

Applying for a Kent Grammar School



For more information visit:
www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

Would a grammar school suit your child?

If your child is in Year 5 at primary school, you may already be thinking about the secondary schools in your area. If you don't know about them, the Council's website, www.kent.gov.uk, is a good place to start. You can also search for schools by type, or by using your town or postcode to see what schools are nearby on our School Search page: www.kent.gov.uk/schoolsearch. If you see a school you like, you can find out how to contact it or visit the school's own website to learn more.

What's different about a grammar school?

Wherever your child starts school in Year 7 they are likely to follow the National Curriculum, working towards GCSE exams at the end of Year 11. After that, even if they leave school, they will continue their education through school or college, training or an apprenticeship until they are 18.

Kent grammar schools use the Kent Test (11+) to find children who are doing well in primary school – about the top 25% of Year 6 students. Some are mixed, some admit boys only or girls only. Pupils usually stay at grammar school into the sixth form and take exams like A-levels before deciding whether to continue their studies at university.

Some grammar schools also have their own tests and Medway Council runs a different test for the Medway grammar schools.

The Kent Test

The Kent Test happens in September, just as children start their last year in primary school. If your child wants to take the Kent Test, you will need to register them while they are still in Year 5.

Registration happens in June. A child who is not registered cannot be tested, so if you are undecided it's best to register. You can withdraw if you change your mind, but once registration has closed late registrations can't be accepted.

Their teachers can tell you how your child is doing in school. If you think a grammar school might be right for your child – or if you're not sure and would like to find out more – the Council's website has a Kent Test page which explains how to register your child for the 11+. Before you decide, you can read about the 11+, see a paper which explains the types of tests used and follow a link to free test materials which you can look at with your child here: www.gi-assessment.co.uk/products/11plus-series-11-plus-practice-papers/11plus-familiarisation-materials/

(They come with a parent booklet which confirms the right answers to the questions, which will help if you and your child want to look at them together!)

Schools themselves publish useful information on their websites and are happy to hear from parents who want to know more about school life. Every year they hold open sessions for children and their parents, and you will find that some popular schools give priority for places to children eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium.

Travelling to school

Recent research shows that some families may be put off considering a grammar school because of the cost of getting their child to school. If you want to know more about help with the cost of home to school travel, you can find out more here:

www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransport

Not sure about contacting grammar schools direct? You can also ask the teachers at your child's primary school, or contact the Council's School Admissions team kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk, or tel **03000 412121** to find out more about the Kent Test and the admission arrangements for local grammar schools.