

## Assessment for Grammar School Education

Parents of children in Year 5 who wish their child to be assessed for grammar school education are asked to inform the Mainstream Admissions Team by **31st May 2024** by completing the form attached to this leaflet or you may register online at [www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

**You do not complete this form if you intend to give preferences only for all ability schools and/or only for the following schools:**

- Birkenhead High School Academy
- St Anselm's College
- Upton Hall School (FCJ)

These three schools conduct their own assessments as described in their prospectus.

## Arrangements for assessment

Mainstream Admissions co-ordinates the admissions arrangements for all the grammar schools in Wirral. It organises the assessment arrangements for the following schools:

- Calday Grange Grammar School
- West Kirby Grammar School
- Wirral Grammar School for Boys
- Wirral Grammar School for Girls

The assessment is based on the results of two tests. The tests are standardised to take account of each child's age in years and completed months. The two test scores are then added together to provide a final score.

Tests are expected to be held on 16th September. All parents will be informed by Mainstream Admissions which venue/date their child will be attending by the end of August.

## Free Familiarisation Materials

The assessments are provided by GL Assessment and include Verbal Reasoning, Maths and Non-Verbal Reasoning components. Free materials are available at

<https://11plus.gl-assessment.co.uk/free-materials/>

## Special Access Arrangements

If your child has a current Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), speaks English as a second language, or has any other medical or educational needs that may affect their performance in the assessment, you can request that special arrangements are considered. These arrangements must ordinarily be in place in their current primary school.

Parents should complete the **Access Arrangements** section and forward supporting evidence with the registration form. If you are unsure about your child's ability to access the assessments, contact your child's headteacher or SENDco for advice. We will consult with your child's school and the Local Authority Educational Psychologist to consider whether any special access arrangements are appropriate for your child. The decision outcome will be advised to you in writing.

**Late requests for special arrangements will mean that your child will not be able to be assessed on 16th September.**

## Low income criteria

All of the Wirral non-Catholic grammar schools have a priority criterion to allocate a number of places to children who are on Free School Meals at the time of application in Autumn 2024. Children still need to reach the standard for admission. Please see the individual school's admission policy for further details.

If you think your child may be considered under this criterion we will require information from you in order to validate eligibility at that time.

If your circumstances change prior to 31st October 2024 please contact the Wirral Schools Admissions Team immediately via email.

## Registering for the assessment

Parents should return the form via email to [secondaryplaces@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:secondaryplaces@wirral.gov.uk) or to the postal address at the bottom of the form, by **31st May 2024**.

## Results to parents

We are expecting to send the outcome of the grammar school assessments to parents by 21st October 2024 or within 6 weeks of the assessment date. If you have provided an email address on the request for assessment form, we will send your child's results by email, otherwise we will send the results by 2nd class post to the address provided on this form.

## Late applications and tests

No arrangements will be made to assess children if registration request forms are received after 31st May 2024 unless they have moved to Wirral from another part of the country.

Children who were unable to sit a test due to illness or absence will be tested later in the Autumn term. Parents should still submit a preference form before the 31st October naming at least one grammar school. If their child does not meet the grammar standard, any grammar preferences will be withdrawn.

## Applying for places

**This is not a preference form.**

If you have been informed that your child has reached the standard for grammar school, you can apply for a place. Meeting the grammar school standard does not necessarily mean that your child will go to a grammar school. If a grammar school is oversubscribed, the governors use other criteria to decide which children should be given places. Individual school admissions policies provide this information and can be found on the school's website or by contacting the school.

You must complete an online or paper preference form for your child by 31st October 2024. Residents in English counties outside Wirral must apply through their home authority, naming a Wirral school if they wish to do so. Parents resident outside England can apply using the Wirral preference form.

**All parents must complete a preference form by 31st October.**

Further information on the arrangements for expressing preferences is contained in the Secondary Education information which will be available online from September 2024 onwards. If you have any questions or queries - email [secondaryplaces@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:secondaryplaces@wirral.gov.uk)



## SPECIAL ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Special access arrangements are intended as a reasonable adjustment to accommodate a child's special educational or medical needs to allow them to access the selective assessments. Examples of this might include enlarged print for children with a visual impairment; to sit at the front for a child with a hearing impairment; to be assessed in a smaller room for children with ADHD or ASC; coloured paper for children with Irlens and so on. For some children a reasonable adjustment might be 25% additional time, or to allow short breaks, for example to check blood sugar levels for a child with diabetes. Please note that the selective assessments have no "essay" style questions requiring long written answers. Readers or scribes are not provided.

Parents are requested to inform Mainstream Admissions of any special or medical needs which their child has and indicate how these needs are currently being met in primary school. Please give details of any circumstances which you feel may affect your child's performance in the selective assessments (e.g. special educational needs, medical conditions etc). Where appropriate, please supply supporting evidence that is less than two years old at the time of the assessment (eg. reports from Educational Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Sensory Support Service etc).

Please note that as we cannot obtain medical information on your behalf, you or your child's primary school must provide it. If English is not your child's first language, and they receive support for this at school. please specify their first language and state how long they have been resident within the UK as well as the nationality of both parents.

We will consult with your child's school and the LA Educational Psychologist and advise as to whether any special arrangements are agreed in writing by 17th July 2024 (September assessment) or at least one week prior to the date of the assessment for later tests. By requesting special arrangements, you are consenting to this consultation.

**Late requests for access arrangements received after 7th June 2024 will not be considered for the September 2024 assessment.** If you request special arrangements after 7th June 2024 or provide further information after a decision outcome has been sent to you, your child should not attend the September assessment and they will be invited to a later session in November.

If you decide to bring your child to the assessment without any additional arrangements in place or before a late request has been considered, these circumstances cannot be taken into account retrospectively in relation to their performance. Children who are ill on the assessment day must not attend and will be invited to a later session. The assessment can only be taken once, there is no re-sit.

All information and accompanying documentation that you provide will be used to decide whether special access arrangements are appropriate for your child and if so, what arrangements are appropriate. As part of this consultation process, we will contact your child's current school, or any other educational professional that we consider necessary. By signing this form, parents implicitly consent to Mainstream Admissions conducting this consultation process.

### PROTECT WHEN COMPLETED YOUR PERSONAL DATA

Wirral Council processes personal admissions data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the School Admissions Code 2021. The information you provide will be used by Wirral Local Authority and Governing bodies of primary/secondary schools as Admission Authorities. They will apply the information to their published admission policies in order to allocate school places for children. Where there is a need to co-ordinate admission arrangements with neighbouring local authorities, pupil data may also be shared to ensure the efficient allocation of school places. Information about your child may also be shared with Members of Parliament or Councillors, if you ask them to act on your behalf.

Proof of address and/or receipt of free school meals may be required and this might mean that we have to share the information you have provided with other departments of the Council or relevant government agencies in order to verify the authenticity of pupils' addresses or income status etc.

For further information please read the School Admissions Privacy Notice ([wirral.gov.uk/schoolapply](http://wirral.gov.uk/schoolapply)). If you have any questions or concerns about how your data is secured the Council's Data Protection Officer can be contacted by email at [DPO@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:DPO@wirral.gov.uk) or by writing to: Data Protection Officer, Wirral Council, PO Box 290, Brighton Street, Wallasey, CH27 9FQ.

**The Authority has the right to withdraw any place offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.**