

Information about the Kent Test  
for children starting secondary  
school in 2020

All this information will be  
available on our website later  
today.

When do I  
need to  
register by?

Registrations for the Kent Test opens

**3 June 2019 and closes 3 July 2019**

for children due to start secondary school in  
September 2020.

## Should my child take the test?

**As a parent, it is your decision.**

**Many children will find the test difficult.**

Grammar schools in Kent provide for children in about the top 25% of the ability range.

In addition, some of Kent's grammar schools - particularly those which are most likely to offer places to children from outside Kent - give priority to those with the highest scores.

You may want to discuss your child's academic achievement with their primary school before you decide whether to register them for the Kent Test.

Does my child  
have to do the  
Kent Test in  
order to go to  
a grammar  
school?

Yes. If you want your child to attend a grammar school they must have sat the Kent Test.

You **cannot appeal** to a grammar school if your child has not sat the Kent Test.

# Is my child guaranteed a place at a grammar school?

**No. Achieving the score required for grammar school on 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.

In 2018, Highworth had 287 applications for 210 places and Norton Knatchbull had 208 applications for 210 places.

You can search for Kent grammar schools on [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

Consider how likely your child is to be offered a place there, and how they would get to that school if a place was offered. If you will need help with the cost of transport from home to school, check if your child is eligible for free school transport.

When will my  
child sit the  
Kent Test?

Your child will take the test in year 6 of primary school on

**12 September 2019**

Your child will sit the test in the school hall.

## What will the test be like?

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.

Where can I get some examples?

Familiarisation examples can be found on [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) and on the GL Assessment website.

It is important that children are familiar with these.

**11 Plus Verbal Reasoning**



The image displays three sample documents for the 11+ Verbal Reasoning assessment. The first document is the 'Verbal Reasoning Parent's Guide', which includes a 'Familiarisation' section. The second document is 'Verbal Reasoning 1', a booklet containing a list of instructions for the test. The third document is 'FAMILIARISATION - VERBAL REASONING 1', an answer sheet with a grid for recording scores for various question types and a section for the total score.

**11+ Verbal Reasoning Parent's Guide**

**11+ Verbal Reasoning Booklet 1**

**11+ Verbal Reasoning Answer Sheet 1**

## When will I find out the results?

If you register online your child's Kent Test 11+ assessment should be sent to you by email after 4pm on 17 October 2019 .

An exact time you will receive your email cannot be guaranteed, this will depend on your email service provider.

You can also [log in](#) to view your child's Kent Test 11+ assessment and test scores. If you need to reset your password you must use the email address you registered with.

You can request the results from the primary school. **Please be mindful about sharing these with others and your children.**

## What do 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.

In 2018, to be given a grammar school assessment, children needed a total score of 323 or more, with no single score lower than 107.

For example:

English – 107

Maths – 108

Reasoning – 108

Overall – 323

The lowest possible score on the different tests is 69 or 70. The highest score on each test is 141, so the highest possible total score is 423.

## Is it a pass or fail?

**No!** The test assesses where would be most suitable for your child – a grammar school or a high school. Although, children that are assessed as being suitable for grammar **do not** have to apply for a grammar school.

[Applications for secondary school](#) closed on 31 October 2019.

**If your child took the test and was 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. If more children qualify for places than it has space for, the school must use its [admissions criteria](#) to decide which children to offer places to. If your child is not offered a place at a grammar school because it is full you can put their name on the school's [school's waiting list](#). You can also [appeal](#) to explain why you think the school should admit your child even though it is full.

**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 will be turned down. You will then have the right to [appeal](#) to explain why you think grammar school is a suitable option for your child.

What if my child doesn't achieve the score required, can the school help?

If your child did not reach the threshold score, the primary school can refer their case to the local Head Teacher Assessment Panel.

The panel will look at their achievement in school and examples of their work, including the writing task completed on the day. The panel will come to a final decision if your child is suitable for grammar.

**The school has no influence over their decision and cannot appeal their decision.**

Referring children's work to Head Teacher Assessment Panel is only made in a very small number of cases. Generally if the child is working consistently at a very high standard in class and where they have narrowly missed out on the score required.

My child  
wasn't  
assessed as  
being suitable  
for grammar.  
What do I do?

You will need to select secondary schools you would like your child to attend by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

You can either:

1. Select only high schools that you would like your child to attend. Your child will receive an offer from a high school in March 2020.

2. Appeal for a grammar school place.

If you wish to appeal **you must select a grammar school as one of your choices.**

This will be turned down but can be appealed after a high school has been offered in March. If you do not select a grammar school you cannot appeal for a grammar school. Due to the fact the grammar school will be turned down it is advisable that you do not put it at the top of your secondary school selection.

For example

1. John Wallis
2. The North
3. Towers
4. **Grammar School**

## Can the school help with an appeal?

The appeal is a parent's appeal and the panel will focus on what the parent has to say and not what the school has to say.

If you decide to appeal, please speak to the class teacher.

You will need to write a letter in support of your child and it is advisable that you provide evidence in support.

You will be asked to attend a meeting to put forward your thoughts and evidence.

I've heard  
about a  
Shepway Test.  
What is this?

This is a test for children wishing to attend grammar schools in Folkestone or Dover.

The test is taken on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019

To find out more and to apply for this test visit  
<http://www.shepway11plus.co.uk/>

# Do you have any advice about the Kent Test?

1. Encourage your child to be working at their best **NOW!**
2. Get practising! The questions are unlike the questions that we use in school and they test children on the full KS2 curriculum.
3. Your child **WILL** need support. This does not mean they have to have a tutor – it could be a parent, a friend, a sibling etc.
4. Make a timetable when you want your child to do some Kent Test practise and stick to it.
5. Look online for support or buy books to support your child.
6. Talk to your child's teacher and look at your child's report. We do not teach to for the Kent Test but can advise where your child currently needs extra support.
7. If you are worried come and talk to us!

## **Folkestone Girls**

<http://www.folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk/index.php/newskeydates/news/folkestonetest/146>

## **Harvey Grammar**

<http://www.harveygs.kent.sch.uk/admissions/>