

Co-ordinated Admissions

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Dear Parent,

About Grammar Schools

Recently a group of Councillors met as a Select Committee to look at how we run the 11+ in Kent and who goes to grammar schools.

They talked to the Headteachers of some primary and grammar schools, and to some parents. They noticed that there were some children who were doing well in primary school but who did not take the Kent Test, some who took it but didn't score highly, some who decided not to apply for grammar school and some who applied but didn't get places at the schools they most wanted. While there could be all sorts of reasons for this, they have asked schools and the Council's School Admissions team to look at ways of making sure that everyone who might do well in a grammar school knows about their options and has the best chance of taking up a place.

They are encouraging grammar schools to work in the local community to share their teaching skills with primary schools and open up access. They are encouraging primary schools to discuss with the families of children in Year 5 what type of secondary school might suit them best, and they have asked the School Admissions team to make sure that people know how to apply for testing, and that anyone who might be worried about the cost of transport to grammar school knows what help is available.

The Kent Test (11+)

Registration to take the Kent Test opened on 1 June and closes on 3 July 2017. The tests will take place in September 2017, just as your child starts Year 6. You can find out more from the Council's website, www.kent.gov.uk - look for "Kent Test". If you aren't sure about grammar schools, find out more about all the local schools and speak with your child's teachers to help you decide whether to apply.

Travel from Home to School:

The Council arranges most home to school transport. As well as subsidising the Young Person's Travel Pass, it provides some free travel passes.

Children in the care of Kent County Council and children from low income families who are entitled to receive free school meals can get free school transport to the nearest grammar school if:

- they have met the admissions criteria of the school
- they have been offered a place at the school
- it's the nearest school to their home
- the distance from their home and the school is between 2 and 15 miles.

Support at Secondary School

Pupil Premium is a sum of money which goes from the Government to a school to support the education of children from some families whose income is low, and the school must be able to explain what they do with it. Sometimes it is used to support teaching and learning, sometimes to help with the costs of uniform, materials, clubs and trips. Most schools already publish this information on their website.

Admission Criteria

Some grammar schools have adjusted their admission criteria so that (if the school can't offer a place to everyone who wants one) children who have passed the Kent Test and receive Free School Meals can be given priority for admission.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you can't find out everything you want to through your child's teachers and the information online, you are welcome to contact the Council's Secondary Admissions Team by ringing 03000 412121 or emailing kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk .

Yours sincerely,



Scott Bagshaw
Head of Fair Access