

# **GL Entrance Assessment 2021**

## **Information for Parents**

**November 2020**

# Post-Primary Transfer Consortium GL Assessment

- The Post-Primary Transfer Consortium [PPTC] is made up of 33 Grammar Schools which are listed on the PPTC website.
- PPTC uses GL Assessment - experts in assessment for over 25 years.
- GL Assessment is the UK's largest independent provider of educational assessments.
- Their assessments are used by over 85% of all UK primary and post-primary schools every year.

# Post-Primary Transfer Consortium GL Assessment

- GL Assessment is directed by PPTC to set, mark and standardise assessments in English and Mathematics.
- These assessments are based on the Northern Ireland Key Stage 2 Curriculum.
- Outcomes are used within the Admissions Criteria of PPTC schools.
- There is no charge for taking the Assessment.

# Assessments 2021

- For 2021 some mitigations have been put in place by PPTC.
- The Entrance Assessment has been put back to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to allow every pupil extra time to prepare.
- More time has also been allocated to answer both the English and the Mathematics papers.
  - The English Assessment is 60 minutes - allowing everyone an extra 10 minutes.
  - The Mathematics Assessment is 50 minutes - allowing everyone an extra 5 minutes.
- Details of the Assessment Content are included in the Specification of Use 2020-21 which is included in the registration pack.
- As in previous years, pupils choose from multiple choice answers in both English and Mathematics.

# On the Assessment Day (1)

- The English Assessment begins with a short practice Assessment to help pupils become familiar with the Assessment and with how to complete the multiple choice answer sheet.
- The actual Assessment paper has 3 reading passages and 60 questions on comprehension, spelling, punctuation and general questions.
- Pupils are reminded by the Invigilator when they have 10 minutes remaining.
- At the end of the English Assessment all papers and answer sheets are collected and pupils have a break.

# On the Assessment Day (2)

- After the break the Mathematics Assessment begins with a short practice Assessment to help pupils become familiar with the Assessment and with how to complete the multiple choice answer sheet.
- The actual Assessment paper has 45 questions.
- Pupils are reminded by the Invigilator when they have 10 minutes remaining.
- At the end of the Mathematics Assessment all papers and answer sheets are collected and the pupils wait to be escorted from the assessment room to meet their parents.

# PPTC Entrance Assessment Dates

- It is planned that the Entrance Assessments will be held on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- A Supplementary Entrance Assessment will be held on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021 for children who were absent on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021 or were present initially but not well enough to be present for any part of the second assessment paper.
- The Supplementary Entrance Assessment will be provided at a small number of regional Assessment Centres and not necessarily the Assessment Centre which had been assigned to a particular child for 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

# Access Arrangements

- If your child requires Access Arrangements please complete Form AA1, AA2 or AA3 (Access Arrangements) and attach it to your Registration Form.
- The Access Arrangements Policy may be downloaded from the Information for Parents section at [www.pptcni.com](http://www.pptcni.com) .



# Assessment Day - Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021

- The Entrance Assessment will take place in halls and/or classrooms.
- P7 pupils are usually placed in groups with pupils from their Primary School. They should wear their school uniform.
- Pupils completing the Entrance Assessment in Irish will be placed in a centre with supervisors who speak Irish.
- Robust risk assessments will be undertaken by all PPTC schools.

# Assessment Day - Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021

- In December 2020 parents will be sent an Information Card which outlines arrangements for the Entrance Assessment Day.
- Parents should leave their child at the entrance point at the time and place specified in communication from the PPTC school.
- Staff will welcome the P7 pupils and each pupil will be escorted to the hall or classroom where he/she will sit the Assessment.
- Each centre will follow DE and other relevant guidance in place at the time of the Assessment.
- Due to current restrictions, parents are not permitted to enter the school building.
- Parents should collect their child at the collection point at the time specified.

# Statement of Outcomes

- Outcomes of the Entrance Assessment will be posted (first class) on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to arrive on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- The Statement of Outcomes includes:
  - A Combined Total Standardised Age Score (SAS) (a number in the range 138-282)
  - A breakdown of the Total SAS for English and Mathematics
  - An Overall Entrance Assessment Grade (A, B1, B2, C1, C2, D)
  - A Cohort Percentile Ranking (a number in the range <30 - 99+)
- Every post-primary school publishes its own individual Admissions Criteria and these differ from school to school. Some use the Combined Total SAS, some use Overall Grade and some use Cohort Percentile.
- Parents may request a re-mark. Re-mark requests are accepted until 2.00 pm on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

# Special Circumstances

- Before or during the Entrance Assessment, a child might experience medical or other problems which affect his/her performance in the Entrance Assessment. These difficulties are referred to as Special Circumstances.
- As a preliminary step, parents should complete and submit a SCR (Special Circumstances Registration) Form (available after the assessments) to the Assessment Centre by 2:00 pm on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- Depending on the actual outcomes achieved by the child, parents can then decide whether to make a Claim for Special Circumstances when completing the Application for post-primary education.

# Key Dates

Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 (2.00 pm)	Deadline for receipt of completed Registration Forms
Saturday, 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Entrance Assessment
Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021 (2.00 pm)	Deadline for receipt of requests to take the Supplementary Entrance Assessment.
Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Supplementary Entrance Assessment
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 (2.00 pm)	Deadline for registering claims for Special Circumstances
Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Results of the Entrance Assessment posted (first class) to children's homes.
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 (2.00 pm)	Deadline for receipt of Entrance Assessment re-mark requests.

# Post-Primary Admissions

- The Admissions Criteria for each post-primary school is published by the Education Authority. Schools should be nominated in order of preference.
- The Education Authority intends to implement an online applications procedure for September 2021 year 8 admissions. More detail will be available through the [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk) website.
- Applications Portal Opens – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at 12 noon
- Applications Portal Closes – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 4.00 pm

# Questions

- We hope you have found this presentation on 'Information for Parents' useful.
- Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions, is available on the PPTC website at [www.pptcni.com](http://www.pptcni.com).
- Alternatively, please contact one of the PPTC Assessment Centres and staff will do their very best to help.

## Note:

- *Post Primary Transfer Consortium Ltd may alter any or all of the arrangements for the planning, conduct and marking of the Entrance Assessment and will, in that event, endeavour to inform parents / guardians of such in advance.*