

# GRAMMAR SCHOOL SELECTION TESTS 2021

## Information for Year 5

### Should my child take the grammar school selection tests?

The grammar selection test is not compulsory and it is completely up to you to decide if you want your child to apply to a grammar school. The tests are designed to identify the most academically able children for entry to grammar schools.

If you're unsure whether grammar school is right for your child, it's worth considering the following questions:

- Have your child's attainment results shown as being above average in English & Maths and VR/NVR?
- Does feedback from your child's school reports and parents' consultations indicate they are working at an above average level?
- Would your child be able to sustain an above average learning expectation throughout secondary school?

Even if your child achieves a passing score in their test, this does not guarantee that they will be offered a grammar school place as grammar schools are generally oversubscribed. Likewise, you may choose for your child to attend a non-grammar setting even if they do achieve a pass mark in the test.

Information regarding this year's grammar school selection tests for children due to start secondary school in September 2022 is below; this includes updated information to reflect the current school closure situation and covers both the Kent and Bexley tests, which must be registered for separately if you wish your child to take both tests.

### KENT SELECTION

[www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test)



Visit the website above between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July to register your child for the Kent test and for further information.

The selection tests will be undertaken in school on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

#### ***Assuming the test goes ahead in its usual format –***

Testing will be held at your child's primary school.

- The tests are multiple-choice with a separate answer sheet. They are marked by an automated marking machine.
- The first test will be an English and Maths paper and will take 1 hour. Each section will involve a 5 minute practice exercise followed by a 25 minute test. The English section will involve a comprehension exercise as well as some additional questions drawn from a set designed to test literacy skills.
- The second test will be a reasoning paper. It will take about 1 hour, including the practice sections and questions. It will contain a verbal reasoning section and a non-verbal reasoning section of roughly the same length. The non-verbal reasoning will be split into short sections, administered and timed individually.

- There will also be a writing exercise which will not be marked but may be used by a local headteacher panel as part of the headteacher assessment stage of the process. 40 minutes will be allowed for the writing task, including 10 minutes planning time.

A familiarisation test booklet can be downloaded from the website above. Any additional familiarisation material can be downloaded free of charge from GL Assessment (link on website above.)

***If the test is unable to go ahead as normal –***

Kent will update the website above with any changes as soon as they are available. If you have already registered your child then Kent will also email you with the information.

## **BEXLEY SELECTION**

<http://www.bexley.gov.uk/selectiontests>



**Visit the website above before 2<sup>nd</sup> July to register your child for the Bexley test and for further information.**

**The tests will be held in test centres in Bexley on 13<sup>th</sup> September – the date and centre for your child's test will be confirmed.**

***If the test goes ahead in its usual format -***

The Bexley test covers verbal ability and English comprehension, numerical reasoning and non verbal reasoning. There are two test papers, with a mixture of questions in each. Verbal ability tests vocabulary, comprehension and verbal reasoning. Numerical reasoning tests the ability to solve mathematical problems. Non verbal reasoning tests the ability to see how objects relate to each other and to make logical deductions. The mathematical content of the questions will not go beyond what children are expected to have been taught by the end of Year 5.

Each test paper contains approximately 50 minutes of questions, plus some time for instructions and examples. Each test will be divided into sections, and children will be given an allocation of time for each section, before being asked to move on to the next section. The test papers are multiple choice, with the exception of some Maths questions where one answer must be calculated by the child, with answers marked on a separate sheet. The invigilator will play an audio soundtrack to talk children through the test papers and tell them how much time to spend on each section. All working out can be done on the test booklet and rough paper will not be supplied.

***If the test is unable to go ahead as normal -***

A statement from Bexley Council says: *'The London Borough of Bexley is planning to deliver the Bexley Selection Test in September 2021 in the usual format we have operated in the past. However, in the current climate, with school closures, social distancing requirements and the government advice to remain home unless essential, we reserve the right to alter testing arrangements'*