



Slough Consortium of Grammar Schools

Guide to the 11+ Entrance Examination

For entry in September 2025

Herschel Grammar School

Langley Grammar School

St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School

Upton Court Grammar School

Key dates for September 2025 admission

Wednesday 1st May 2024	Registration opens at 10.00am 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 https://slough.applicaa.com/entry25
Wednesday 12th June 2024	Registration closes at 10.00am <i>Late applications will NOT be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances.</i>
Saturday 21st September 2024	11+ entrance examinations take place at examination centres for all registered children.
Mid-October 2024	Parents notified of results of 11+ entrance examination in time for completion of Common Application Form.
Thursday 31st October 2024	Deadline for submission of Common Application Form to home local authority.
Monday 3rd March 2025	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 using the same 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 2025.

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) Step 1 – registration

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 sit the Consortium 11+ entrance examination.

You must complete the **online registration form**. This will be available from **Wednesday 1st May** and can be accessed through the Consortium portal at <https://slough.applicaa.com/entry25>. 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 user ID and will be asked to create a password **which you must keep to be able to access your child's results**.

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. Depending on 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 **10am on Wednesday 12th June 2024**. Late applications will **NOT** be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

b) Step 2 – the entrance examination

The next step is for your child to actually sit the 11+ entrance examination. This will take place on **Saturday 21st September 2024** for all candidates, whatever their home address or current primary school.

There will be four test centres in Slough, one at each of the four grammar schools. You will be able to express a preference for a test centre at the time of registration. However, we cannot guarantee you will receive this preference due to the differing capacities of each venue.

You will be advised of your test centre and the test arrangements by email before the end of the summer term, using the email address you have provided on the registration website. Your child will be allocated to a specific morning or afternoon session and **this cannot be changed**.

c) Step 3 – results

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

d) Step 4 – Completing the Common Application Form

Having thought carefully about which schools to apply for, you must then complete the CAF for your home local authority by **Thursday 31 October 2024**. You must include any state school for which you want your child to be considered, whether that is in your home local authority or elsewhere. You must also 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.

e) Step 5 – Allocation of places

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.

Slough Local Authority will coordinate the allocation process and allocate each child to the highest-placed school on the CAF 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.

The home local authority will notify parents of the allocation of school places on **Monday 3rd March 2025**.

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 **GL Assessment**. 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. Candidates indicate their answers on a separate answer sheet. This 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 if a child has written their answers in the booklet by mistake.

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

5. Access Arrangements

Extra time may be available for pupils with recognised special educational needs. This is **up to 25%** for each paper. The registration form on the Consortium portal has a section for you to tell the Consortium if additional time is requested. Extra time or other access arrangements must be requested before 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 **3.00pm on Friday 21st June 2024**. 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 formal tests or assignments in school, they may be eligible for additional time in the 11+ 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 arrangements for the examination, eg visual impairment, physical disability or specific medical issues. We will do our best to accommodate these.

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

6. Illness and special consideration

If your child is ill on the day of the 11+ examination, you should contact the test centre as soon as possible. There will be someone at the test centre you can talk to and explain the circumstances.

Please do not let your child sit the examination if they are unwell. Alternative arrangements will be made for your child to sit the test at a later date if they have been ill. However, please note that supporting medical evidence such as a doctor's note may be required in the event of illness.

Similarly, please do not let your child sit the test if there has been a family trauma of any sort immediately prior to the test. If this is the case, you should contact the test centre to explain the situation, and special consideration may be possible in allowing your child to sit the test at a later date.

7. Test results and standardisation

Papers are marked by GL Assessment, who then carry out a standardisation process.

Standardisation is a statistical procedure through which the raw scores (the 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.

The top and bottom of the standardised score range will vary from year to year depending the number of candidates and the distribution of their results. However, as with any standardised scale, a score of 100 represents the **middle** of the range.

8. Notification of test results

The 11+ results will be made available to view online via the Consortium portal. This will be in mid-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 Consortium by GL Assessment and therefore are **not** available to parents.

9. Other schools using the same test

Some parents may be considering applying to one of the two grammar schools in Reading as well as one or more of the Slough consortium grammar schools, or to other grammar schools around the London area.

Please note that following the change of test provider to GL Assessment in 2024, the previous arrangements where some schools used the same test as the Slough Consortium no longer apply. In Reading, Kendrick School (which is for girls) and Reading School (which is for boys) use different testing procedures to Slough. There is **no** facility for sharing any 11+ scores between the schools any more.

There are a number of grammar schools around the London area, all of which have different arrangements for testing. As there only two or three weekends in the early Autumn term on which it is possible to run the 11+ tests, there will inevitably be schools running tests on the same day. If you want your child to sit 11+ tests at schools where there is a date clash, this is unfortunate, but the reality is that you will have to choose which school or schools, and therefore which tests, to prioritise.

In the Slough grammar schools, we take the view that we are here primarily to serve the interests of children already living in Slough and the immediate surrounding area, and not those who live much further away from the school. Where possible, we have taken reasonable steps to avoid clashes with other entrance tests for schools in neighbouring areas. However, 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 that test on 21st September 2024 at that centre.

A single alternative test date will be available for applicants who cannot attend on Saturday 21st September 2024 for religious or medical reasons. However, there are no opportunities to take the test at a later date because of clashes.

10. Completing the Common Application Form

You must complete the Common Application Form (CAF) for your home local authority by **Thursday 31st October 2024**. The CAF is normally completed online; the format varies between local authorities but in all cases you will receive unique log-in details 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 31st October 2024, 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 higher than a grammar school on the CAF, the local authority will assume that is your preferred choice. In this situation, 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 may include details of priority admission areas, or specific requirements about what would be considered your permanent address. These admissions arrangements 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 **Monday 3rd March 2025** - this is the national allocation day in 2025.

Grammar schools are their own admissions authorities which 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. 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. Waiting lists and further allocation rounds.

Pupils who are eligible for consideration at schools named on the Common Application Form, but who are not allocated a place because of over-subscription, will automatically be placed on the waiting list for schools ranked higher on their CAF than the school they have been allocated.

Some parents will not accept the place they have been offered, perhaps because they move away from the area, or they have a place in a school in the private sector. After 3rd March, pupils may therefore be offered a place at a higher-preference school as places become available. These further rounds of offers are coordinated by Slough Local Authority, with the first round usually taking place around 6-8 weeks after the national allocation date.

Please note that this process only applies to pupils who meet the eligibility score for grammar school consideration. Your child **will not** be placed on the waiting list of any Slough grammar school at any time if they did not achieve the eligibility mark in the 11+ examination.

You may be happy with the school to which your child is allocated and do not wish to be considered for a school you originally placed higher in your order of preference. In this case, you must tell Slough Local Authority that you do not wish your child to be placed on the waiting list of any of your higher-preference schools. If you do not do this, you may find your child is automatically allocated to a higher preference school if a place becomes available,

12. Appeals

There is no process to appeal your child's actual 11+ score. However, as parents, you do have the right to appeal against a decision by a particular school not to admit your child. This means that once your child has been allocated a school place on 3rd March 2025, you can appeal to the school or schools higher up your order of preference on your CAF that did not offer your child a place.

After you have received your school allocation on 3rd March, you would have a maximum of 20 school days in which to lodge an appeal. Appeals are heard on behalf of each school separately by an independent appeals panel. The appeal hearings must take place within 40 school days of the request being received.

There are two possible reasons for an appeal to a grammar school.

- 1) The first is that your son or daughter scored **more than 111** on the 11+ test, but due to oversubscription was not offered a place at a school to which you had applied. There were more applicants than places available, and after the oversubscription criteria had been applied, your child was not offered a place. The most common reason for this would be that the school was allocating its last places in rank order of score and has cut off at a score higher than that obtained by your child.
- 2) The second reason is that your son or daughter scored **below 111** on the 11+ test, and was therefore not eligible for consideration. If you are in this position you may believe that the 11+ score was not a fair reflection of your child's ability. Remember that it is not possible to appeal your child's 11+ score itself. You only have the right to appeal against a decision not to offer a place. Therefore if you intend to appeal in the belief that your child did not perform according to their ability in the 11+ test, you **must** name at least one grammar school on the CAF. This is because *you can only appeal against a decision not to admit your child* – and that decision can only be made if you actually apply.

You should note that if you do appeal, it could be mid-June before you know whether or not your appeal has been successful – this is some 9 months after your child will have sat the 11+ examination.

11. Slough Consortium grammar schools

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

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