

11 + Destinations Options in Birmingham

11 + Destinations: Options in Birmingham

Agenda

- How to apply
- Timeline
- Selecting the 'right' school – being realistic
- What do Grammar School results mean
- Assisted places / scholarships and the private sector
- What does the 11+ examine? How can you help?

HOW TO APPLY

Independent

Apply directly to the school. Do not put on the LA Preference Form

Maintained

Where do you live?

Birmingham LA

Outside Birmingham LA

Grammar

Comprehensive

Find out how many preferences your authority allow

Grammar Schools
in Birmingham

Other

Include on your LA Preference Form

Grammar

Comprehensive

This includes -

- King Edward Foundation Grammar Schools
- Bishop Vesey
- Handsworth Grammar
- Sutton Girls

You must include the school(s) on your LA Preference Form

- The Queen Mary Schools in Walsall are covered by the Shropshire Consortium
- Warwickshire Schools
- Apply separately to any grammar school in a different authority
- Include the school(s) on your LA Preference Form

If you are applying to a grammar school in a different authority, apply directly to it, and include on your Preference Form

1. Contact the school (or CGSB) and complete the required form
2. Include the school on your LA Preference Form
3. Send the preference form to the LA

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Timeline

May 2018

Test application for Grammar Schools in Birmingham (GSB) and Walsall become available. Open day dates will be advertised

End of June 2018 at 4pm

Deadline for GSB Test applications

Saturday 8th September 2018

Birmingham and Warwickshire 11+ exam

Monday 10th September 2018

Shropshire, Walsall & Wolverhampton 11+

Friday 12th October 2018

GSB Exam results sent to parents

1st September to 31st October 2018

LA Preference Forms available to be completed online.

DEADLINE 31 OCT

September 2018:

Deadlines for KE, Solihull and EHS applications

October and November 2018

The majority of Independent school exams

1st March 2019

Local Authorities make offers. Waiting lists and appeals to follow

Birmingham Grammar Schools

www.birminghamgrammarschools.org

Schools in the Consortium

- Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (Boys)
- Handsworth Grammar School (Boys) (To join King Edward's Foundation?)
- King Edward VI Aston School (Boys)
- King Edward VI Camp Hill School (Boys)
- King Edward VI Camp Hill School (Girls)
- King Edward VI Five Ways School (Boys and Girls)
- King Edward VI Handsworth School (Girls)
- Sutton Coldfield Grammar School (Girls)

Birmingham Grammar Schools

Dates and procedures

- Registration for September 2019 entry opens on first Monday May 2018 and closes on 30th June
- **The registration packs will include details of open sessions at all of the schools**
- You will be able to apply online for the test
- You will then be allocated a number and an exam centre
- Sample questions are made available
- The exam will take place on Saturday 8th September
- You will be informed of the score that your child achieved on Friday 12th October
- With this information you will then need to complete the LA Preference Form. This must be submitted by 31 October

The cut-off score for entry

Birmingham Schools	PP 2017	2015	2016	2017
▪ KE VI Camp Hill Boys	215	243	239	240
▪ KE VI Five Ways	200	232	233	233
▪ KE VI Camp Hill Girls	215	231	235	235
▪ KE VI Aston	205	224	221	222
▪ Bishop Vesey	204	219	220	220
▪ KE VI Handsworth	216	219	223	222
▪ Sutton Girls	206	215	218	217
▪ Handsworth Grammar School	203	207	209	208

All of the King Edward's Foundation Grammar Schools now have a percentage (around 20%) of places put by for **Pupil Premium candidates** (from low income families based on receipt of free school meals). These candidate still have to achieve a baseline score to be considered but it is lower than the score required for non-qualifying candidates.

You might also want to look at the University of Birmingham School, a recently opened non-selective school situated at the University's Selly Oak Campus

The Preference Form – 1

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

- If you live in Birmingham you should receive a letter at the end of the Summer Term inviting you to apply online
- You are asked to rank 6 schools in order of preference
- The forms will be available for online completion from 1 September to the national deadline of 31st October
- It is possible to provisionally submit your preferences online and then change them later, but not after the final deadline
- If you live in a different authority you should hear from them directly **but call them if you are in any doubt**

The Preference Form – 2

Local Authority Guidance:

Please consider the following carefully before submitting your preference form:

- The order in which you rank schools becomes important if you meet the criteria for more than one school
- If your child meets the criteria for all schools preferred, you are offered your first preference
- If your child meets the criteria for some but not all, you are offered the school ranked highest by you on your Preference Form and where your child has met the admission criteria

The Preference Form – 2

Local Authority Guidance:

- If you only meet the criteria for your lowest preference, ***you are offered that school, above other applicants whose children don't meet the criteria but who have ranked the school higher than you***
- If your child does not meet the criteria for any of your preferred schools it is impossible to offer any of your preferences and you will be offered a place at the school nearest to your address with free spaces available
- It is important to include at least one school where you think you have a good chance of getting a place, for example, a nearby school where you would have got in on the distance criteria in the past

The Primary Independent Sector

- Hallfield School- Boys & Girls
- Blue Coat School - Boys & Girls
- Solihull School - Boys & Girls
- EHS - Girls
- West House - Boys
- Priory and St George's - Boys & Girls

The majority of these schools do offer 'assisted places'. These are mean tested free places for children seen as having the potential to pass the 11+.

The Independent Secondary Sector

- King Edward's High School - Girls
- King Edward's School - Boys
- Solihull School - Boys & Girls
- EHS - Girls
- Bromsgrove, King Henry VIII, Bablake - Boys & Girls
- Priory and St George's - Boys & Girls

Others to consider:

Warwick, RGS/King's Worcester, St Martin's Solihull (Girls), Highclare in Sutton (Co-Ed), Hydesville Tower in Walsall, Wolverhampton Grammar School (Co-Ed), Royal Wolverhampton School (Co-Ed), Lichfield Cathedral (Co-Ed)

Assisted Places & Scholarships

- All independent schools offer a range of financial assistance
- Assisted places or bursaries are based on family income – but be aware that requesting assistance may mean your child needs to achieve a higher mark to be offered a place
- Academic Scholarships are based on performance in the exam and interview. Some schools offer music or sports scholarships as well. Occasionally you will be asked to apply separately for scholarships but not at the King Edward schools

Birmingham Consortium 11+ Exam 2017

PART 1

Word associations – NEW TYPE OF QUESTION

20 QS in 8 minutes. The candidates had to choose from a selection the word that is most associated with a given word. The second section was as above, but they were looking for words that were least associated. These are similar to synonyms/antonyms but with a twist

English Comprehension

A poem

25 questions. 16 mins. Multiple choice. Not an especially hard poem.

NVR

11 mins. Matrices with 2 missing.

30 qs.

PART 2

Maths

Multiple choice format. Familiar problem solving and mental maths required. 18 mins 24 qs. Angles, area and perimeter, probability, ratio and proportion etc 30 mins. Some quite hard.

NVR

Next in a sequence and missing symbols in a new format. Two columns of symbols, the second column has two missing squares. Find the pattern and predict what will be in the blank squares

Cloze

11mins 18 questions. 3 short passages with words missing. Given a large bank of words and needed to insert correct answer (lots of words in the bank remained unused at the end)

Jumbled sentences – which word can't be used?

Maths

Same kind of problem solving questions but not multiple choice – pupils needed to indicate their answers by shading in boxes numbered 0-9 to give a two digit answer

King Edward's School Exam 2017

Boys' School - 3 one-hour long papers in Maths, English & Verbal Reasoning

English

- **English Comprehension**- two sides of text written in the third person, quite a difficult piece. 10 minutes to read 30 minutes to answer. Mostly inferential questions and statements from text required to support your answer. Many long answers also required. Eg. 'Which child in the story acted most sensibly? Give three quotes from the text to support your answer.'
- **Creative writing**. Based on the text they had read, the theme was 'Small mistakes with big consequences'. 45 minutes allocated.

Maths papers A B and C

- Becoming progressively harder. Only 30 questions altogether, very few of them were quick-fire mental maths, they were nearly all genuine problem solving. Algebra required for harder questions in section B and C.

Verbal reasoning

- Generally quite easy and quick-fire answers, 100 questions in 30 minutes. The questions included the old style decoding, problem solving, letters, and putting words and phrases into sequences. Many did require genuine reasoning and we're not really based on the meaning of the words. (These were the traditional type questions that have now gone completely from the grammar school 11+.)

King Edward's High School Exam 2017

- The King Edwards high school exam the last two years have been very different from previous years. They have clearly completely rewritten the exam. For example, there was no non-verbal or verbal reasoning at all.
- Now a one day examination.
- **English**
 - Two comprehension papers, both one hour long. The first one was a poem and the answers required you to give opinions and infer feelings, and to compare the points of view of humans and animals. You were required to write short passages of creative writing as well.
 - The second was a report about a fictional place where the inhabitants were considering, and disagreeing, whether they should leave due to the threat of flooding. You were required to write about the feelings of the characters.
 - You were then required to compose an extended piece of creative writing, completing the story from the point of view of one character.
 - There was also a section on proofreading, where they had to edit a piece of work.
- **Maths**
 - One paper-90 minutes long with no break allowed (concentration a big issue).
 - 30 questions in total. They started with simple arithmetic (missing number) and moved onto word problems. Many of them very difficult and more in line with the boys' KES entrance exam. It was very hard to finish on time and clearly important to show your working. I suspect that algebra was required to do the last five or six questions properly.

To tutor or not to tutor, that is the question

Coaching for Selective Tests

'The local authority policy is that no teaching or coaching for selective tests should take place in any of the City primary schools.'

It is believed that the practice of coaching is counter productive, as over-achievement in the selective tests may be against the long-term interests of children whose ability may be more limited than their test score would suggest.'

To tutor or not to tutor

Some points to note:

- Schools do prepare the children thoroughly for the selective tests if following the new National Curriculum, although some schools do not provide testing opportunities (mocks)
- Remember that a great deal of what is done could be done by yourself, and will be covered in school
- eg Google 'Books for Birmingham 11+ examinations'
- **Some tutoring can be very unhelpful.** In particular, beware of overly prescriptive English coaching
- Does the tutoring build on what they have studied in school? At schools we scaffold the pupils learning, building on what they know whilst a tutor will look for a quick fix that can store up problems later
- Good quality tutoring may be of benefit for children who are close to the borderline, who can say? You are the parents, they are your children, only you can decide

Putting it into perspective...

The good news and the bad news

- In 2018 there are roughly 11,500 Secondary Schools places available in the City of Birmingham.
- Around 6000 children sat the selective exam
- Of these about 1000 will be offered places at selective schools

First the bad news...

- So about 8% of local authority school places are at selective schools
- Only 18% of children who sit the exam will 'pass'
- They are talking about a 'bulge' in the pupil population entering secondary schools over the next 3-5 years

Some advice

- Be realistic about your child's abilities and learning style and embrace that as part of their character
- Ask yourself honestly: Will your child cope with (or enjoy) the intense work demands and the narrow academic focus of the most selective schools?
- A teenager who is crammed to get into the wrong school can be a very unhappy person
- **Aim to get your child into the school where they will be happy and flourish - not the one with that will impress the most people on the car park!**

Any questions?