

A Guide to Grammar School Selection (Kent schools)

Introduction

Many parents are unsure of the format and procedure of grammar school selection testing in Kent and Medway areas so we thought we would give you an insight into how it all works.

The first thing to realise is that there are two separate tests your child can sit in order to gain entry into grammar school.

The Medway 11⁺ test

The Kent 11⁺ test

The Kent 11⁺ Test

If you wish to apply for a Grammar school situated in Kent but outside the Medway boundaries your child must sit the Kent 11⁺ test

The nearest Kent Grammar schools are:

Invicta Grammar School for girls (Maidstone)

Maidstone Grammar School for boys

Maidstone Grammar School for girls

Borden Grammar School for boys (Sittingbourne)

Highsted Grammar School for girls (Sittingbourne)

The date the test is held has varied over recent years but is currently scheduled for the September your child enters year 6.

If your child attends a Kent school testing will take place on a school day and in your child's school. If your child attends a Medway school they will be tested on a Saturday at a designated test centre.

In order to sit the test you must apply to the Kent Admissions team in the June of the year of testing. No school selection will be required at this stage as this will be done after the test results are known.

There are 3 tests your child will sit:

Combined Maths and Literacy (multiple choice)

Reasoning verbal, non-verbal and spatial awareness (multiple choice)

Creative writing

The combined maths and literacy test consists of a 30 minute maths section and a relatively new 30 minute literacy section which is a mix of comprehension, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation questions.

The reasoning test is split into a 20 minute verbal reasoning section and a series of 5 mini sections each lasting around 5 minutes for Non Verbal and Spatial Awareness.

The 3rd test is creative writing; this test will only be marked should a head teacher assessment be requested.

All tests excluding the creative writing are in multiple choice formats where your child indicates their answer from a selection given to them, these are then computer marked.

There are 3 separate raw scores awarded for Maths, Literacy and Reasoning. The raw score is the mark actually achieved by your child.

This score is then standardised, which means that allowances are made for age, so that all children can be compared equally and the youngest are not at a disadvantage.

The pass mark for each test varies slightly from year to year, last year (2014) the individual pass mark was 106 out of a maximum of 140. There is also a cumulative pass mark where the 3 marks are added together, last year the cumulative pass mark was 320.

This means that the child must achieve a pass in all three subjects **and** achieve a pass in the overall mark to be deemed selective for grammar school.

For example:

Maths	108	
Literacy	108	
Reasoning	110	
Total	326	Deemed selective

Maths	108	
Literacy	105	
Reasoning	110	
Total	323	Deemed non selective

Maths	106	
Literacy	106	
Reasoning	106	
Total	318	Deemed non selective

Results are posted out to the schools first, this allows for the head teacher to request a review should the school feel the mark was not a true indication of the child's ability. In these circumstances the creative writing test will be reviewed along with school work. At this stage parents and children are not aware of the test outcome or the school review.

Results day for children and their parents are mid October and are available online. Parents are advised of whether their child has been deemed suitable for Grammar school. The actual test scores are not included with this information but they can be obtained from your child's school if you require them.

Once results are known the secondary schools hold Open Sessions where you are able to visit to help you decide what schools to submit applications for; please take the time to read the entry criteria of all the schools you are interested in from the admissions booklet.

If your child has been deemed non-selective and you still wish them to be considered

for a grammar school place it is important to include the grammar school on your school admission form and reflect its true order of preference, as you will be able to appeal to the school at a later date.

The allocation of a school place is in March the following year, and this is when you can start an appeal to the grammar school of your choice.

Where a child has a disability or learning need and this will affect how they perform in a test environment your child's school can apply to a panel of specialist advisors who will determine what, if any, special arrangements should be made. All applications must come via schools. They will be asked to submit details of children who fall into this category with supporting evidence in late September. Decisions are made in mid-October and parents and schools informed. This is not a statutory part of the process and there is no appeal process against decisions made by the panel.

Are you a Kent or Medway resident?

This is determined by where you pay your council tax.

If you pay to Medway Council then you are a Medway resident.

If you pay to one of the 12 Kent district councils (for example Swale, Tonbridge and Malling or Gravesham) you are a Kent resident.