



## Kent Test 2020

Registration for the Kent Test opens **1 June 2020** and closes **1 July 2020** for children due to start secondary school in September 2021.

Once the registration window has closed, Kent County Council will contact registered families directly with any new information that may be required. Any reference to 'Kent Test' or 'registration' does not guarantee when or if testing will take place.

### **Should I enter my child for the Kent Test?**

The decision whether to enter your child for the Kent Test is made by you in discussion with your child and it is your responsibility to register them for the test.

It is important to remember that the test is designed to select the top 20% of children in the whole county and therefore your child will need to be working **above the expected level** for their age group to pass this test. We would be happy to discuss this decision with you and you may request to speak to your child's class teacher or the Year 5&6 phase leader.

Kent County Council currently has this information on their website:

'We understand that many of you with children in year 5 are very anxious to know what will happen about the Kent Test when the new school year starts in September. We are carefully considering what might be deliverable, depending on advice from central government as the pandemic runs its course and decisions are made about the easing of lockdown for children of primary school age.

Many factors could change between now and the end of term and this means that we are currently unable to tell you exactly how we will assess children for grammar school in the new academic year. We can confirm, however, that we will need some way to identify which children are eligible. Testing has the benefit of being available to the thousands of grammar school applicants we normally assess every year, however recently they have arrived in Kent and wherever they usually study, even if they are home educated, so it would be the most straightforward option if it is possible. Whatever is decided, we need to be confident that we can keep the risk to children and their teachers as low as possible, allowing grammar schools to meet their legal obligations in a fair and transparent way, while allowing us to stay within the national timetable for coordinating school admissions. We appreciate that everyone of school age is missing classroom teaching, but it is fortunate that there are many excellent resources available through schools and education sites for children.

Familiarisation material for the Kent Test can also be found on our [Kent Test page](#).

We will update the website for everyone's benefit when we have received further guidance from the Department for Education and there is a clearer understanding of what arrangements may be possible. In the meantime, we would ask that parents monitor the Kent Test page for updates, rather than sending individual enquiries. We do understand that uncertainty is difficult, especially for children, but we are unable to confirm what arrangements will be in place until there is a clearer understanding of how children are likely to return to school in greater numbers.'

The link for the KCC Kent Test page is:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test>

At this time the following has been put in place but will be subject to change depending on government guidance nearer the time:

Your child will take the test in year 6 of primary school.

The Kent Test dates proposed for 2020 are:

**10 September 2020** for children who go to school in Kent

12 September 2020 for children who go to school outside of Kent

**Please note, these dates may be subject to unavoidable change**

Any request for special testing arrangements for children with SEN or disabilities is to be made by their school before 10 July 2020.

If your child has a disability or special educational need so they cannot attempt the test in the normal way, you would need to have discussed your concerns with the person in your child's school responsible for special educational needs (the inclusion manager). This is because any request for access arrangements is made by the school.

When you register your child online for the test, you will have seen a message after you have submitted the form asking you to confirm that you have discussed a request for access arrangements with the SENCO by sending an email to [kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk). If you used a paper form to register your child for the test, you would need to have included written confirmation when you returned it.

Historically the following has been the common practice:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 of the process. 40 minutes will be allowed for the writing task, including 10 minutes planning time.

#### **Your child's score**

- 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 2019**

- To be given a grammar school assessment, children needed a total score of 330 or more, with no single score lower than 110. The lowest possible score on the different tests is 69 or 70. The highest score on each test is 141, so 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.

### **Should your child sit the Kent Test?**

Grammar schools in Kent provide for children in about the top 25% of the ability range. Therefore, if your child has been achieving above the expected level in Years 3, 4 and 5 then you may want to consider registering them for the test.

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **How do I register my child's details?**

It is easiest to register online at [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola). If you do not have a computer, you can request a paper registration form by contacting the Secondary Admissions Team on 03000 41 21 21 or via e-mail at [kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk) or you can visit [www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions](http://www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions) to print off a blank form which you can complete and return to us by post, enclosing SAE if you would like your postal registration acknowledged.

#### **When will I know my child's assessment decision?**

The published date for results is **15 October 2020** but may need to change. Please check the Kent Test page on the KCC website for changes.

Please register online if you can. KCC can email your child's Kent Test result to you after 4pm on 15 October 2020 (the delivery time will depend on your email service provider). You will also be able to [log in](#) to view your child's Kent Test result and test scores after 5pm.

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, we will post your child's result to you on results day by first class post. You can ask your child's primary school for their test scores the day after results go out.

#### **How do I apply for a Kent grammar school?**

You must make your application for any Kent grammar school on your home LA's common application form. The national closing date for completing a Secondary Common Application form is currently **02 November 2020**.

#### **If my child is assessed suitable for grammar school by the Kent Test, will I automatically be offered a grammar school?**

No, a Kent grammar school assessment does not guarantee that your child will be offered a Kent grammar school place. Like other schools, grammar schools are often oversubscribed. If more children qualify for places than a school can accommodate, it will apply its oversubscription criteria to decide which children it can take. If your child does not get the place you want, you will be able to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel and/or join the school's waiting list.

#### **When will I know which school my child will be offered?**

All LAs will send out offers of school places on **01 March 2021**. A Kent grammar school cannot consider your child for a place unless you have named that school on your common application form, your child has taken the Kent Test and has been assessed suitable for grammar school.

**I need more advice. Who should I contact?**

Further information about the test and about transport to grammar school for low income families can be found on our website, [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk). If your child is outside the age range for the test or your faith means that your child cannot take tests on a Saturday you can contact the Secondary Admissions Team by phone on 03000 41 21 21 or by e-mail on [kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk).

If you wish to receive a paper registration form, please contact the Secondary Admissions Team on 03000 41 21 21 or email [kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk) You can also print off a copy of the form from [www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions](http://www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions) to complete and return.