

Kent 11+ Test – essential information for parents



What is the Kent 11+ test for?

The Kent 11+ test is an examination designed to determine whether or not children can take up a place at one of the many Kent state grammar schools.

It is an optional test that is taken every September; parents are required to register for the test in the summer term of Year 5. Pupils who choose to take the test do so at the beginning of Year 6, usually at their own school. Pupils who go to any school outside the Kent test catchment area (including Medway and Bexley) take the test at an alternative venue, usually the weekend after the school date.

Pupils who score over a certain mark (more on that later!) can opt for a place at one of Kent's selective (grammar) schools. Those who choose not to take or who do not achieve the required mark are allocated a place at one of their chosen non-selective schools.

What do the children have to do?

The Kent 11+ test consists of several elements – please note timings are approximate.

- A 25 minute English comprehension test – multiple choice
- A 25 minute maths test – multiple choice
- A 60 minute reasoning test including verbal, non-verbal and spatial reasoning – multiple choice
- A creative writing task (not used unless needed for appeal)

When do parents get the results and what is the pass mark?

Results are usually sent around six weeks after the test.

There is no fixed 'pass' mark. Kent's grammar school places account for about 20% of all the county's secondary places. Once everyone has taken test the top 20% (approximately) of pupils ranked by score will be assessed as suitable for grammar school. This means that from year to year the score needed to fall in to the 'top' 20% will differ depending on how the pupils performed in the test in general.

Scores from all the tests are added together and standardised for age to account for the differences in pupil age when the test is taken. Summer-born children (those turning 11 shortly before entering Year 6) may receive a standardised mark or two extra for this reason.

In 2022, to be given a grammar school assessment, children needed a total standardised score of 332 or more, with no single score (for English, maths or reasoning) lower than 108. Test scores range from 69 to 141. The highest possible total score is 423.

Some grammar schools require a standardised score over a certain amount to qualify for entry.

Choosing a secondary school

Once the results are received parents will receive a form to complete in which they list their four choices of secondary school in order of preference. School places are allocated at the beginning of March the following year. Children assessed as suitable for grammar school are not guaranteed a place at one.

For more information on the test including the process of appeal please visit the Kent County Council website.