



**Successful
School
Admissions**
by topschools

 **topschools**
Admissions



ADMISSIONS EXPERTS

2024 / 2025

GET EXPERT SUPPORT **TODAY**

Find out how to manage a complicated decision without costly consequences.

Inside our Successful School Admissions program, we'll guide you to implement the Finding the Fit Formula - a complete, proven system with a guaranteed outcome.

Apply to 3 schools and get at least one offer - all the resources & support you need to...

- ✓ Simplify the whole process by applying to just **THREE** schools
- ✓ Apply to the "right schools" in the right way at the right time
- ✓ Have the full support of THE expert in this field
- ✓ Generate Offers, not Rejections
- ✓ Understand exactly what's required for interview preparation (+ what's NOT!)

Forget about multiple expensive applications that turn into rejections..

WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY

"Consulting with Top Schools was one of our best decisions. All our requirements were considered and we were given the most sensible and practical advice by their knowledgeable consultant. Top Schools helped us find a gem of a preschool, and also built a roadmap for us for the next steps which has proved most beneficial to us. Thanks Top Schools for your help!"

Trina Bandopadhyay



"OMG, we got the offer!! 🥳 thank you for your super counsel and guidance and for seeing me rollercoaster through all the feelings 😊"

C



"Thank you so much for all your advice, support and guidance throughout this process, Ruth! We wouldn't have been able to do this without you. We would love to stay in the group! Hopefully, all the other parents will get some good news too!"

Daisy



"This offer letter means so much to us. Thank you for suggesting Harrow, as boarding had never crossed our mind. Thank you for prepping her for the CAT4 and guiding us to enhance her confidence and skills. A million thank yous!!!!!!!"

E



"Top Schools is an amazing resource. We were switching our child from one school to another within Hong Kong. We thought we knew the system but things did not go as we had anticipated and Ruth and her team really went above and beyond to help us. Their in-depth knowledge and connections are second to none. That, plus their calm and patient support were invaluable in ensuring that our child ended up in the right school. Highly recommend!"

Veronica Lockyer



THE TOP SCHOOLS' **DIFFERENCE**

MAKE A PLAN AND MAKE IT HAPPEN

**ONE OF YOUR MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS
AS A PARENT; GET EXPERT HELP**

Our Finding the Fit Formula, developed over 10+ years, is the proven system for successful school admissions in Hong Kong's highly selective schools.

We put you in control of finding the best school for your child. Working with us, you can eliminate a significant amount of risk and ensure success without unnecessary stress and expense. Apply to 3 schools and get 1, 2 or 3 offers.

Say goodbye to...



expensive

Save money on just THREE applications and NO OPTIONAL DEBENTURE.



risky

No missed deadlines or misfired applications. All managed expertly.



stressful

No more stressing and struggling with complex information.

HI, I'M RUTH; ADMISSIONS EXPERT

I founded Top Schools in 2012 and have helped hundreds of parents to get their children into their best fit schools in Hong Kong.

Successful School Admissions is the first and only program of its kind from the leading expert in international schools in Hong Kong.

I'm sharing the exact same process I've used with our 1:1 consulting clients so more parents can benefit from my 'Finding the Fit Formula'.

If you're looking to be successful AND make this as simple as possible with expert support ... you are in the right place!



As seen on/in:



GRADE CALENDAR (2024/25)

Child Born	Age	Hong Kong	Australia	England		USA / Canada		IB
2022	2-3	PN	-	-	-	-	-	IB PYP
2021	3-4	K1	Reception / Transition	Nursery	Foundation Stage		-	
2020	4-5	K2		Reception	Key Stage 1	Pre-K	Elementary	
2019	5-6	K3	Preparatory	Year 1		Kindergarten		
2018	6-7	P1	Primary	Year 1	Year 2	Grade 1		
2017	7-8	P2		Year 2	Year 3	Grade 2		
2016	8-9	P3		Year 3	Year 4	Grade 3		
2015	9-10	P4		Year 4	Year 5	Grade 4		
2014	10-11	P5		Year 5	Year 6	Grade 5		
2013	11-12	P6		Year 6	Year 7	Key Stage 3	Grade 6	Middle School
2012	12-13	S1	Secondary	Year 7	Year 8		Grade 7	
2011	13-14	S2		Year 8	Year 9		Grade 8	
2010	14-15	S3		Year 9	Year 10	Key Stage 4 / GCSE / IGCSE	Grade 9	High School
2009	15-16	S4	Year 10	Year 11	Grade 10			
2008	16-17	S5	Year 11	Year 12	Grade 11			
2007	17-18	S6	Senior Secondary (DSE)	Year 12	Year 13	A Level / BTEC	Grade 12	IB DP

All children aged 6 – 15 are required to go to school.

All children legally resident in Hong Kong are entitled to free education.

Contact us today for an initial, no-obligation conversation –
hello@topschools.com.hk



If your child is born 1 Sept – 31 Dec, you'll need to adjust back one year for most schools.

However, some schools, notably ESF, do not follow the 31 August cut-off date. ESF cut-off date is 31 December. Other schools may be flexible.

GET EXPERT SUPPORT

From Hong Kong's leading expert on Hong Kong schools and creator of

SuccessfulSchoolAdmissions

OUR PROVEN






FORMULA

FOR SUCCESS



Ruth Benny - Founder of Top Schools



-  PARENTS
-  CHILD
-  SCHOOL
-  APPLICATION
-  ADMISSION

- Private 1:1 Consulting**

- Group Coaching**

- Recorded Lessons**

- Community**

- VIP Resources**

- Clinics**


THE FORMULA... **PROVEN**

Good morning Ruth 😊
 doo d u got the ESF
 Bradbury offer 🤖 😊

10:27 AM



Hi Ruth - we are in ! 🎉 🎉 🎉
 🎈 🎈 🎈

9:15 AM

Thanks so much to you and
 Frances for your super
 counsel and guidance !!

9:16 AM



This offer letter means so much to us. Thank you Frances & Ruth for suggesting Harrow, cause boarding had never crossed our mind beforehand.

Thank you for prepping her for CAT4 and guiding us to the right places to enhance her confidence and interview skills.

A million thank you!!!!!! ❤️

5:34 PM



EXPERT GUIDANCE



For parents of children born in 2022* or earlier seeking a school place in Sep 2025

Apply to 3 schools to get at least one offer

- ✔ feel confident and in control of one of the most important decisions of your life
- ✔ ensure that your child can access the best educational opportunities (without destroying your family in the process)
- ✔ understand your shortlisted schools in more depth than you ever thought possible
- ✔ be ACTIVELY MANAGING the selection process and eliminate the risk of choosing the WRONG school
- ✔ apply to the right schools in the right way at the right time and get the offer your child deserves.

* To be precise 1 Sep 2021 or earlier.

SIMPLIFIED | SUPPORTED | SUCCESSFUL

COMPLETE SYSTEM

INCLUDED:

ACCOUNTABILITY & COMMUNITY



WHAT YOU'LL GET

Manage a complicated decision without costly consequences. Inside our Successful School Admissions Coaching, we'll guide you to implement the **Finding the Fit Formula** - a complete, proven system with a guaranteed outcome.

Successful School Admissions

- ✔ Guaranteed up-to-date, accurate information on your chosen schools
- ✔ A sense check on YOUR strategy for YOUR child
- ✔ Confirmation of the validity of YOUR school choices
- ✔ Check in that YOUR direction, dates and details make sense and will work
- ✔ The result you need.



Included:

- ✔ Private strategy session with Ruth
- ✔ Almost weekly live sessions with Ruth, to guide you to perfect YOUR admissions strategy
- ✔ All areas access to our 'Finding the Fit' Academy
- ✔ Expert guidance on your shortlist, school reports and test results
- ✔ Ongoing support for up to 10 months, until your child receives an offer
- ✔ Personalised shortlist for your child
- ✔ Membership to private community Regular clinics



SCHOOL TYPES

Type of School	Curriculum	Funding	Fee Range* (approx)	Admissions Policy	
Government	Hong Kong	100% Government funded	\$0	Primary One Admissions (POA): Discretionary Places Central Allocation Door Knocking	Local schools
Aided					
Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS)	Hong Kong, with some flexibility to offer A Levels, IBDP to a minority of students	Partial Government funded	\$1,000 - \$110,000	Selective: Apply directly	
Private schools	Mostly Hong Kong; also non-local curricula	100% funded by fees / fundraising	\$25,000 - \$226,000	Selective: Apply directly	International schools
ESF Schools	Non - local: International Baccalaureate, IGCEs, BTEC	100% funded by fees / fundraising	\$84,000 - \$175,000	Non-Selective: Apply directly	
International Schools	Non-local: International Baccalaureate, IGCEs, A Levels, International Primary Curriculum, Montessori, Advanced Placement, Own, etc	100% funded by fees / fundraising	\$76,000 - \$275,000	Selective: Apply directly, All international schools are required to admit a minimum number of students holding foreign passports. The percentage varies from 50-98%	
Private Independent Schools	Non - local: International Baccalaureate, IGCEs, Advanced Placements, etc		\$126,000 - \$250,000	All PIS schools are required to admit at least 70% of local students ie permanent residents	
Other Private Schools	Usually non local	100% funded by fees		Selective: Apply directly	

*Fees quoted are for primary and secondary school not including preschool. Fees are rounded up or down.

SWITCHING FROM LOCAL TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

One of the most common quandaries parents find themselves in is choosing between a local school and an international one. We often advise families to start in the local stream and apply to international school later. But how does this work? What are the risks? And can they really make it into international school?

Common reasons for children – or their parents – wanting to move to international schools include:

- **Concerns about the standard of English language teaching and learning**
- **Struggles with the style of teaching, homework and testing**
- **Getting ready for school or university overseas**

More often than not, the children are doing well academically and are happy at school. Only occasionally do we find an unhappy child, or one who is “failing” – at least, according to their school.

So, when is the right time to apply to an international school? Years 1 and 7 are obvious entry points. For a child finishing K3 in a local kindergarten, it's tough to find a spot in Year 2. In that scenario, it's common for a child to spend one or two years in a local primary school and apply to international school at the time of starting P4.

In local schools, the TSA is administered in June at P3, P6 and S3 in local government subsidised schools and is much dreaded for the additional intensity it involves in preparing for it. Applying to Year 7 in an international school is a good idea. This means the application is submitted soon after the child begins P5. Many parents get confused about when primary ends and secondary starts in both systems. They may prefer to finish primary in local school, which isn't a good idea since it means they will usually miss the Year 7 application. Many schools have a new intake in Year 7, making it a good entry point.

After Year 7, Years 8 and 9 are also good times to enter an international school. If it's a school that does the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), entering in Year 9 is advisable, since the IGCSE course starts in Year 10. Students in Year 9 choose their subjects and will be able to use the year to adjust before school gets more serious. Entering a school running IGCSEs is usually not possible at Years 10 and 11. Likewise, entering a school running A-levels or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is usually not possible at Years 12 and 13 since these are both two-year courses. In some schools, however, this doesn't apply.

Which international schools accept children from local schools or children with Hong Kong passports? The answer is, they all do! International schools do not mind where children have been studying previously as long as they meet the entry requirements. Whilst it's true that foreign nationals do receive priority at certain schools, children with Hong Kong passports should not be dissuaded from applying to international schools and they are not discriminated against.

By far the most common challenge for local school students applying to international schools is that of meeting the required English- language proficiency. Children who have been used to lessons in Cantonese may struggle to express themselves in English. In writing, they are often great at grammar but less able to analyse and generate different genres of text. They often find creative writing a challenge. We've found this to be the case even amongst native-English speaking children, since local schools generally teach English as a second language, with lots of grammar and prescribed tasks that don't encourage creativity in using language. Maths is also tested, but rarely causes any problems.

In fact, the required level varies from school to school. It's important to assess the school's requirements and realistically assess a child's chances of gaining acceptance. Some schools, for example, will have support for children needing additional academic assistance, while others won't. In some cases, we do recommend a tutor or preparation centre to help the student understand the requirements of the entrance test, and be best prepared to do well in it.

Children usually transition well into international schools. They find the style of teaching more engaging, the homework load less and the culture more creative, relaxed and fun. Of course, the ease of the transition very much depends on the timing of the switch and the student's personality. Some older students suffer something akin to culture shock.

Having spent many years in a local school, some may find it overwhelming being put in a situation where model answers don't exist. They may feel less secure and find it hard to adjust to the different learning methods, especially when it requires a great deal of self- initiative, abstract thinking and synthesising of information.

But children whose parents have examined the situation thoroughly, and ensure they have taken all the right steps, should be able to make a seamless transition to a new learning environment, equipped with the necessary skills to succeed academically.



BENCHMARKING ASSESSMENTS

We include standardised tests and assessments and will suggest the appropriate test based on the goals. These are usually computer-based and can be taken in the comfort of your own home. We deliver full reports with a debrief too!



Centre for Evaluation & Monitoring

UK SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

If you are considering a school in the UK, we can help. Whether applying for the usual entry points of 11, 13 or 16 or not...

Choosing and applying to a UK school is complicated and confusing. Our experts focus on your individual child to support you to secure a place at your best-fit British school.

In recent placements, our clients have secured offers from Rugby, Sedbergh, Stonar, Kent College, Millfield, Oundle and many more.



The Transition: From an International School in Asia to an Independent School in the UK

With expertise in BOTH the departure school and the destination school puts us in the strongest position possible to recommend best fit school.

Book a Discovery Call today!



**BRITISH BOARDING
SCHOOLS NETWORK**
Approved Agent
2023-2024



Read Our Top Blogs



- All About Debentures
- School Budgeting Guide
- Local Schools for Non-Chinese-speaking children: Do EMI schools really exist?
- Fifteen schools strong in Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua)

Watch Our Top Videos



- HeadTalks
- From Hong Kong to UK
- Teaching children a second & third language

Listen to Our Top Podcasts



- Readiness, Applications and Parent Anxiety
- Bilingualism: Struggles and Solutions
- Classrooms Without Walls

Join Our Weekly Livestream



- Almost every Thursday, Ruth goes live on Facebook, Linked In, and YouTube at 6PM. Special guests too!

LIVE

SCHOOLS STRONG IN CHINESE

If you'd like your child to be bilingual (Chinese/English) AND biliterate, the obvious choice is a 'local' school. However, local schools use "Cantonese". It's used as the medium of instruction, as the playground language and forms the basis of the culture. Also, Putonghua and English is often taught mainly by non-native speakers. Many parents are more keen on Putonghua (Mandarin). Perhaps they are not Chinese, they are from the Mainland, or they feel that Cantonese is easy to pick up anyway.

They also prefer a more international style of teaching, perhaps according to an international curriculum too. The bad news is that very few schools are offering this!

We list here TWELVE:

k = kindergarten | p = primary | s = secondary

- 1 **Bloom KKCA Academy**
[p] Shek Kip Mei
- 2 **Canadian International School**
[kps] Southern
- 3 **Chinese International School**
[ps] Braemar Hill
- 4 **Christian Alliance P.C. Lau Memorial International School**
[p] Kowloon
- 5 **Dalton School Hong Kong**
[ps] Wan Chai
- 6 **Independent Schools Foundation Preschool & Academy**
[kps] Cyberport
- 7 **The International Montessori School**
[kp] Eastern, Aberdeen, Stanley
- 8 **Kiangsu Chekiang Nursery & Primary School**
[kp] North Point
- 9 **Kingston International School**
[kp] Kowloon
- 10 **Singapore International School**
[ps] Aberdeen
- 11 **Victoria Shanghai Academy**
[ps] Aberdeen
- 12 **Yew Chung International School**
[kps] Kowloon

PLACEMENTS

Every year, since 2012, Top Schools has supported families to generate places in the following schools, among others:

AMERICAN SCHOOL
HONG KONG

HONG KONG ACADEMY

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

CHINESE INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI
SCHOOL

CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF
HONG KONG

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION ACADEMY

DEILA SCHOOL OF CANADA

KELLETT SCHOOL

DISCOVERY BAY
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

KOREAN INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

ENGLISH SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

MALVERN COLLEGE
HONG KONG

FRENCH INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF HONG KONG

MALVERN COLLEGE HONG
KONG PRE SCHOOL

GERMAN SWISS
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

NORD ANGLIA
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
AND PRE SCHOOL HONG
KONG

HARROW INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

SHREWSBURY
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

JOIN TODAY!

Join our community and start your journey towards successful admission for your child.

Book a call today:

<https://www.topschoolsadmissions.com/book>

Monthly membership starts from

HK\$1,180

Scan me



"It would be my privilege to work with you and support your family with this most important decision. I do not take your trust in my expertise lightly and I'm fully committed to delivering the highest level of service to exceed your expectations."



WORKING WITH TOP SCHOOLS

FAQs

WHAT DOES TOP SCHOOLS DO?

We support parents to find “best-fit” places in private schools for children.

We offer a full support service providing expert guidance to parents searching for a pre, primary or secondary school in Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK. We know what private/international schools are looking for and what it takes to get admitted. We can provide you with a personalised, strategic plan. We also offer online memberships for those parents who prefer some support but do not need full 1:1.

With parents and schools as partners, we use our expertise to find the best fit school for a child. We also consult with schools directly on admissions and marketing, as well as recruitment.

WHO ARE YOUR CLIENTS?

Our clients are parents – local, expat and everything in between – concerned about their children’s education. They are sometimes confused and a little overwhelmed. They all share a common desire for their children to attend a school in which s/he is happy and thriving.

WHY CHOOSE TOP SCHOOLS?

We are international and independent school experts.

You will work with a dedicated consultant throughout the process.

We do more than you might expect. For example, we analyse school reports, talk to teachers, provide checklists for school visits and even assist with figuring out bus routes and ordering school uniform, if required.

We’ve supported more than 2,000 placements since 2012.

GREAT! HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Book a call to discuss your situation with our Head Girl and Founder, Ruth. We want to make sure we are a good fit to work together and that we can support you to achieve the outcome you desire. Book your call today :
www.topschoolsadmissions.com/book

**Visit our
website for
more FAQs**



MORE **HAPPY** PARENTS



Seeking assistance from Top Schools has been one of the best decisions my wife and I have made. At first, my wife and I both tried to do our own research for our son's future schooling, thinking it was relatively straightforward and could be done ourselves. After speaking with Top Schools, we soon realized there were critical elements that we didn't consider. All their recommendations fits well with our son's personality traits and the values we want to instill in him. They've also been very responsive and always willing to set up calls with us when we have any questions on schools, seminars, interviews, etc. Having Top Schools as a resource and ally has been invaluable. As a husband, it's also great to see Top Schools able to support my wife as she's been very nervous and anxious on this schooling topic! Thanks Ruth & Frances for the continued support and consultancy!

Chuck S



Thanks to the support and advice from Ruth and Frances. They are experienced and professional. They know what exactly each different school is looking for and they help enhance a perfect match between the school and my child. They helped set goals, provide directions and strategies, advise the areas I need to work on with my kids. They worked magic! Thank you. I applied 3 schools and my son had all the offers.

Vince Yuen



In July we first got in touch with Ruth with the aim of getting my daughter into Year 6 at the International School in September of the same year.

Totally by surprise, my daughter was accepted into an international school of our choice within 6 weeks. This is all due to Ruth's professional advice and help in shortlisting the best schools for my daughter and our future plans for sending her to the UK.

Ruth advised us every step of the way, from arranging all the interviews, to preparing her for what to do next.

I still can't believe it, we really appreciate Ruth and the Top School team!

Walter H



e: hello@topschoools.com.hk
w: www.topschooolsadmissions.com
www.hongkongschoools.com.hk
www.topschoools.asia



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