for any other local schools until after all other children that have named them have been considered.
Listing the same school six times will improve my chances of being offered a place.	Your child can only be considered once for a named school and any duplicated preferences will simply be deleted.
I live nearer to the school than the last child offered under the distance criterion last year so I'm guaranteed a place.	Although the information listed in the Admission Booklet can give you an idea of how likely it is that you will be offered a place at your preferred school, the 'last distance' will change every year. We cannot guarantee any child will be offered a place at any school.
Children in my road go to the school so my child will too.	The number of pupils offered under each criterion at each school can change every year, so just because you know pupils living near you go to a certain school, it does not mean that your child will definitely be offered a place there, although it can be a good indicator.

If I apply to a school in another borough, their residents will have priority over me.	A school would not normally set admissions arrangements or catchment areas along an administrative boundary, it is true that some children may get priority when they live in the same borough as the school but only if they are closer to the school. Children living close to schools in neighbouring authorities should have no less priority simply because they live in a different borough.
It does not matter if my application is late.	If you apply after 31 October 2021, your application will not be considered until after all the on-time applications have been processed. If it is late, it is very unlikely that you will be offered one of your preferred schools.
I can only apply for Bromley schools	You can apply for both Bromley and out of borough schools by listing them on the Bromley application form.