



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***For students seeking admission to Year 7 in September 2024
Poole & Bournemouth Consortium Schools – Testing Arrangements***

There is one set of selection tests for Bournemouth School, Bournemouth School for Girls, Parkstone Grammar School and Poole Grammar School (the "Consortium"). For parents who are considering more than one selective school within the Consortium for their child, this will save them from taking multiple tests for these schools.

The tests will be taken at the school with whom the parent has registered their child. All applicants to a Consortium School must complete a Registration Form to be eligible to sit the entrance test.

What should I consider before I apply?

Before you make your decision about applying for entry to Parkstone Grammar School/Bournemouth School for Girls, please try to think about:

- Whether your child has a realistic chance of passing our tests - please speak with their current Headteacher for advice.
- Whether you can arrange transport, especially outside normal school hours. This is important if students are to gain full benefit from our extra-curricular programme and is particularly relevant if you live outside the area.
- Whether your child (and you) will be at ease with our discipline and uniform codes.

Does it matter where I live?

Parkstone Grammar School is very likely to be oversubscribed, i.e. have more eligible students than there are places available. Under these circumstances, we apply our published over-subscription criteria in allocating places (see our current Admissions Policy). These criteria give preference to those who live within the 'priority area'.

What happens if I miss the deadlines either to register my child for the entrance tests or to apply to my Local Authority?

If you do not register your child to sit the entrance test by 8 September 2023 but choose to name one of the Consortium Schools on the Common Application Form, this preference will be treated as invalid because they will not have met the entry criteria. There will be an opportunity for your child to sit the school entrance tests for consideration after the first allocation of offers on 1 March 2024, when they would be considered as a 'late applicant'.

How do I apply for my child to join Parkstone Grammar School?

Parents need to apply for a school place through their local authority before the 31st of October in the year prior to admission. Only parents who have applied to their local authority will have the right to appeal if their application for a school place is unsuccessful. Please note that registration for testing does not replace the need to complete the Common Application Form applying for a school place.

How do I register my child for the entrance tests?

Parents of children wishing to be considered for admission to Parkstone Grammar School or Bournemouth School for Girls must register with one of the schools to sit the test. Registration opens on Monday 17 April 2023 and the deadline for submitting your Registration Form is **12 noon on Friday 8 September 2023**. Registrations received after this date **will not** be accepted. To register, please refer to the school's website for the on-line registration facility or contact the school office.

What happens after I have registered?

After the closing date (midday Friday 8 September 2023) we will send out details of the test day. If you do not receive this information by Tuesday 19 September 2023 please contact us immediately.

When is my child tested?

For entry to Year 7 in September 2024 the entrance tests are scheduled to take place on Saturday 23 September 2023 (please refer to our Admissions Policy Supplementary Date Sheet for most up to date information).

What tests are used?

GL Assessment multiple choice papers in Mathematics, English and Verbal Reasoning. The standardised total for the three papers is taken and this is the score that is used to assess your child.

- ***Mathematics (GL Assessment) Time allowed: 50 minutes***

The Mathematics paper is based on work which candidates would normally cover during Key Stage 2 of the national curriculum. It covers most aspects of Key Stage 2 up to level 5, with some questions aimed at level 6.

- ***English (GL Assessment) Time allowed: 45 minutes***

The English paper tests comprehension, vocabulary and punctuation.

- ***Verbal Reasoning (GL Assessment) Time allowed: 50 minutes***

This test is designed to analyse a candidate's academic potential and indicate areas of strength or weakness. As this paper has been produced in order to be sat without prior knowledge there is an integral practice element.

GL Assessment papers

For the three GL Assessment papers, questions are of a multiple-choice style with candidates entering their answers on a pre-printed sheet. Scores achieved in these papers are standardised against national criteria by age.

All GL Assessment tests are designed to be taken to very strict time limits. Many students within a wide range of ability will be able to answer most of the questions, given sufficient time; GL Assessment tests show a student's ability to work accurately at speed, a vital aspect of their future work in a selective school. For this reason, no variation in this timing is permitted unless the applicant has a relevant Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Need, in which case a maximum of 25% additional time may be permitted.

Free familiarisation papers are available to download from the GL Assessment website: <https://11plus.gl-assessment.co.uk/>

Does it matter whether my child has an early or late birthday when they take the tests, i.e. are older children advantaged?

No. The tests used are National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) tests which are tried and tested over time. The results are age weighted, hence it doesn't matter if a student has a September or an August birth as the results are standardised to take this into account by NFER.

What if my child's first language is not English?

The tests are set in English and cannot be translated as part of the test is the cognitive understanding of English.

When are results sent out?

Results will be sent out to parents by first class post on Friday 13 October 2023. On the basis of their test results, students will either have reached the required standard for consideration for admission at either Parkstone Grammar School or Bournemouth School for Girls, or will not have met the required standard.

Does passing the test guarantee entry?

No, meeting the required standard and being considered eligible does not guarantee that your child will be offered a place at Parkstone Grammar School/Bournemouth School for Girls as the schools are usually oversubscribed and the oversubscription criteria has to be applied if more children meet the required standard than there are places available.

How do I apply for my child to join Parkstone Grammar School?

Parents will need to make a formal application using the Common Application Form through their Local Authority which must be received by 31 October 2023. Only parents who have applied to their Local Authority will have the right to appeal if their application for a school place is unsuccessful. **Please note that registration for testing does not replace the need to complete the Common Application Form applying for a school place.**

What if my child has an Education, Health and Care Plan?

An expert panel including the School's SEND Co-Ordinator and an external expert advisor will review all requests and make recommendations as necessary. Please refer to the Admission Policy and the Application for Access Arrangement form and guidance notes on our website for further information.

What do I do if my child is unwell on the day of the entrance test?

Please do not send your child to sit the entrance tests if they have not been well just before or on the day of the entrance tests. They may not do their best and, if not successful, you will always wonder if they could have done better. Please ring us as soon as possible and we will make alternative arrangements for your child to sit the tests during the following week. If your child has a long-term illness, then please contact us as soon as possible.

Can I have copies of my child's exam papers?

No. As part of our agreement with GL Assessment we are not allowed to copy the question or answer papers and have to return all stationery to GL Assessment for secure pulping.

Can my child take the test twice?

No. Students may only take this test once in an academic year.

When will I know if my child has been offered a place?

Letters will be posted by your 'home' Local Authority offering you a school place subject to your preferences and eligibility on 1 March 2024.

When does the waiting list end?

Following allocation of places in March 2024, for entry to Year 7 in September 2024, the school will keep a waiting list of all students who had met the required standard but were not offered places until 31 August 2024. Applicants may extend their time on the waiting list until 31 August 2025 by reapplying after 1 June 2024.

How do I know if my child is entitled to Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium children are those who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'), children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months and children of service personnel in the last 6 years (Ever 6). The list of welfare support payments that trigger FSM eligibility can be found at www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

Parents will need to provide evidence of eligibility at the point of test registration, such as:

- i) Letter from current school/local authority confirming eligibility
- ii) Evidence of welfare support payments to trigger FSM eligibility
- iii) Letter from Social Care indicating "In Care" status
- iv) Letter or other document from MoD indicating services employment

How do I contact the School?

Admissions Team, Parkstone Grammar School, Sopers Lane, Poole, Dorset, BH17 7EP

Telephone: 01202 605605 Email: admissions@parkstone.poole.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.parkstone.poole.sch.uk/information/admissions/>

How do I contact my Local Authority?

After your child has sat the entrance tests for Parkstone Grammar School you will need to complete a Common Application Form which is available from your 'home' Local Authority. Applicants resident outside Bournemouth/Christchurch/Poole must return their forms to their 'home' Local Authority who will forward the application to BCP Council.

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council:

School Admissions, BCP Council Civic Centre, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 6DY

Telephone: 01202 127963 Email: school.admissions@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/Schools-and-learning/School-admissions/School-admissions.aspx>

Dorset Council:

School Admissions, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ

Telephone: 01305 221060 Email: admissions@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/school-admissions