

## A guide to the Grammar School assessment process

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## Types of Assessment

- Wirral LA operates the assessments for Calday, West Kirby, Wirral Boys and Wirral Girls.
- Catholic Selective schools (Upton and St Anselm's) have their own entrance exams.
- Upton Hall use verbal reasoning and an English paper
- St Anselm's use verbal reasoning, English and Maths paper.
- Birkenhead Girls School has their own admissions policy

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## SCHOOLS

- Wirral Grammar for Boys / Girls
- West Kirby Grammar School for Girls
- Calday Grammar School for Boys
- St Anselm's School for Boys
- Upton Hall FCJ (Girls)
- Comprehensive
- Independent Senior

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# Which is the best school?

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| TIMETABLE                                    | This is an example only, not real dates   |
|--|---|
| 31 <sup>st</sup> MAY                         | <b>Deadline</b> for 11+ assessment requests                                     |
| SEPTEMBER                                    | On-line application system goes live<br>Preference forms and booklets available |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER                   | St Anselm's assessment date   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER | Upton Hall assessment date  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER | Non-Catholic selective assessments  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER                      | Birkenhead High School Academy music assessments                                |
| 31 OCTOBER                                   | <b>Deadline</b> for preference forms  |
| 1 MARCH                                      | ALLOCATION DAY  |

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## 11+ ASSESSMENTS AND APPLYING FOR A PLACE

- The outcome of September assessments will be sent to parents prior to 31st October.
- Reached the standard? Apply and put the grammar school down as a preference before 31st October
- Not reached the standard? Apply by 31st October, but don't give the grammar school as a preference as it will be withdrawn

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## 11+ ASSESSMENTS AND APPLYING FOR A PLACE

- Parents can still submit a written appeal after 1st March.
- Appeals will be held the following May and are normally based on circumstantial and academic evidence.

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## 11+ ASSESSMENTS AND APPLYING FOR A PLACE

- If you live in Wirral but want a school place in another local authority (LA), you must apply through Wirral as your home LA (either on-line or paper).
- Parents who don't live in Wirral, but want to apply for a Wirral school, must apply through their home LA. There will be a single offer of a secondary school place. Parents will be informed of their outcome of their applications by their home LA, not by the LA where the school is located.

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## Types of Assessment - Wirral

- Wirral tests will continue to be standardised for the child's age. There will be two papers taken on the same day, in September of Year 6.
- Wirral uses GL assessment which involves verbal reasoning, maths and non-verbal reasoning
- The total score for each paper is 141.
- A score of 236 over the 2 papers is required for eligibility.

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## Wirral Assessment process

- Parents advised their child's test venue in August
- Two multiple choice tests of 45-50 minutes each
- Tests taken on the same day with a short break between
- Mixture of verbal, non-verbal and maths questions on both tests
- Sections are timed using an audio CD
- Pencil and eraser only equipment needed
- Tests are marked centrally by an independent body, not by the test venue
- Parents cannot see test papers or answer sheets

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## UPTON HALL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

- Upton tests will continue to be standardised for the child's age. There will be two papers taken on the same day, in September of Year 6.
- Upton Hall uses GL assessment which involves verbal reasoning, including the "codes".
- They will also use a GL assessment English paper which involves comprehension and GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling)
- The total score for each paper is 141.
- A score of 236 over the 2 papers is required for eligibility.

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## ST ANSELM'S (ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS)

- Boys sitting the entrance examination for St Anselm's will sit 4 papers.
- Two in English, one Maths and one Verbal Reasoning.
- These papers are written and produced by the school

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## PREPARATION

- Preparation will help with confidence, fluency and speed
- Practice gives children best opportunities and are unfamiliar with aspects of verbal and non verbal reasoning.
- Home learning is essential (homework, online resources). Children need to practise their new skills.
- Consider learner motivation Children must commit to regular home learning (for test preparation and meeting grammar school expectations).

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## How can parents help?

- ❖ **Reading.** You cannot underestimate the importance of vocabulary.
- ❖ If your child comes across a word that they don't know. Encourage them to look it up in a dictionary.
- ❖ They should also write it down in their vocab books.
- ❖ **Mental maths.** Again, you cannot underestimate the importance of mental maths, particularly tables.

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## What if?

- ❖ What if my child under performs in the exam?
- ❖ What if my child is experiencing difficult personal circumstances?
- ❖ My child has special educational needs?
- ❖ What if my child misses the test through illness?
- ❖ My child gains the eligibility score?
- ❖ What if, I have to go to appeal (now with LIA).
- ❖ What if I can't make my mind up over which school (selective or non selective)?

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