



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - Year 7 Admissions September 2020

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

How do I register my daughter for the entrance tests?

Parents of girls 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 Tuesday 23 April and the deadline for submitting your Registration form is **12:00 noon on Friday 6 September 2019**. 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?

Once you have registered your daughter for testing you will receive an email to confirm your registration. After the closing date (6 September 2019) we will send out further details of testing morning.

When is my daughter tested?

For entry to Year 7 in September 2020 the entrance tests will be held on Saturday 21 September 2019.

What tests are used?

GL Assessment Mathematics, English and Verbal Reasoning tests multiple choice papers. The average for the three papers is taken and this is the score that is used to assess your daughter.

- ***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 pupil's academic potential and indicate areas of strengths 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; our 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.

Does it matter whether my daughter has an early or late birthday when she takes the tests, ie are older girls 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 pupil has a September or an August birth as the results are standardised to take this into account by NFER.

What if my daughter'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 on **Friday 11 October 2019** by first class post. On the basis of their test results girls 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 daughter 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 girls meet the required standard than there are places available.

How do I apply for my daughter 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 2019. 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 happens if I miss the deadlines either to register my daughter for the entrance tests or to apply to my Local Authority?

If you do not register your daughter to sit the entrance test on 21 September but choose to name one of the Consortium Schools on the Common Application Form, this preference will be treated as invalid because she will not have met the entry criteria. There will be an opportunity for your daughter to sit the school entrance tests for consideration after the first allocation of offers on 1 March 2020, when she would be considered as a 'late applicant'.

What if my daughter has a Statement of Special Educational Need or 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* for further information.

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

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

Can I have copies of my daughter'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 pulping.

Can my daughter take the test twice?

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

When will I know if my daughter 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 2020.

When does the waiting list end?

Following allocations of places in March 2020 for entry to Year 7 in September 2020, the school will keep a waiting list of all students who had met the required standard but were not offered places until 31 December 2020.

How do I know if my daughter 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

Where can I get practice papers?

GL Assessment have produced a set of 11+ familiarisation papers covering Verbal Reasoning, English and Maths. They are available online for parents and students to download free of charge at gl-assessment.co.uk/11plus.

Further packs of practice papers can be purchased from major bookstores or on-line from <http://shop.gl-assessment.co.uk>. All papers are multiple choice format.

English (ISBN 978-0-7087-1984-8)

Mathematics (ISBN 978-0-7087-1985-5)

Verbal Reasoning (ISBN 978-0-7087-1987-9)

How do I contact the School?

To contact our Admissions Team please ring 01202 605605 or email admissions@parkstone.poole.sch.uk or by post to Parkstone Grammar School, Sopers Lane, Poole, Dorset BH17 7EP.

How do I contact my Local Authority?

Poole Address:

The School Admissions Team, Children, Young People & Learning, Dolphin Centre, Poole. BH15 1SA

Telephone: 01202 261936 **Email:** school.admissions@bcpcouncil.gov.uk **Website:** <http://www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk>

Bournemouth Address:

Children's Information Service, Town Hall, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth, BH2 6DY

Telephone: 01202 456223 **Website:** <http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk>

Dorset Address:

School Admissions Team, Dorset Council, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1XJ

Telephone: 01305 221060 **Email:** admissions@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk **Website:** <http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

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