



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For parents/carers of students seeking admission to Year 7 in September 2026 Poole & Bournemouth Consortium Grammar 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/carers 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.

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.

How do I register my child for the entrance tests?

Parents/carers 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 online on Tuesday 22 April 2025 and the deadline for submitting your Registration Form is 12 midday on Friday 5 September 2025.** Registrations received after this date **will not** be accepted. To register, please refer to the school’s website for the online registration form or contact the school office.

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

Parents/carers need to apply for a school place through their home local authority before 31 October in the year prior to admission (Year 6). Only parents/carers 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 with the school does not replace the need to complete the Common Application Form with your home local authority when applying for a school place.**

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

They will be considered as a ‘late applicant’. If you choose to name one of the Consortium Schools on the Common Application Form, but did not register your child to sit the entrance test by the deadline, this preference will be treated as invalid because they will not have met the entry criteria. Your child will have the opportunity to sit the late entrance test in the spring term, for consideration after the first allocation of offers at the beginning of March.

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 section 7 of our current [Admissions Policy](#)). These criteria give preference to those who live within the 'priority area'.

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'). The list of welfare support payments that trigger FSM eligibility can be found on the [Gov.uk website](#);
- children who are looked after or have previously been looked after by a local authority or other state care, including children adopted from state care;
- children of service personnel in the last 6 years (Ever 6).

Parents/carers will need to provide evidence of eligibility at the point of test registration, for example:

- 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, ID Card, or another document from MoD indicating services employment

It is important that we receive this evidence confirming entitlement to Pupil Premium as students in receipt of this funding are placed in a higher category in our Admissions Policy.

What happens after I have registered?

A pack with details of arrangements for the test day will be posted 1st class on Friday 12 September 2025. Please contact us if you have not received this information by your usual postal delivery time on **Tuesday 16 September 2025**.

When is my child tested?

For entry to Year 7 in September 2026 the entrance tests are scheduled to take place in the morning on **Saturday 20 September 2025** (please refer to our Admissions Policy Supplementary Date Sheet for the 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** - 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** - Time allowed: 45 minutes

The English paper tests comprehension, vocabulary and punctuation.

- **VERBAL REASONING** - 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 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 Special Educational Need or Disability, in which case a maximum of 25% additional time may be permitted.

Free familiarisation papers are available from the GL Assessment website:

 [Download 11+ Familiarisation Papers](#)

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. For more information, please refer to the  [Admissions Policy](#) and the  [Application for Access Arrangements Form and Guidance Notes](#) on our website.

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

Does it matter whether my child has an early or late birthday when they take the test, 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 - it doesn't matter if a student has a September or an August birthday, as the results are adjusted to account for the exact age of the child at the time of the test.

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 the results sent out?

Results will be emailed to parents/carers **by 4 pm on Friday 10 October 2025**. Based on their test results, students will either have reached the required standard for consideration for admission to Parkstone Grammar School and/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 have to be applied if more children meet the required standard than there are places available.

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 must 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?

Offers will be sent by your home local authority offering you a school place, subject to your preferences and eligibility, on **Monday 2 March 2026**.

When does the waiting list end?

Following the allocation of places in March 2026, for entry to Year 7 in September 2026, the school will keep a waiting list of all students who had met the required standard but were not offered places, until 31 August 2027 (the end of Year 7).

How do I contact the School?

Admissions & Appeals Officer, Parkstone Grammar School, Sopers Lane, Poole, Dorset, BH17 7EP

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



[Parkstone Grammar School Admissions Website](#)

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 on the website of your home local authority. Applicants resident outside Bournemouth/Christchurch/Poole must submit their form 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



[BCP Council School Admissions Website](#)

- **DORSET COUNCIL:**

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

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



[Dorset Council School Admissions Website](#)

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