2 Before you apply – dos and don'ts

Before you apply:

DO:

- **Visit schools** – this is the best way to get a feel for the school. You can meet staff, ask questions and see the school in action. Visiting dates are on page 10 and available on each school's details page.
- **Think about what is right for your child** – don't rely on what others tell you, visit the school and see for yourself.
- **Talk to your child** – involve them as much as you can.
- **Think about the journey** – how easy will it be to get to the school?
- **Check the admissions criteria** and how likely it is that your child would be offered a place.
- **Use all your preferences** – make sure you include your most local school.
- **Ask the School Admissions Service Team for advice.**
- **Make sure you press 'submit' when you finish your online application.** You should receive a reference number confirming safe receipt.

DON'T:

- **Put private (independent) fee paying schools on your application** – you should apply directly to the private school.
- **Wait until the last minute to apply** – you may have problems logging in or getting online. Give yourself plenty of time to think things through.
- **List only one school** – your application won't be treated more favourably and you could lose out on another school you like.

