

Secondary Transfer Tests 2026

Presentation for Year 5 parents

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- Registration for the Kent Test for children due to start secondary school in September 2027 will open on Monday 1st June 2026 and close at midnight on Wednesday 1st July 2026.
 - Assessment is done through testing during the Autumn term. This year, the tests are due to take place on Thursday 10th September 2026 for pupils in Kent primary schools. All children taking the test will do so in their classroom.
 - Results day is Thursday 15th October 2026.

Things to know

- Children currently in Year 5 who were born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 can take the Kent Test in 2026. The test is only valid for Kent grammar schools. Medway Council has its own Medway Test and London Borough of Bexley has its own Bexley selection test.
- Bromley Borough have one boy and one girl selective school – St Olaves and Newstead Woods.
- Being grammar assessed in the Kent Test does not guarantee your child a place in a Kent grammar school.
- Make sure you know where the Kent grammar schools are, and what the admissions criteria are for the school(s) you are interested in. You can also search for Kent grammar schools in our Kent schools search. All information can be found on www.kent.gov.uk
- Many children will find the test difficult. Grammar schools in Kent provide for children in about the top 25% of the ability range.

If your child has SEND

- If your child has a disability or special educational needs which will affect their access to testing, you need to discuss this with their primary school's special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) before you register them for the test as the school will need to apply for any necessary access arrangements. Requests need to be in to school by Monday 22nd June to allow time to collate any available evidence.
- The online registration form asks you to confirm that you have discussed a request for access arrangements with your child's school.
- If you would like more information about the special arrangements process, email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk.

The Kent Test will take place on:

- Thursday 10th September 2026 for children who go to school in Kent
- The weekend of Saturday 12th and 13th September 2025 for children who do not attend a Kent primary school.

On the Day

- The tests are multiple-choice with a separate answer sheet. They are marked by a computer.
- 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.

Familiarisation paper and free papers

- https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/14513/Kent-Test-familiarisation-booklet.pdf
- <https://11plus.gl-assessment.co.uk/free-materials/>

Please be aware this is a company who would also like you to purchase papers!

Results Day

- If you provide an email address when you register, your Kent Test result will be emailed to you on Thursday 15th October 2026. They can only send the results to the email address used to register your child.
- If you do not provide an email address, they will post your child's result to you on results day by first class post. If you have not received it, you can ask your child's primary school for their test scores the day after results go out.
- H assessed children who want to pursue a grammar assessment do so by naming one or more grammar schools on their SCAF and appealing for each school to an Independent Appeal Panel from March 2027

What the scores mean

- Your child will get 3 standardised scores, one for English, one for maths and one for reasoning, and a total (aggregate) score.
- Standardisation is a statistical process which compares your child's performance with the average performance of other children in each test. A slight adjustment is made to take account of each child's age so that the youngest are not at a disadvantage.
- Last year, to be given a grammar school assessment, children needed a total score of 332 or more, with no single score lower than 108. Test scores range from 69 to 141. The highest possible total score is 423. This changes slightly every year depending on the number of pupils taking the test.

Headteacher Assessment Panel

- The assessment decision is based on the test results. However, before you receive your decision, your child's Primary school Headteacher will have the opportunity to refer assessment decisions they disagree with to a panel of local Primary and Secondary schools. The panel will consider additional evidence before making a decision. This can include your child's test scores, recent work, the writing task and comments from your child's current school. The panel will look at a full range of work for a child, regardless of which scores may be below the threshold. To allow these referrals to take place, your child's Primary school will be sent your child's score and assessment decision.
- An assessment will only be changed by the Headteacher Assessment Panel if the panel is confident that the child will be well placed in a Grammar school.

Applying for a Grammar School Place

- <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places#tab-1>
- For the normal point of entry to schools, Kent resident parents will be able to apply for their child's school place using a Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) either online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or via an alternate method available on request. Kent County Council cannot accept multiple applications for the same child: a parent may use either of the above methods, but not both.
- Kent parents will be able to name up to 4 secondary school preferences.
- Applications usually close at the end of October (tbc)

If your child is assessed as suitable for grammar school

- Any Kent grammar school you apply for will consider your application, but this does not guarantee your child will be offered a place.
- Grammar schools are often oversubscribed, meaning they receive more applications than there are available places. Schools use their admissions criteria to rank all applicants in priority order, so it's important to read the admissions criteria for schools you are interested in.
- A Kent grammar school can only consider your child for a place if you have named it on your application and your child has been tested and assessed suitable for admission.
- If your child is not offered a place at the school, you will be able to appeal to an independent appeal panel and may be able to join the school's waiting list.
- If you are applying from outside Kent, school admissions are co-ordinated between local authorities. Even if your child qualifies for admission to a grammar school in more than one area, all your preferred schools must be listed on your home local authority's application form, and you will not be offered more than one school place. Independent schools have their own admissions processes.

If your child was not tested or was not assessed as suitable for a Kent grammar school

- You can still apply for a Kent grammar school but your application to that school will be refused.
- You will then have the right to appeal to explain why you think it is a suitable option for your child.

Applying for Secondary Schools

- https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/125456/secondary-admissions-book-2022.pdf
- Go to Kent Online Admissions kent.gov.uk/ola
- A simple, fast and secure way to apply for a Secondary school place in Kent.
- Opens in September and closes at the end of October
- If your child has been assessed as G – you must put a Grammar School at the top of your preferences in order to stand a chance of getting a grammar place. If you were assessed as H but want to appeal, make sure you have your choice of Grammar school on your preference list, but your preferred non Grammar at the top of your preference list. In order to appeal you **MUST** have named the Grammar school on your application form as one of your 4 preferences.

Any Questions?

- Secondary Admissions Team:

Kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk

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- Thank you for coming!