



West Midlands Grammar Schools - Admissions FAQ's

Q: When can I register my child for the entrance test for 2024 entry?

A: The West Midland Grammar School Admissions portal will open at 9:00am on 9th May 2023 and can be found here (add link when available).

Q: When does the portal close / What is the deadline for registering for the entrance test?

A: Your registration must be submitted by 4:00pm on 30th June 2023. No late registrations will be accepted.

Q: When is the test for 2024 entry?

A: The entrance test will take place between 16th – 18th September 2023 (depending on your allocated test venue).

Q: Who is the West Midlands Grammar Schools Test Provider?

A: GL Assessment.

Q: What is the West Midland Grammar School Partnership?

A: A change in test provider to GL Assessments has enabled a collaboration between Midlands based selective schools, and a new selective school partnership has been established. This partnership incorporates 19 grammar schools throughout, Birmingham, Shropshire, Walsall, Warwickshire and Wolverhampton.

Q: Will my child need to sit multiple entrance tests?

A: For September 2024 entry children will only need to sit **one** entrance test. The score achieved in the test can be used to apply for any of the grammar schools in Birmingham, Shropshire, Walsall, Warwickshire and Wolverhampton.

Q: Why can my child no longer practice with multiple entrance tests?

A: For September 2024 entry there will **one** test for all children, reducing stress for candidates and ultimately supporting children's well-being and positive mental health.

Q: Can my child sit the entrance test more than once?

A: No – candidates can only sit the test once.

Q: Can my child sit the Admissions test for Birmingham and other grammar schools separately?

A: There is now only ONE entrance test. To reduce stress and pressure on children and their families.

Q: When will I receive my child's entrance test score?

A: You will receive your child's test score by 20th October 2023, prior to you completing your child's school preference form via your local authority by 31st October 2023. You will be notified of the school place offered to your child on 1st March 2024 by your local authority

Q: When can I expect the results for the West Midlands Grammar School test?

A: All results will be issued by 20th October 2023.

Q: How will I get my child's entrance test results?

A: Your child's local test center will issue your child's test results.

Q: Can my child sit the entrance test at a venue of my choice?

A: Your child will be allocated a test center based on your home postcode. Where your child sits the test may not necessarily be the school(s) you wish to apply for – this is simply a venue used to administrate the test. The score achieved in the test can be used to apply for any of the grammar schools in Birmingham, Shropshire, Walsall, Warwickshire and Wolverhampton.

Q: When will I know if my child has a place?

A: If you are applying for a Year 7 place you will receive a letter from your Local Authority on the 1st March 2024 stating which school your child has been allocated.

Q: Are West Midland Grammar Schools fee paying?

A: The schools within the West Midland Grammar School partnership are state-funded schools for boys and girls. We are a group of selective grammar schools for children aged 11-18 years. There is no charge related to the admission of a pupil and no fees are charged. The schools have offered a free education to children for over 500 years.

Q: My child has SEN or required Access Arrangements? What do I do?

A: This will be clearly indicated on the on-line, test Registration portal and a Special Arrangements Form will then be made available to you for your completion and return to the testing centre immediately. If you do not receive the form, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer/guardian to contact the school to request a Special Arrangements Form. The completed form should be accompanied by copies of all supporting information and medical reports. Please submit this information as a matter of urgency to the testing venue. Early submission of the request for Special Arrangements will help ensure an independent assessment and the necessary arrangements can be made to make your child as comfortable as possible during the testing session. An early submission of paperwork also allows parents/carers/guardians to be advised of the arrangements that we have put in place prior to testing day.

Q: When is the deadline for submitting a special arrangement and or access arrangement submission?

A: There is a strict deadline of 14th June 2023 for all access arrangement requests and proof. Any requests after this date may not be accepted.

Q: I wish to be considered for different schools so how will my child's results relate to these schools' admissions and how will I get enough information to make an informed decision?

A: you will still be able to select several schools on your preference form. You can also in addition see individual school Admission criteria on the school websites.

Q: What if my child is ill on the day of the test?

A: You should telephone the test centre to inform us of your child's absence and obtain a doctor's note with details/date of the illness. Following receipt of the Doctor's note, the reasons for non-attendance will be considered carefully and if possible, an alternative testing date will be arranged. Please note that the partnership will not re-arrange the testing date for candidates who are engaged in pre-planned activities, such as school trips.

Q: What does the test involve

A: All children will sit two standardised tests consisting of Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning and Numerical Reasoning provided by GL Assessments. Normally, each test paper is 45/50 minutes in length. School administration for each test will normally be one-hour.

Q: Should I employ a tutor to help my child prepare?

A: No, intensive coaching/tutoring is not in the long-term interests of your child. Your son or daughter may be anxious about sitting the test, you can help by not putting pressure on them. Please view the familiarisation materials on the individual school and or application portal website and use the online, familiarisation materials available to you.

Q: What is the pass mark?

A: There is no pass mark. Test marks vary each year depending on the individual tests taken. The standardised test scores are sorted into rank order and places are awarded accordingly by your Local Authority according to the determined, schools Admissions Policy.

Q: How do I appeal?

A: Appeal details can be found on individual school websites.

Q: I missed the deadline for Year 7 applications, can I still apply?

A: It is not possible to register for the test after the deadline has passed unless there are exceptional circumstances such as illness, bereavement etc. You must complete an Exceptional Circumstances Form. If, after late registration, the school decides the reasons are valid then candidates will be tested later (if they then also apply for a place) and if they are of grammar school standard will be placed on the waiting list or offered a place if there is space.

Q: How soon after registering my child will I receive an invite for entrance exam at my nearest test centre?

A: All invites will be sent out at the beginning of September. If you have not received an invitation by 08.09.2023 please contact your local test centre. Details will be on your application form.