

## Useful Diary Dates:

- May 31** Deadline for 11+ assessment requests  
**August** Parents informed of test venues and dates  
**September 17** On-line application system goes live—  
Preference forms and booklets available  
11+ non-Grammar test (day t.b.c.)  
**September 10** Upton Hall test  
**September 17** 11+ assessments  
**September 21** St Anselm's test  
**October** Independent Assessment Board  
**October 21** Results to parents by this date  
**October 31** Deadline for secondary school application forms  
**March 1 2019** ALLOCATION DAY

Appeals may be submitted after 1st March, should parents be dissatisfied with their allocated secondary school.

### For more information

For admissions and administration information go online to: [www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

For test information go online to:  
[www.cem.org/entrance-assessments](http://www.cem.org/entrance-assessments)

*Take advantage of Secondary Open Days and Evenings*



# Parent Guide to 11+

In Wirral, families are able to apply for grammar school selective education as well as mainstream secondary places. If you are considering entering your child for the 11+ tests, this leaflet will explain the process and arrangements.

There are four grammar and two Catholic grammar schools:

Wirral Grammar School for Boys

Calday Grange Grammar School for boys

Wirral Grammar School for Girls

West Kirby Grammar School for Girls

St. Anselms Boys Catholic Grammar School

Upton Hall Girls Catholic Grammar School

The Local Authority administer non-Catholic 11+ tests; the Catholic grammar schools administer their own tests.

New tests which look at a broader range of skills including verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and mathematics were introduced in 2016 for non-Catholic Grammar schools and are intended to be a better reflection of the child's ability across multiple domains. The testing company used by Wirral Local Authority is CEM assessments. CEM 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. They recommend that children engage in reading activities and focus upon their normal school work.

Catholic Grammar schools administer their own tests and parents should contact them or look at their websites to find out information about testing arrangements.

Some grammar schools offer some practice sessions during the summer term of Year 5—parents should look on individual grammar school websites for information. 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 four grammar schools are concerned that extensive coaching or tutoring is not appropriate and is expensive for parents. Some children who have been highly coached to reach the standard of the test then struggle to cope with the standard of work expected from day one at grammar school. This is not in your child's best interest.

If you would like advice about your child's ability, you should speak to the Year 5 class teacher during the Spring parent meeting. The Headteacher is also available for parents to make appointments to during March if they would like to discuss secondary school.

*The Headteacher presentation from the secondary application meeting held in May is now available on the school website. This gives information about applying for a secondary place and further details of the 11+. It is important that families consider a non-grammar school as an option in case their child does not meet the require standard selective education.*

## **11+ Test format for non-Catholic Grammar schools**

Two multiple choice tests of 45-50 minutes each

Tests taken on the same day with a short break in between

Mixture of verbal, non-verbal and maths questions on both tests

Sections are timed using an audio CD

Pencil and eraser only equipment needed and will be provided by school

Exam conditions apply - for children taking the tests at Christ Church, they will sit the tests in their classroom. Other pupils will be moved away from the test room so that distractions are limited.

Test papers are collected by secure courier straight after completion and are marked centrally by an independent body, not by the test venue

Parents cannot see test papers or answer sheets

### Frequently asked questions – change to selective test provider

*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 school or test centre and a mop-up date will then 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. The score required to reach the standard will remain 236.