



# **Slough Consortium of Grammar Schools**

**Guide to the 11+ Entrance Examination**

*For entry in September 2023*

**Herschel Grammar School**

**Langley Grammar School**

**St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School**

**Upton Court Grammar School**

## Key dates for September 2023 admission

<b>2 May 2022</b>	Registration opens. The registration form is completed online through a portal which can be accessed from the link on any of the Consortium grammar school websites or directly at <a href="https://slough.applicaa.com">https://slough.applicaa.com</a>
<b>12 June 2022</b>	Registration closes at 12 midnight. <b><i>Late applications will NOT be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances.</i></b>
<b>17 September 2022</b>	11+ entrance examinations take place at examination centres for all registered children.
<b>Mid-October 2022</b>	Parents notified of results of 11+ entrance examination in time for completion of Common Application Form.
<b>31 October 2022</b>	Deadline for submission of Common Application Form to home local authority.
<b>1 March 2023</b>	Notification of allocation of school places by home local authority. Formal offers from schools will follow as soon as possible afterwards.

## 1. The Slough Consortium of Grammar Schools

The four grammar schools in Slough operate as a consortium for the purposes of the 11+ entrance examination. The schools use a common 11+ entrance examination and administer it according to common procedures. A child sits just one 11+ examination, irrespective of how many of the Slough Consortium grammar schools parents are applying to.

## 2. School Admissions Code

The current [School Admissions Code](#) was introduced in September 2021 and applies to all applications for school places in September 2023.

The Code requires that the results of selection tests must be made available to parents before the final deadline for submission of the Common Application Form (CAF). This is intended to support parents in making an informed choice of schools.

## 3. Testing and application process

- a) If you are thinking of applying to one or more of the four grammar schools in Slough, the first step is to register your child to take the Consortium 11+ entrance examination.

You must complete the **online registration form**, available from Monday 2nd May 2022, which can be accessed through the Consortium portal at <https://slough.applicaa.com>. Your details will be held on the central Consortium database. Please ensure you have a recent digital photograph of your child ready to upload as your registration cannot be completed without it.

You will be given a userID and will be asked to create a password **which you must keep to be able to access your child's results**. You will need the same userID and password if you choose to make an appeal at a later date.

The **only purpose** of registration is to enable your child to sit the 11+ entrance examination, and the Consortium will order one set of examination papers for your child. Please therefore ensure that you complete the registration process **once** only.

**Registering for the 11+ examination is NOT an application for a place at a particular school, and is NOT considered to be an expression of interest in any particular school.**

*At this stage you are simply asking for your child to sit the Consortium 11+ entrance examination. On the basis of the result of that test, you may choose to apply to one or more Slough Consortium grammar schools, or none at all.*

The **deadline** for registration is **12 midnight on Sunday 12 June 2022**. Late applications will **NOT** be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

- b) The next step is for your child to actually sit the 11+ entrance examination. Testing will take place on **Saturday 17 September 2022** for all candidates whatever their home address or current primary school.

There will be four test centres in Slough. Your child will be allocated a centre on the basis of their primary school and postcode. You will be advised of your test centre and test arrangements by email before the end of the summer term, using the email address you have provided on the registration website. This information will be sent again in early September. Your child will be invited to a specific morning or afternoon session and **this cannot be changed**.

- c) You will be able to access the results of the 11+ entrance examination online in time for you to consider your choice of schools and to complete your Common Application Form (CAF) before the deadline of **31 October 2022**. As papers are externally marked by the test provider, a specific date cannot be given for publication of results.

Having thought carefully about which schools to apply for, you must then complete the CAF for your home local authority by 31 October 2022. You must include any school for which you wish your child to be considered, and you must place grammar schools higher in your order of preference than non-selective schools, if your priority is for your child to attend a grammar school.

- d) The grammar schools will supply the 11+ entrance examination scores to Slough Local Authority, together with any specific over subscription criteria which will need to be applied.
- e) Slough Local Authority will coordinate the process and allocate each child a place at the school which has been placed highest on the CAF and for which they are eligible. Where a pupil can be placed at more than one school the offer will be for the highest ranked school where places are available.
- f) The home local authority notifies parents of the allocation of school places on **Wednesday 1 March 2023**.

The grammar schools are their own admissions authorities. This means the formal offer of a place comes from the grammar school itself, and will be made as soon as possible after the national allocation day. The offer of a place must be **accepted directly with the school** in addition to accepting the place with your local authority.

#### **4. Format of the 11+ entrance examination**

The Consortium 11+ entrance examination is provided by the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) at the University of Cambridge. The examination consists of **two** separate papers, each of approximately 60-65 minutes duration, containing a variety of questions which will test verbal, numerical and non-verbal ability.

Questions on both papers have a range of answer formats. Pupils indicate their answers on a separate answer sheet which is marked by computer and must be filled in **exactly** as directed in the instructions. The question booklet **will not** be marked and answers cannot be transcribed to the answer sheet after the examination.

11+ familiarisation material published by the test provider will be placed on the websites of the Consortium grammar schools and will give examples of the question and answer formats.

#### **5. Access Arrangements**

Extra time may be available for pupils with special educational needs. This is **up to 25%** for each paper. The registration form on the Consortium portal has a section for you to advise the Consortium if additional time is requested, as it must be requested in advance of the test date. **Professionally supported evidence of your child's need will be required**; this must be sent to the Consortium as requested during the registration process and received no later than **Sunday 27 June** at 12 midnight. Details of what would constitute acceptable evidence will be emailed to you once your child's registration is received.

A general rule would be that if your child regularly receives additional time to complete assignments in school, they may be eligible for additional time in the 11+ entrance examination. Your child's primary school will be asked for information about the regular provision for your child. There may also be other reasons for special consideration, eg visual impairment or physical disability.

If your child has an Education Health and Care plan, there are separate processes to be followed and you should speak first with your local authority who administer the process. You should still register your child for the 11+ examination by using the Consortium portal.

Details of the access arrangements that have been agreed by the Slough Consortium will be passed to any other schools for which you have registered your child and requested the score to be shared.

## 6. Test results and standardisation

Papers are marked by CEM, who then carry out a standardisation process. Standardisation is a statistical procedure whereby raw scores (number of questions answered correctly) are converted to standardised scores to make it fair for candidates of all ages. The standardisation takes into account how a child has performed compared with the average performance of all the children taking each test in the Consortium **and** how the child has performed in each test compared with children of similar age.

The procedure results in a fair score for all children whether born at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of the academic year. Children do not have marks added because they are born in August, or taken away if they have a September birthday - it really isn't as simple as that! Standardisation also means that it is possible for children to score high marks whilst getting some questions wrong or failing to complete all questions.

## 7. Notification of test results

The 11+ results will be made available to view online via the Consortium portal. This will be in October before the deadline for submission of the common application form. The 11+ result notified to you will be the **standardised score** across both papers. The raw scores attained by candidates are not supplied to the schools and therefore will **not** be given to parents.

## 8. Other schools using the same test

Some parents in Slough and other parts of Berkshire may be considering including Kendrick School (girls) in addition to one or more Slough grammar schools on the CAF.

The 11+ entrance examination used by the Slough Consortium and Kendrick School is a common paper sat on the same day. In addition to the four Slough consortium schools and Kendrick School, there are other, more geographically distant schools that also use the same test on the same day.

Candidates who are interested in applying to any of these schools can only sit the entrance examination once. If you are potentially interested in applying to schools in other areas of the country, you **MUST** register with **EACH** school or consortium through whatever method they are using, and **indicate where your child will sit the test**.

The details for your child **must** be entered identically (on each registration you complete) and in the same way as they will appear on your Common Application Form. Any differences in spelling or order of names will mean that it is not possible to share your child's scores as it may not be clear that it is the same child. Your child's scores **can only be shared with those schools for which they are registered by the closing date** of Sunday 12 June at 12 midnight.

Where 11+ scores are shared in this way, parents would receive separate results from **each** school for which the child is registered. These standardised results may be different for each school or consortium, as the raw score is being standardised against a different cohort of children.

Parents who are considering registration for the Slough Consortium and any other school using the same test on the same day **must** read the registration form carefully and select the centre at which they wish the child to sit the test. Once a test venue has been selected, no further change can be made and it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that a valid registration form is submitted for each school/Consortium with whom the results are to be shared.

***Requests for scores to be shared must be made before registration closes. Scores cannot be retrospectively shared between schools.***

The Slough Consortium has taken every reasonable step to avoid clashes with other entrance tests for schools in neighbouring areas. A single alternative test date will be available for applicants who cannot attend on Saturday 17 September 2022 for religious or medical reasons.

For applicants who registered by the deadline of 12 June 2022, no other alternative dates will be offered. If you register your child to sit entrance tests elsewhere and there is a clash of dates, you must choose the school or consortium you regard as your top priority and your child must sit the test on 17th September at that centre.

## 9. Completing the Common Application Form

You must complete the Common Application Form (CAF) for your home local authority by **31 October 2022**. The CAF is normally completed online; the format varies between local authorities but in all cases you will receive a unique log-in and can change preferences anytime up to the closing date.

The number of schools to which you can apply depends on where you live; parents in Slough have six choices, but other areas may differ. On the CAF you must state **all** the state schools you wish to apply for including grammar schools both **in and outside** of your home local authority.

The address you give on the CAF **must** be your permanent address on the closing date of 31 October 2021, and you may be asked for proof of this address. **Please ensure that you notify any change of address to both your local authority and the Slough Consortium of Grammar Schools.**

You should rank your choices of school in your preferred order, irrespective of how likely or unlikely you believe the probability of being offered a place. All preferences are considered using the over-subscription criteria for each school. If you would prefer a grammar school for your child, you should place grammar schools highest on your preference list. This will ensure that if a grammar school place can be offered, it will have priority over the non-selective schools that might also be able to offer a place based on the distance you live from the school.

It is essential that you place the schools on the CAF in your genuine order of preference. If you place a non-selective school above a grammar school on the CAF, the local authority will assume that is your preferred choice; if your child was eligible for the non-selective school and also scored high enough in the 11+ entrance examination to be eligible for a grammar school place, they would be allocated a place at the non-selective as it is the preferred school.

Additionally, there is no such thing as 'tactical placing' of schools in a particular order. Schools do not know where you have placed them in the order of preference. Our advice is simply to ***list the schools to which you are applying in your genuinely preferred order.***

Local authorities will make offers to eligible pupils using the stated admission criteria for each school. **It is therefore very important to find out the particular admission requirements for each school you are interested in.** These will be published on each school's website.

## 10. Allocation of places

If you live outside Slough and are applying to any Slough schools, your home local authority will send your application information through to Slough Local Authority. All preferences are considered using the over-subscription criteria for each school. Where a pupil could be placed at more than one school the offer will be for the highest ranked school where places are available.

You will be notified which school your son or daughter has been allocated through your local authority on 1 March 2023 - this is the national allocation day. Grammar schools are their own admissions authorities - the formal offer of a place comes from the grammar school itself, and will be made, as soon as possible after the national allocation day. You must confirm acceptance of the place with both the local authority and the school, or the school may assume you are no longer interested and offer the place to another child.

## 11. Slough Consortium grammar schools

General contact details for the four schools in the Slough Consortium are shown below.

<b>Herschel Grammar School</b> Northampton Avenue Slough Berkshire SL1 3BW	Tel: 01753 520950 email: <a href="mailto:mail@herschel.slough.sch.uk">mail@herschel.slough.sch.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.herschel.slough.sch.uk">www.herschel.slough.sch.uk</a>	
<b>Langley Grammar School</b> Reddington Drive Langley Berkshire SL3 7QS	Tel: 01753 598300 email: <a href="mailto:admissions@lgs.slough.sch.uk">admissions@lgs.slough.sch.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk">www.lgs.slough.sch.uk</a>	
<b>St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School</b> 1 Langley Road Slough Berkshire SL3 7AF	Tel: 01753 527020 email: <a href="mailto:admissions@st-bernards.slough.sch.uk">admissions@st-bernards.slough.sch.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.st-bernards.slough.sch.uk">www.st-bernards.slough.sch.uk</a>	
<b>Upton Court Grammar School</b> Lascelles Road Upton Slough Berkshire SL3 7PR	Tel: 01753 522892 email: <a href="mailto:office@uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk">office@uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk">www.uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk</a>	