



Slough Consortium of Grammar Schools

Guide to the 11+ Entrance Examination

For entry in September 2020

Herschel Grammar School

Langley Grammar School

St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School

Upton Court Grammar School

Key dates for September 2020 admission

1 May 2019	Registration opens. The registration form is online and can be accessed from the link on any of the Consortium grammar school websites or directly at www.sloughconsortium.org
14 June 2019	Registration closes at 12 midnight. <i>No applications for testing will be accepted after this date</i>
14 September 2019	11+ entrance examinations take place at examination centres for all registered children.
October 2019	Parents notified of results of 11+ entrance examination in time for completion of common application form.
31 October 2019	Deadline for submission of common application form to local authority.
1 March 2020	Notification of allocation of school places by local authority. Formal offers from schools will follow soon after.

1. The Slough Consortium of Grammar Schools

The four grammar schools in Slough operate as a consortium for the purposes of 11+ testing. 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 Admissions Code was introduced in December 2014 and applies to all applications for school places in September 2020.

The Admissions 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 designed to allow parents to make 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 as a choice for your son or daughter, the first step is to register your child to take the Consortium 11+ entrance examination. To do this, you must complete the **online registration form**, available from Wednesday 1 May 2019, which can be accessed from the websites of any of the Consortium grammar schools or at www.sloughconsortium.org. Your details will be held on a central database and it does not matter from which school you access the registration form. Please ensure you have a recent digital photograph of your child ready to upload as your registration will not be complete without a photograph. You will be given a username and asked to create a password **which you must keep to be able to access your child's results**. You will need the same username and password if you choose to make an appeal at a later date.

The **sole purpose** of registration is to enable your son or daughter to sit the 11+ entrance examination, and the Consortium will order one set of examination papers for your son or daughter. Therefore, please ensure that you complete the registration process only **once**.

Please note – registering for the 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.

If you are unable to register online, please contact one of the Consortium schools who will be able to make arrangements for you to complete the process.

The **deadline** for registration is **12 midnight on Friday 14 June 2019 and no applications for testing will be accepted after this date.**

- b) The next step is for your child to actually sit the 11+ entrance examination. Testing will take place on **Saturday 14 September 2019** for all candidates irrespective of their home address or current primary school. There will be four examination centres in Slough and 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 form. This information will be sent again in early September. Your child will be invited to a morning or afternoon session allocated by the test centre 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 the implications for your choice of schools and to complete your common application form before the deadline of 31 October 2019. As papers are externally marked, a specific date cannot be given for publication of results. You will receive an email telling you when the results

are available to view. Having thought carefully about which schools to apply for, you must then complete the common application form for your home local authority by 31 October 2019. You must include any school for which you wish your son or daughter 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.
- 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 Sunday 1 March 2020. All allocations across the country are notified on the same day.

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 Durham. 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. Please refer to the familiarisation booklet on Slough Consortium grammar schools websites for examples of the question and answer formats.

5. Access Arrangements

Extra time may be available for pupils with special needs. This is **up to 25%** for each paper. The registration form has a section for you to advise the Consortium if additional time is required, as it must be requested in advance. **Professionally supported evidence will be required**, to be sent to the Consortium as requested during the registration process and must be received by the registration deadline – Friday 14 June at 12 midnight.

A general rule would be that if your son or daughter regularly receives additional time to complete assignments in school, they may be eligible for additional time in the 11+ entrance examination. 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 using the online form.

6. Test results and standardisation

Papers are marked centrally 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 the same 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 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

You will be advised by email when the results of the 11+ entrance examination are available. This will be in October before the deadline for submission of the common application form. To view the result, you will need the username given to you at the time of registration together with the password you have created. Please ensure you keep this information safely as it cannot be given by the schools and results will only be available online. The result notified will be the **standardised score** across both papers. The raw scores attained by candidates are not supplied to the schools and 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 either Kendrick School (girls) or Reading School (boys) in addition to one or more Slough grammar schools on the common application form.

The 11+ entrance examination used by the Slough Consortium, Reading and Kendrick Schools is a common paper used by a number of grammar schools, sat 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 interested in more than one school, you **MUST** register with **EACH** school, according to their admissions policy and **indicate where your child will sit the test**. The details for your child **must** be entered identically and in the same way as they will appear on your common application form. Your child's scores can only be shared with those schools for which they are registered, by the closing date, Friday 14 June at 12 midnight.

In addition to the four Slough consortium schools, Reading School and Kendrick School, there are other, more geographically distant schools that use the same test on the same day.

If a child is registered for more than one school, parents would receive results from each school for which the child is registered. These standardised results may be different for each school, as the same raw score is being compared with the scores of 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.**

You must enter your child's details in exactly the same way for each school at which you register. Any differences in spelling or order of names will mean that it is not possible to share your child's scores if it is not clear that it is the same child.

9. Completing the common application form

If you live outside Slough, you must apply through your own local authority – even if your child currently attends a Slough school. Almost all applicants now complete the common application form online; the format for this varies between local authorities but in all cases you should receive a unique log-in and can change your 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 own area.

The address you give on the CAF **must** be your permanent address on the closing date of 31 October 2019, 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 most preferred school highest. All preferences are considered using the over-subscription criteria for each school. If you would prefer a grammar school, 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.

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. There is no such thing as 'tactical placing' of schools in a particular order. ***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 2020 – 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

Contact details for the four schools in the Slough Consortium are

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