

P6 Parent Information

27th April 2020



Transfer 2021

In term 2 each year I invite the parents of our P6 children to an Information Evening on the Transfer Process, where I outline the main steps in the process as well as the use of entrance tests by some schools (grammar schools).

With it not having been possible to host such a session this year, I have put together the following points which I hope you will find helpful in understanding the process of your child transferring from primary to post primary school.

Grammar School Entrance Tests

If you wish to apply to a grammar school, your child must sit an entrance test as all grammar schools use academic selection in their admissions criteria. If you are not considering a grammar school for your child, then he/she will not be required to sit these tests.

There are two testing bodies, Association for Quality Education which uses tests better known as 'AQE' and Post Primary Transfer Consortium (PPTC) which use tests better known as 'GL'. The tests are organised by the grammar schools, children sit the tests in the grammar schools and children are issued their results by the grammar schools.

The curriculum we teach covers the expected content of both tests. Some grammar schools offer GL only, some offer AQE only, and some offer both. Most of the grammar schools to which our children transfer use GL tests. It is important to check with the schools you are considering, which tests they use.

GL Tests: These are multiple choice papers. One English paper and one Maths paper.

AQE Tests: These are non-multiple choice papers. Each of two papers has a mixture of English and Maths questions.

N.B. If your child sits the GL tests in one school, he/she can use the grade achieved to apply to any other school that offers the GL tests. If your child sits the AQE tests in one school, he/she can use the grade achieved to apply to any other school that offers the AQE tests.

Registration

If you wish your child to sit Grammar School Entrance Tests, then you will be required to make the registration. Registration normally begins in May and runs until September. Both AQE and PPTC are currently looking at the dates and process of this year's tests. Please keep an eye on their respective websites: www.aqe.org.uk and www.pptcni.com.

Choosing a Post Primary School

Whether you are considering grammar or non-grammar, there are a few things you can do to help you decide on the best school for your child: talk to other families already in the school, read the school prospectus, visit the school's Open Day/Evening (usually January).

Timetable

Please note that this timetable is under review in the light of the current circumstances caused by the continuing disruption of lockdown.

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| Registration for Entrance Tests | May – September 2020 (under review) |
| Tests | November 2020 (under review) |
| Open Days/Evening | January 2021 |
| Results of Tests Issued | January 2021 |
| Completion of Application | February 2021 |
| Informed of School Placement | May 2021 |

I hope this goes some way towards giving you an understanding of the process ahead. The Department of Education has produced a leaflet 'The Transfer Process To Post-Primary School' Click [here](#) to access this document.

I appreciate how difficult this unusual time is for all children, in particular the boys and girls of P6. Please be assured of our ongoing support both in the children's learning and in keeping you informed.

D. Mulholland

Principal