

*Choosing
the right
path for
your child*

Secondary School
Transfer
Information for
Y5 Parents
May 2025

Aims

- To provide guidance on choosing the most suitable secondary school path for your child.
- To provide key dates and information regarding the secondary school application process.
- To explain Kent's selective system of secondary education and provide information regarding the Kent Test (11+).

Which secondary school?

- The location of Stocks Green Primary School means that pupils do not have just one or two local schools to move on to for their secondary education. In fact, the choice of secondary schools, whether selective or non-selective, is vast and can be quite overwhelming for parents and children in the initial stages of consideration.
- Each year, pupils in Year 6 can be allocated up to 14 different secondary schools in Kent.

Which secondary school?

- Every year, the majority of pupils are awarded 'High school' places and will attend non-academically selective secondary schools.
- Academic selection is designed to identify the highest performing pupils suitable for a grammar school setting. In 2024, 45% of our Year 6 pupils were awarded a grammar school place
- A full list of secondary schools can be found here:
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/admissions-criteria/admissions-criteria-202324/secondary-202324>

Final Secondary School Allocations for the last 6 years

SCHOOL	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024
Bennett Memorial Church of England School	3	5	9	3	5	2	4
Leigh Academy (Formerly Hayesbrook School)	3	0	1	2	2	8	6
Hillview High School for Girls	5	4	7	5	3	3	5
Leigh Academy (Hugh Christie)	0	1	0	1	2	2	0
Knole Academy	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Trinity School	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
Skidders Kent Academy	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
The Judd Grammar School for Boys	2	1	4	1	2	2	4
St Gregory's Roman Catholic School	4	3	1	1	1	3	0
Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys	4	1	2	6	6	3	3
Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Girls	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Weald of Kent Grammar School for Girls	9	5	4	6	3	5	4
Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls	1	0	3	1	1	2	1
The Skidders School	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Hadlow Rural Community School	0	2	0	1	2	0	0
Sackville School	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Radnor House	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sevenoaks School	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kent College	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Hilden Grange	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
St Olaves and St Saviours Grammar School	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Solefields School Sevenoaks	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total number of children in year group	32	31	32	32	31	30	31

Choosing the most suitable path

Your decision must be right for your individual child. Some things to consider:

- Your child's skills and strengths – which environment will they thrive in?
- Your child's learning style and resilience - will they cope with the pressures of an academically selective setting?
- Recent progress reports – does your child's academic progress reflect the requirements of a grammar school setting?

Applying for a secondary school place

- The application for secondary school transfer in 2025 opens on **Monday 1st September 2025**.
- Secondary school admissions information and the SCAF (Secondary School Application Form) are available on-line www.kent.gov.uk/ola
- The national closing date for applications is **Friday 31st October 2025**
- It is recommended that you make **4 choices of school**.
- It is important that you rank your choices in order of preference.

Applying for a secondary school place

Before you complete the SCAF:

- Check the school's admissions criteria - this sets out how schools choose which children to offer a school place to. Schools publish admissions criteria and useful information on their websites. You will find a list of secondary schools here:
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/admissions-criteria>
- Read the school's Ofsted reports and check school league tables.
- Ask other parents what they think about the school.

Applying for a secondary school place

- Visit secondary schools as early as possible with your child so that they can start to consider their options.
- Secondary schools will advertise details about admissions, open afternoons and evenings on their websites. It is worth familiarising yourself with the websites of the schools on your short-list.
- Get a 'feel' for the environment and ethos of each school and involve your child in the decision-making process.
- However, consider the impact of school visits during the school day on your child's current learning – please check with the class teacher and inform the School Office of any planned visits.

Applying for a secondary school place

- Find out how the school can support your child if you are choosing a school for a child with a specific educational need.
- Consider travel arrangements – the proximity of schools from Hildenborough and non-direct bus routes may add up to a very long day for children.
- Remember that you can seek advice from your child's class teacher – we are here to offer advice and support you through the application process.
- Further information on choosing a school can be found here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/choosing-a-school>

Applying for a grammar school place

- **If your child is 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 waiting list.
- You can also appeal to explain why you think the school should admit your child even though it is full.

Applying for a grammar school place

- **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.
- Your child's class teacher is the best person to offer advice and support should you be in this position after National Offer Day.

Other secondary school options

- Apart from Kent schools and other LA schools, there is the option of funded education – Independent Schools.
- There are many privately funded schools in the area that also require an entrance test or have specific selective criteria. The information for these will be on their websites. We are able to provide references for these schools and will support any application.

Kent's system of selection

- Kent operates a system of selection for secondary education.
- Pupils wishing to attend a grammar school from Year 7 must sit the Kent Selection Test (or Medway Selection Test if you are thinking of applying for a Medway grammar school).
- Your own research, together with guidance from the school and your child's class teacher if needed, is key to making the right choice of school for your child.

Kent Test Registration

- Pupils are selected for grammar schools by means of a test that will take place in school on **Thursday 11th September 2025.**
- Registration for the Kent Test opens on **Monday 2nd June 2025.**
- Registration for the Kent Test closes at midnight on **Tuesday 1st July 2025.** Please note that there will be no opportunity to register your child for the test after this date.

Kent Test (11+) format

- 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.

Kent Test (11+) format

- **English test** – 5 minutes practice followed by a 25 minute test . There are 3 sections:
- *A comprehension test:* The passages are usually quite long with complex vocabulary. Children must demonstrate good levels of fluency and language comprehension to be successful.
- *Sentence completion exercises:* These assess knowledge of grammar and vocabulary structure.
- *Spelling exercise:* This involves recognising the spelling mistake.

Kent Test (11+) format

- **Maths test** - 5 minutes practice followed by a 25 minute test.
- The maths test contains a series of multiple-choice questions covering a variety of topics taught in schools up to the start of Year 6.
- Some questions will be based on the KS2 curriculum topics but will be more difficult than children are used to. This is to test children's ability to apply skills to higher level problem solving.
- Children will be able to do their workings on test paper.

Kent Test (11+) format

- 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.

Kent Test (11+) format

- 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 for pupils who have not passed the Kent Test.
- 40 minutes will be allowed for the writing task, including 10 minutes planning time.
- Further evidence from a range of work completed during the summer term in Year 5 may also be requested as evidence to inform the Headteacher Appeal panel.

Kent Test (11+) coaching

- As the tests are designed for selection purposes, pupils may find them difficult.
- Schools **are not** permitted to coach, tutor or prepare children for the test.
- Test scores are standardised against the performance of an external sample of pupils who have not been coached, so that children who have not undertaken any preparation are not placed at a disadvantage.
- The [Kent Test familiarisation booklet \(PDF, 2.6 MB\)](#) gives a description of the different parts of the test and advice on approaching the types of questions asked.
- Additional familiarisation material and parent guides can be downloaded free of charge from [GL Assessment](#).

Kent Test (11+) scores

- 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.

Grammar school threshold 2024

- To be given a grammar school assessment, children needed a total score of 332 or more, with no single score lower than 106. Test scores range from 69 to 141. The highest possible total score is 423.
- If your child did not reach the threshold score and their primary school referred their case to the local Head Teacher Assessment Panel, the panel will have looked at their achievement in school and examples of their work, including the writing task completed on the day, before a final decision was made.

Kent Test scores report 2024

- In response to Freedom of Information requests, KCC have produced a report which shows the number of children who scored each total score. The tabs in the report show grammar school and high school assessed pupils.
- Where children have been assessed suitable for grammar school via their local Head Teacher Assessment Panel, their score may be below the 332 total score threshold. Children may also score higher than 332, but still be assessed as suitable for high school in cases where one or more of their individual scores were below 107.
- https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/excel_doc/0003/171606/Report-of-Kent-Test-scores-2024.xlsx

Kent Test Results

- If you registered online, KCC will email your child's Kent Test result to you after 4pm on **Thursday 16th October 2025** (the delivery time will depend on your email service provider). Please note that this is **before** the SCAF deadline.
- If you did not register online and KCC do not have a valid email address for you, the Kent Test result can only be sent by letter. If possible, they will post your child's result to you on results day by first class post.
- You can also ask your child's class teacher for their test scores the day after results go out.

Headteacher Appeals

- Kent will allow a 'Headteacher Appeal' if a child was not successful in the Kent Test but was expected to be.
- A 'Headteacher Appeal' is actually constructed by the child's class teacher based on prior attainment and current teacher assessment. The appeal form is then counter-signed by the Headteacher.

Headteacher Appeals

- The school will consider a pupil for a 'Headteacher Appeal' if the child has missed out on the pass mark by a small points margin and there is sufficiently strong evidence to reflect the potential of suitability for a grammar place from their work at school.
- Evidence will be drawn from pupils' academic work during their first week's in Year 6, as well as the summer term in Year 5.

The Medway Test

- If pupils go to schools outside of Medway, they will sit the Medway Test in a Medway Test Centre on either Saturday 20th or Sunday 21st September 2025. One day will be allocated.
- The Medway Test is made up of three separate papers:
- Extended Writing, Mathematics (multiple choice), Verbal Reasoning (multiple choice)
- The scoring and pass mark differs from the Kent Test. More information about the Medway Test process can be found here:
- https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools_and_learning/1049/medway_test_11

National Offer Day

- National offer day will be on **Monday 2nd March 2026**. If you apply online KCC will email you after 4pm to tell you which school you have been offered. KCC cannot guarantee the exact time you will receive your email, this will depend on your email service provider.
- You can also **log in** after 5pm to view your offer online.

National Offer Day

- Offers should be accepted or declined by **Monday 16th March 2026**. The school recommends that you accept the offer, even if you are appealing for an alternative school place.
- The deadline for lodging parent appeals is **Monday 30th March 2026**.

If you are unhappy with the offer

- We suggest that you view the school's website to find out more about it. If you are still unhappy you can put your child on the waiting list or [make an appeal](#) for any of the schools you applied for. You can do either or both for the same school or for different schools. For example, you can appeal for one school and put your child on the waiting list for another.
- We recommend that you still accept the place your child has been offered. This will not affect your waiting list position or your appeal. It will guarantee your child has a school place if no places become available or if your appeal is unsuccessful. If the waiting list or appeal are successful, you must remember to tell the school you were originally offered that you no longer want the place.

School Support

- If you are not awarded your first preference, whether a grammar or non-selective school, the school will support a 'Parent Appeal'.
- Please book an appointment with your child's class teacher as soon as possible after school preferences are issued in order to discuss options.
- Throughout the year, we provide frequent opportunities to discuss your child's progress and offer advice for secondary school transfer. Your child's class teacher will be happy to discuss options with you at any time. Please feel free to book an appointment.

Contact information

- www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
- www.kent.gov.uk/ola
- <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test>
- <http://new.medway.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/medway-test/register-for-the-medway-test>
- Email: kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk
- Secondary Admissions Team: 03000 41 21 21
- School DCSF Number: 886/2539

Good Luck!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any advice or support.

