

Dear Parent

I am writing to notify you in advance that the local authority have determined that, for testing in September 2020, the test provider for entry to Calday Grange Grammar School; West Kirby Grammar School for Girls; Wirral Grammar School for Boys and Wirral Grammar School for Girls will be GL Assessment.

GL selective tests will assess the pupil's understanding and application of knowledge and skills taught in and up to the end of Year 5, in various contexts. The tests will continue to look at verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and mathematics.

The tests will continue to be standardised for the child's age and gender. There will be two papers taken on the same day, in September of Year 6. The test date in 2020 will be Monday, 21st September.

A familiarisation leaflet including example questions will be provided to help parents and potential test candidates see what the test will generally look like and the manner in which questions are answered. This leaflet will be made available to parents in Spring 2020 through the Council's school admissions website, or on paper on request from 1st May 2020. Further familiarisation material of a general nature can be obtained from the GL website www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/11plus-series-11-plus-practice-papers/11plus-familiarisation-materials/

Registration for testing for September 2020 for admission to grammar schools in 2021 will be available from the 1st May when parents will be able to complete and submit an online assessment request form on the Wirral LA website. Links to this form will also be available on each of the grammar schools' websites from 1st May.

We have tried to think of questions that parents may have about the change of test provider, and the answers to some of these have been provided overleaf. For any further clarification, you may contact the Mainstream Admissions team by email at hotdesk@wirral.gov.uk or in writing to the address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Paul Boyce
Corporate Director for Children

Frequently asked questions – change to selective test provider

Q. Will the number of tests change?

- No. There will be two tests on the same day with a short break between the two.

Q. What if my child is sick on the day?

- Just as now, if they are sick, don't bring them to the test. Tell the Test Centre and a mop-up date will be arranged for children who were ill on the test day.

Q. My older child sat the old selective test, my younger child will be disadvantaged by the test changing.

- The selective tests have always been unique to the year group that took them, as the test changes every year. Test scores are not compared with previous years. There is no disadvantage.

Q. Will the pass mark change?

- The tests are always standardised to the group of children who took the same test in the same year, taking into account the child's age and gender. The standardised score required to reach the standard will remain 236.

Q. I have been paying for tutoring on the old test for X months/years. This has been a waste of money, you should have told us earlier.

- GL assessments do not require any tuition in vocabulary or skills that are not part of normal school activity and extensive preparation for the tests is not necessary. Our recommendation is that children continue to engage in reading activities and focus upon their normal school work.
- Tutoring for the selective test has never been advised or encouraged by the Council or the grammar schools and is a matter for individual parents to decide.
- The style of the test may have changed, but the content will continue to look at verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and mathematics.
- There will still be a selective test which will determine which children have reached the standard for grammar school.

Q. How do you know the new tests will select the right children?

- The GL assessments are in use in many other selective schools and areas.
- Wirral grammar schools have also used GL assessment tests in previous years.

Q. How will this affect the Catholic grammar school tests?

- Upton Hall School (FCJ) and St Anselms College are not part of the Wirral Consortium for selective testing and have their own testing arrangements. You should speak to those schools directly to find out about their tests.