Tower Hamlets Transition Support Service

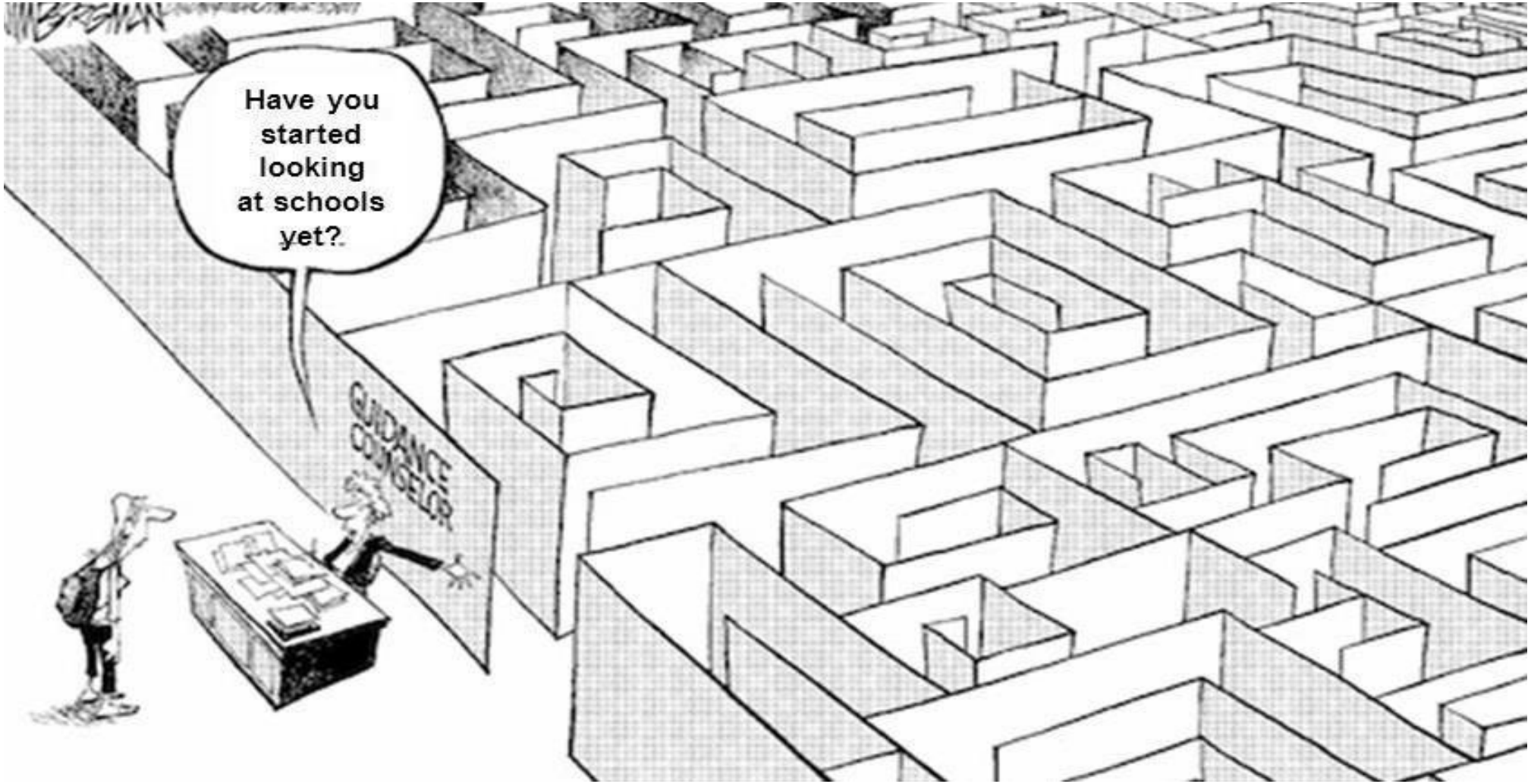
Provide **impartial** advice, information and support to families:

During key points of transition - including applications and appeals:

- Nursery
- Primary
- **Secondary**
- In-year

Support a range of education issues:

- Bullying
- Managed Moves
- Exclusion
- Home/school communication
- School Complaints Process



Preference NOT Choice

The presentation will explain:

TOWER HAMLETS

- How to apply
- The number of schools that you can apply to
- The closing date
- How decisions are made
- When and how you will be notified about the outcome of your applications

How do I decide which schools to apply to?

TOWER HAMLETS

- Go to www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions this website has all the information you will need when applying to schools
- Read the Banding Assessment information
- Check the visiting information for schools
- Visit schools and look at their websites to get more information



Cont.

- Consider how your child will travel to school and the journey time
- Talk to your primary parent support worker/teacher/Headteacher
- Familiarise yourself with the admissions policy for each school so you can consider the likelihood of being offered a place if it is a very popular school
- Involve your child in this process – the final decision will be yours – but talk to your child and include them on school visits

Additional Support without an Education Health Care Plan

If your child has been receiving additional support but does not have an EHCP:

- Contact your child's primary school and get a summary of all support received
- Contact the SENCO – Special Needs Coordinator - at the secondary school and ask about any additional support without an EHCP
- Your child's transition is likely to be more successful if it is planned
- If you have concerns – don't let these grow. Talk to the SENCO sooner rather than later

Remember!

- Applications can only be made online
- You can apply for up to 6 schools across London
- Closing date 31 October 2026
- All applications for Tower Hamlets schools are considered at the same time

In September when your child is in Year 6

- You will be given information on how to make your application
- Your child will take a CATS4 digital Banding Assessment in their primary school
- Information on where to go for more help and advice
- If your child has an EHCP you will receive a letter and a form from your child's primary school – different process

Banding

- Most Tower Hamlets Secondary Schools use a ‘local’ banding system to ensure that their Year 7 intake is balanced across the pupil ability ranges
- LBTH Year 6 pupils complete Digital CATS4 assessment in the Autumn Term, in their primary school
- The assessment scores will allow the Local Authority to rank and band pupils into four equal groups (A, B, C and D) D is the highest level
- Pupils who do not take the test receive an **‘Untested’** outcome and are placed in the Untested group. They may have their applications considered after the children who have taken the banding assessment
- Neither the score nor the banding outcome are provided to parents at any stage of the transfer to secondary process
- There are two schools that do not use banding as part of their admission arrangements i.e. Bishop Challoner and Canary Wharf College

How to apply

- Name up to 6 schools in order of preference including schools outside of Tower Hamlets
- **Do not include** Independent or fee-paying schools
- Not for children with EHCP's – there is a form to complete
- You need to complete a supplementary form if applying to Bishop Challoner, Canary Wharf College Crossharbour and voluntary aided schools. It is not an application form and you must still make an online application – prompted
- Only submit the Banding Registration Form if your child has not taken the CATS4 Banding Assessment in their primary school

Remember

- Check that you have given correct information
- Check that you have given us details of any siblings attending the schools applied to
- Do not just put down only one or two schools – it doesn't mean you will have a higher priority
- Think about your chances of getting a place – look at the admissions policy

Cont/d.

- If your child has medical or social reasons for wanting a school, make sure you indicate this on the online application and include written evidence to support your case
- You can ask anyone who is supporting your family to help you with providing this evidence (GP, social worker etc.)
- Check deadlines for ‘aptitude tests’ (Stepney All Saints and St Paul’s Way Trust)
- Don’t miss anything out. If you don’t tell Admissions, they won’t know!

Making your online application

- Visit: **www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions**
- You must register before completing your application on **Eadmissions**
- You must complete your application in full and submit it
- You can make changes up until the closing date, **31st October** and you must resubmit those changes
- Give your e-mail address and you will be sent a receipt
- You will find out the results of your application **March 2027**

Supplementary and Out of Borough

Additional supplementary forms are required for **Stepney All Saints, Bishop Challoner and Canary Wharf College Crossharbour** (prompted through online form to complete)

If you wish to apply outside of Tower Hamlets check with the school if you need a SIF and check their admissions criteria

If you wish apply for an out of borough school you still apply on your Tower Hamlets form (your **home** borough)

Check out of borough council websites for secondary transfer information

Check if out of borough schools require any additional forms

Top Tips!

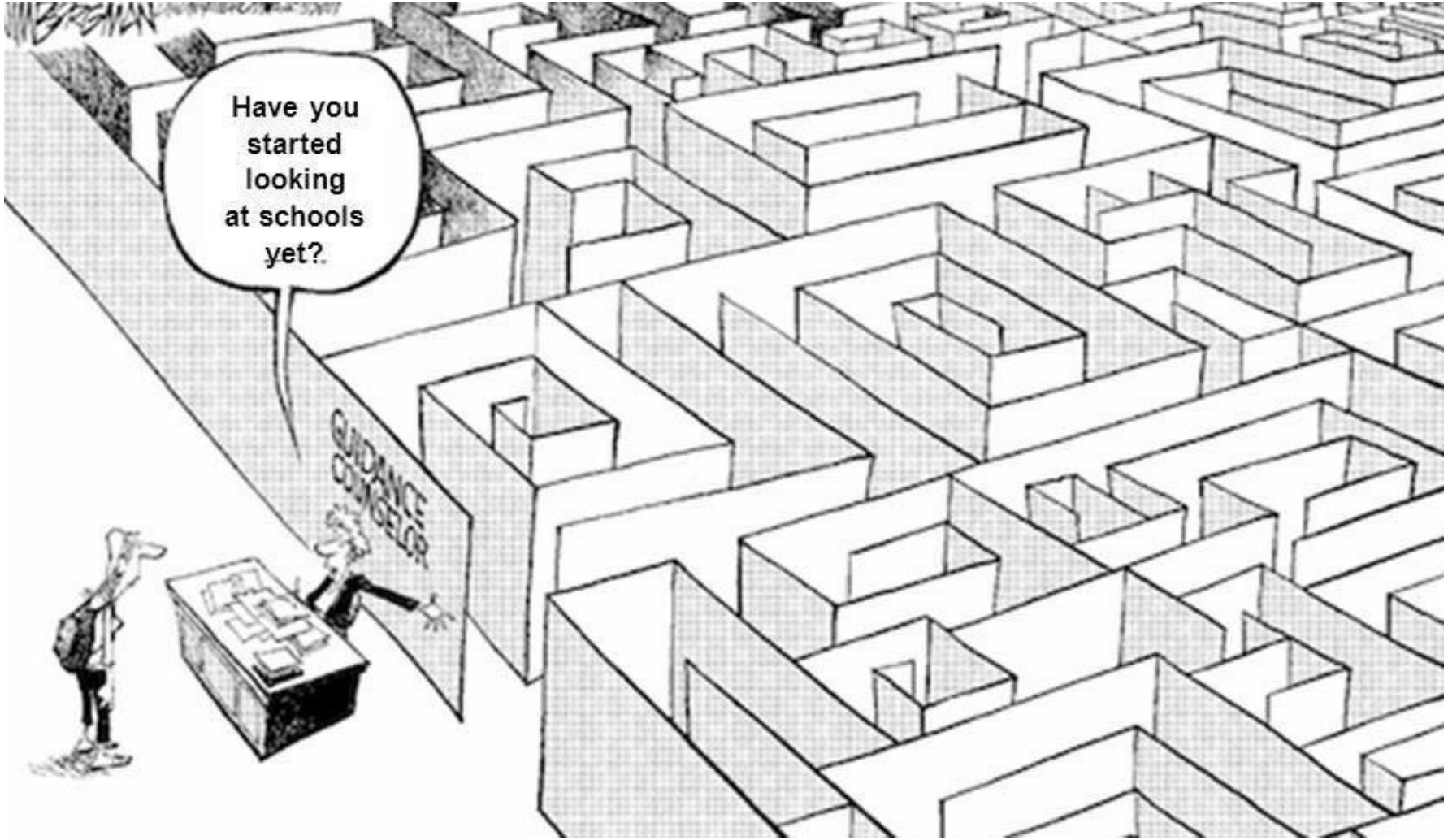
- Visit as many schools with your child as possible, ask questions
- Think about what is right for your child – talk to them
- Think about the journey
- Check the admissions criteria
- Use all of your preferences or as many as possible
- Always consider your closest school
- Ask admissions service/transitions team for advice
- Make sure you press ‘submit’ when you finish your online application, and you will receive an email receipt

How decisions are made…..

If a school receives more applications than it has places, then the admissions policy determines who will get a place

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school applied to must be allocated a place

1. Looked after children
2. Pupils who have strong medical or social reasons to attend the school applied to (this can include family member)
3. Pupils who have a brother or sister at the school in September 2027 – current Y11 and Y13 will not count



Remember Preference NOT Choice

Notifying you of the outcome

- In **March 2027** you will be sent a letter and can view outcome online
- Right of appeal if refused a place
- But no right of appeal for lower placed school
- Very few appeals are successful
- Automatically placed on the waiting list

Alternative Offer

- Admissions service will allocate (reserve) a place at the nearest school with a vacancy if you cannot be offered a preferred school
- Apply to schools with vacancies
- Notified of the outcome end March 2027

Remember

- No guarantee that you will be offered a place at the schools you applied to
- If more than one school can offer you a place, you will receive the best or highest offer
- The school preferences you make are treated equally. This means that no matter where you place a school in your list of preferences, it will be treated in the same way as all other applicants who also chose that school – regardless of where they have placed the school in their list
- It is important that you list schools in the order of your preference. The reason for this is because if more than one offer of a school is returned to us, you will be offered the school that is listed the highest



Questions



TOWER HAMLETS

The best of London
in one borough

Admissions Service

TOWER HAMLETS

Tel: 020 7364 5006

schooladmissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Tower Hamlets Transition Support Service.

Tel: 020 7364 6489

transitions@towerhamlets.gov.uk

