

Dear Parents,

25th September 2018

SELECTIVE TEST ARRANGEMENTS FOR NON-CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 2019

We are writing to you as the parent/carer of a child in Year 5 attending a Wirral primary or junior school.

If you are considering entering your child for the selective tests (1 1 plus) for the four non-Catholic grammar schools, which are:

- Wirral Grammar School for Boys
- Wirral Grammar School for Girls
- West Kirby Grammar School
- Calday Grange Grammar School

You should be aware that there will be a change to the tests taking place in September 2019 for 2020 entry to secondary school. The selective tests will comprise two tests on the same day, exact date to be confirmed, in September 2019. The style of the tests will not change.

If you are not intending your child to take any selective tests, or you only want your child to be tested for entry to the Catholic grammar schools (St Anselm's or Upton Hall), then you do not need to read any further.

What is changing?

Most children who attend a Wirral primary or junior school are currently tested in their own school. Where only a small number of children at a Wirral school are entered for the test, those children will usually travel to one of the four grammar schools to take the test, alongside children from outside Wirral, and those from private and independent schools..

New arrangements will come into effect in September 2019 for those pupils currently in Year 5 ALL children will sit the tests in one of the allocated test centres, which will be the four grammar schools listed above, or another venue, such as Wallasey Town Hall or Birkenhead Town Hall.

Why is the change happening?

The reason for this change is that on 26th April 2018, the Wirral primary schools voted to end their involvement in the administration of the selective tests. This means there will be no further role for primary schools in the familiarisation and administration of the testing process used to select pupils for the four grammar schools.

This brings the non-Catholic grammar schools in line with the Catholic grammar schools, as Wirral children already travel to take the tests for those schools.

Information regarding the allocation of pupils to each test centre and the test arrangements will be sent out to parents by the Local Authority in July/August 2019.

On behalf of the four non-Catholic grammar schools, please be reassured that the arrangements for testing will endeavour to provide children with a place at the nearest test centre to their home address, and that every effort will be made to minimise any disruption or upset to pupils.