



General Questions about the 11+ entrance examination for the Slough Consortium of Grammar schools September 2020 Admission

How do I register my child for the 11+ entrance examination?

For a place at any of the Slough Consortium of Grammar schools in Year 7 September 2020 you must register your child to take the 11+ entrance examination by completing our online registration form. You will find the link to www.sloughconsortium.org on the admissions page of any of the Slough Consortium of Grammar schools websites.

When does registration open?

Wednesday 1 May 2019

When does registration close?

Friday 14 June 2019 at 12 midnight. No applications for testing will be accepted after this date.

How do I know that my online registration has been successful?

You will receive a confirmation email to the email address that you have entered, from do_not_reply@sloughconsortium.org.uk as soon as you submit your registration form. If you do not receive this, please contact the admissions department within 24 hours at any of the four Slough grammar schools, having first checked your spam or junk folders. Any queries must be made before the closing date. Registrations will not be complete unless the photograph of your child is uploaded – without this you will not be sent a confirmation email and your child will not be registered to take the test.

You will be asked to create a password **which you must keep to be able to access your child's results**. It cannot be reissued so keep it safely and securely as no paper copies of results will be available. Your confirmation email will give your Username which will also be needed to access results.

Please note that we will use the email address you have provided to send details of the testing arrangements so please ensure it is an account you check regularly.

I am unable to take a digital photograph of my child

If you have difficulty with uploading a recent, digital head and shoulders photo of your child, please contact any of the four grammar schools for help.

My child has another exam on the same day

If your child is sitting a test at any other school or in an area which is not using the same CEM test you must indicate this on the registration form for them to be included on an alternative date. Priority should always be given to your first preference school. Evidence of registration for the other test must be provided to the Slough Consortium by the registration closing date - Friday 14 June 2019 at 12 midnight.

Other schools using the same test

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. **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/consortium at which you register 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 if it is not clear that it is the same child.

What if my child has an Education Health and Care plan?

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.

What if my child has special needs or special medical requirements that I would like to be taken into account for the 11+ entrance examination?

The online registration form asks you to provide details of any access arrangements your child may need. It is particularly important that you tell us if your child has any disability, such as impaired sight or hearing, for which they may need support in the examination. It is also important that you let us know if your child has been formally identified as dyslexic or dyspraxic or has any other medical condition that we ought to be aware of. You will need to provide appropriate professional evidence by the closing date for registration – Friday 14 June 2019 at 12 midnight.

Can my child bring medication (e.g. epipen, inhaler) to the 11+ entrance examination?

Your child may bring their usual medication with them to the test venue. It is important to provide details of this medication on the registration form. Please enter the details in the Access Arrangements box so that your allocated test centre is aware. If required, medication can be kept on the child's desk.

What should my child bring with them to the tests?

Bring the testing arrangements email that we will send to you, pencils, pencil sharpener and a rubber and a SMALL drink and a snack. All information regarding the test day will be in that email. Please note that there are four test centres – read your information carefully so that you attend the correct venue.

Please note that any child arriving late, will not be admitted to the exam room once the test has started.

Are calculators or dictionaries allowed?

Rulers, calculators, dictionaries and mobile phones are not permitted in the examination room so please ensure your child does not bring these items with them. Candidates will **not** be allowed to use scrap paper – any working out can be done in the question booklet.

Pupils need only two HB pencils, a rubber and a pencil sharpener.

Please note that candidates are not allowed to wear iWatches and wrist watches that include a data storage device.

What is the 11+ entrance examination like?

The examination is provided by CEM and will consist of two papers, both taken on the same day. There are no official past papers available but a familiarisation booklet can be found on websites of any of the Slough grammar schools.

What if my child wants to go to the toilet during the test?

We offer lots of chances for children to use toilets before each test. If the request is urgent, they will be allowed to go to the toilet, as long as it is not in the last section of the test. Do not give your child lots to drink in the break - a small drink is sufficient! The test timing will NOT be adjusted for the time missed by going to the toilet.

My child wrote their answers in the question booklet; will it still be marked?

No, only answers recorded on the answer sheet will be marked. 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.

What if my child is unwell or not fit to take the tests on the day?

Our advice is simple:

Please do not let your child sit the test if they are unwell.

Contact your allocated test centre by 5.00pm on Saturday 14 September 2019 by emailing that school's Admissions Officer, explaining the reasons for absence and providing supporting evidence. Alternative arrangements will be made for your child to sit the examination at a later date at one of the centres. However, you should note that without supporting evidence such as a doctor's letter, it will not be possible to test your child at a later date.

Reasons other than illness or serious personal circumstances will not be accepted, and a medical certificate or other evidence will be required.

I have lost my testing instructions

Details will be emailed at the end of the summer term and again at the beginning of September, so check your email first. If you do not have the information you need, contact admissions at one of the Slough grammar schools. Please be aware that schools close for the summer holidays so queries will not be responded to until the start of term.

Why is the collection time approximate?

Our priority is to ensure all children are given the opportunity to do their best in the exams. We have a large number of children to seat and the examination will not begin until all children in the room are settled. Break can sometimes take longer than we plan – we always ensure all children have had a chance to go to the toilet!

What happens if I am late collecting my child?

Initially your child will wait at the arranged collection point under supervision. If you are very late, please come to the main reception area. The office staff will phone you to ensure you are on your way.

What if I want my child to make their own way home?

Children are not allowed to make their own way home, unless they can show a member of staff a letter that gives permission.

Where can I park?

Preferably use public transport to avoid traffic congestion. If you do come by car please follow the instructions in your testing arrangements letter. The test centres are all in residential areas – please be considerate of our neighbours.

When will I get the results?

Results will be available online during October in time for completion of the Common Application Form by 31 October. You will receive an email telling you when the results are available to view. As papers are externally marked, a specific date cannot be given for publication of results. To access your child's result, you will need to log back into your registration form using the username and password provided at the time of registration.

Do you make allowances for age?

For all tests, the raw scores are standardised and age weighted. 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. Children do not simply have marks added because they are born in August, or taken away if they have a September birthday.

What is the pass mark?

We do not refer to a 'pass' mark. The 11+ entrance examination is designed to identify pupils who would be suited to a grammar school education. A score of 111 or greater means that a pupil is eligible to be considered for a place in a grammar school if they were to apply.

If a grammar school is oversubscribed – ie has more applicants than it has places available – places will be offered according to the criteria set out in the individual school's Admissions Policy. A score of 111 in itself is therefore not a guarantee of a place.

You should be aware that the four grammar schools have different criteria under which they will offer places if they are oversubscribed. This may involve offering places in rank order, according to distance from the school, or some other criteria. You must check the admissions policy of each school, and address any questions you may have to the school concerned.

If my child achieves the eligibility mark, does that mean that they will be allocated a place in a Slough grammar school?

No. You may put any of the Slough grammar schools on your common application form as one of your preferences, but the grammar schools are always heavily oversubscribed. Read the admissions policy for each school carefully together with the information provided with your results letter.

Can I appeal for my child's school place?

You have the right to appeal against the allocation of a particular school. Once your son or daughter has been allocated a school place on 1 March 2020, you have a maximum of 20 school days in which to lodge your appeal to the school or schools who did not offer them a place. Appeals are heard on behalf of the school by an independent appeals panel, and must be held within 40 school days of the request being received. Full details of how to appeal will be published on the schools' websites on 1 March 2020.

There are two possible reasons for an appeal.

1. Your son or daughter scored 111 or more on the 11+ entrance examination, but due to oversubscription was not offered a place at a school to which you had applied.
2. Your son or daughter scored below 111 on the 11+ entrance examination, and was therefore not eligible for consideration. If you intend to appeal in the belief that your son or daughter did not perform according to their ability in the 11+ examination, you must have named the school to which you are appealing on the CAF. This is because you can only appeal against a decision not to offer you a place at a school to which you have made an application.

Should you have further questions please contact admissions at any of the Slough grammar schools.