

Slough 11+ Consortium

Questions from live information event for parents held on 28th April 2022

General arrangements for the 11+ examination

Do we need to register with all 4 schools separately or just once for 4 schools.

- You register in May/June just once for the Slough consortium test. Children take one test to assess their eligibility for any of the four schools.

Are test centres at the 4 grammar schools? How do we select which test centre to do to?

- The four Slough grammar schools are used as the test centres for the Slough consortium test. We allocate the test centre based roughly on where you live or which primary school your child attends. It doesn't matter which test centre your child sits the test at – it's just a venue for taking the test.

Will there be a mock test before the actual exam day?

- There will be no mock test or practice papers.

Can children wear an analogue watch in the exam? Can digital watches be worn ie fitbit?

- Children can wear an analogue watch if they wish to. No smartwatches are permitted. The exam room will also have a clock easily visible.

I am confused about the difference between CEM and GL tests. Can you confirm whether the test for Slough is CEM or GL?

- CEM and GL Assessment are the two major commercial providers of entrance tests. The Slough Consortium uses CEM as its test provider. We do not use the GL Assessment tests in Slough.

If we are assigned a morning or afternoon session, could we write to change the session if it clashes with the test date of other schools? If the exam date clashes with other schools, is there a catch-up date?

- The Slough Consortium 11+ examination is scheduled to avoid clashes with 11+ tests at other nearby schools. If there are clashes with other schools further away, parents will normally have to prioritise which examination they wish their child to take.
- There is no provision for late testing in the event of clashes with other 11+ tests.

Which schools use the same test please? Where do I get that information? Can I still enrol in the 11+ test of Slough if I live in Reading?

- Kendrick School in Reading uses the same test as the Slough Consortium. There are some other, more geographically distant schools, which also use the same test on the same day.
- Further information can be found during the registration process.
- Your child can sit the test in one area and request for the score to be passed to another school using the same test. You must do this when registering – requests for sharing of scores cannot be made after the examination. You must also register with the school you want the score to be passed to.

Can the parents register with the same email for 2 child (twin siblings) who are taking the test?

- You can use the same parent contact details and email address, but you must register each child separately.

SEND, special consideration and Pupil Premium

Will provision be made for a visually impaired child?

- Particular provision can be made for pupils who are visually impaired. Make sure all relevant details are provided on the registration form and specific arrangements can then be discussed with the Admissions Officer of the relevant test centre.

Do dyslexic pupils have the option of applying for extra time and is this commonly granted?

- Extra time of up to 25% may be available for candidates with recognised special educational needs or disabilities.

What kind of evidence or documents we need to provide for SEND or other special arrangements?

- Parents would need to supply evidence of a child's EHCP and/or details and evidence of the current support/provision being undertaken at child's current educational setting.

Are there any allocated places for pupil premium? If yes, are out of catchment children accepted?

- Please refer to individual school admissions policies for details about how children who attract Pupil Premium funding may be prioritised for admission. This is an individual decision for each school.

The 11+ examination itself

What is the format of the test? Are there multiple choice questions? How long are the tests? How many questions are there in each test paper? Is there a break between the two tests? Are the papers marked by computer software or human?

- The Slough Consortium 11+ test consists of 2 papers, each taking 60 to 65 minutes to complete.
- Each paper has a mix of questions covering verbal, non-verbal and numerical ability. The actual number of questions may vary from year to year.
- There is a short break between the two test papers.
- Pupils indicate their answers on an answer sheet. The answer sheets are scanned and marked using computer software. This is done by the test provider and is a highly accurate process.

Can you tell us what the percentage of verbal, non-verbal and mathematical elements will be in the test? Is it true that VR has 50% weightage, Maths has 30% and NVR has 20% in CEM test? Are the elements equally weighed to calculate standardised score?

- Each paper consists of a mixture of the three elements
- We do not publish the weighting of the different elements of the paper.

What is the total marks of the exam? What is the total marks for each paper? What is the total score of the exam please? Is there any negative marking? When the result is communicated do you get the actual score of your child?

- We do **not** provide any information about the number of questions or total number of marks.
- Each child is initially given a total number of marks from the questions answered. There is no negative marking. This raw score is converted to a standardised score by the test provider.
- Your child will receive their standardised score. Raw scores will **not** be provided at any point.

Is there any additional time for younger children (August born)?

- Raw scores are age-standardised to provide a final standardised score which is fair to all pupils whenever their birthday.
- All children are given the same time to complete the test, unless they have special consideration for SEND or medical needs.

When the scores are sent to parents, if the score is higher than the minimum required, does that classify as an offer? Or will we only know in March 2023 whether the child will get the admission or not?

- Scores are sent to parents before school applications are made on the Common Application Form.
- A score of 111 or above means that a child is eligible to be considered for a place by any of the grammar schools to which they apply.
- A score of 111 or above is not an offer of a place, and does not guarantee a place.
- Allocations of schools will be confirmed in March 2023.

Do we know if children did better or worse during COVID and was this taken into consideration during standardisation?

- The 11+ examination identifies the same proportion of children each year – approximately the top third of the group who sit the test.
- Standardisation is only concerned with the age of the child.

Can you pay to get your exam re marked? What is the process of remark?

- The marking process, which is carried out by the test provider, is highly accurate. There is no facility for a re-mark.

Applying to schools, the Common Application Form, and allocation of places

I am living outside of Slough - what is the admission process for children outside Slough. If my child goes to school in Slough but lives in Windsor do we apply to Windsor for CAF?

- You must complete the Common Application Form (CAF) for the Local Authority area in which you live. If your child goes to school in a different local authority area, you must still apply on your 'home' Local Authority CAF.

When is the CAF deadline?

- The CAF deadline is 31st October 2022. This is a national deadline.

Can you pick more than one grammar school eg mix of Berks and Bucks. Is it possible to apply to Slough grammar schools even though living outside Slough?

- You can name any schools on your CAF, both in and outside your own local authority area.

Can you move house before the 31st October and still be accepted?

- The address you put on the CAF must be your permanent address on 31st October.

If my child passes the test but does not live in Slough, do we move to Slough because of the catchment area? What are the chances of admission for children who live outside Slough eg Hounslow? If my child's score is very good, does he have a chance to be offered the place? We live 15km away from school and simply want to know if we can apply for Slough schools.

- You do not necessarily have to live in Slough to get a place at a Slough grammar school.
- Each school has its own oversubscription criteria which give priority to children from different places. Read the individual school's admissions arrangements carefully.
- The address you put on the CAF on 31st October must be your permanent address. Some schools will consider your address at the time of registration to be your permanent address.

How would we know if we are in the acceptable radius (catchment) - is there a way to calculate this? Does score point or distance get priority for offer?

- Although a score of 111 or above means a child is eligible for consideration for a place, each of the four Slough grammar schools has its own over-subscription criteria for admissions. These give different weighting to things such as postcode, faith etc depending on which school it is. You would need to check each school's admissions arrangements to determine how influential your address or postcode is.

What percentage of children outside the priority areas get into slough consortium schools? is there any data from past years please? What was the percentage of children who got into Slough grammar schools on the base of those applied?

- You should be able to view statistics for last year on the individual grammar school websites.

Is there a priority for twins? I have twin girls - is there any advantage for them?

- The School Admissions Code does not allow grammar schools to give any priority to siblings. Each child will be considered on the basis of their own score and how that relates to the school's oversubscription criteria.

Please contact the admissions officers of the individual schools if you have specific questions about entry requirements for that particular school. Your question may also be answered by looking at the school's admissions policy and oversubscription criteria, which will be available on their website.