

# **London Borough of Bexley School Admissions Team**

**Starting at Secondary School  
September 2026**

**Information for parents about how to apply  
for a secondary school place and about the  
selection test**



# What will we cover?

- Information for parents
- Selection test
- How to apply for a secondary school place
- Banding tests
- Offers of places
- Timetable

# Information for Parents

- Leaflet about Bexley's Selection Test – April 2025
- Bexley Selection Test registration – 1-31 May 2025
- Booklet about the secondary schools in Bexley and how to apply – September 2025
- Secondary Online application period – 1 September 2025 – 31 October 2025
- School open days and evenings - September/October 2025
- Secondary School websites - see secondary booklet or use Google
- School Admissions web pages:  
[www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions) and [www.bexley.gov.uk/selectiontests](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/selectiontests)
- Contact the School Admissions Team – 020 8303 7777 or email [schooladmissions@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@bexley.gov.uk)

# Selection Test

- Provider is GL Assessments
- Experienced assessment test provider used by many schools and local authorities
- Children will only sit the test if their parent/carer apply. Register online between 1 May and 31 May 2025. Late registration not accepted under any circumstances  
[www.bexley.gov.uk/selectiontests](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/selectiontests)
- All children, including those attending Bexley schools (including independent schools), who have been registered will sit the test during the week of 8 September 2025, either in their own school or at a test centre.
- Both test papers will be taken in the same session, with a short break in between.

# Format of the test

- Each paper lasts approximately 50 minutes, plus additional time for instructions and practice questions
- Separately timed sections of questions
- Examples at the start of each section
- Invigilators will provide instructions on what to do and time warnings
- Question booklet + OMR answer sheet
- All questions in multiple choice format.
- Rough work can only be done on the question booklets

# Test content

- Comprehension
- Verbal ability (including vocabulary)
- Numerical reasoning
- Non-verbal reasoning
  
- Bexley Selection Test is intended to provide as fair an assessment of ability as possible.
  
- Assessing a broad range of abilities will provide a fairer selection process than a test that only assesses one area of ability
  
- 50% of marks for verbal ability and comprehension, 25% for numerical reasoning, 25% for non-verbal reasoning
  
- One age-standardised score covering both test papers

# Getting ready for the test

- Each test session lasts from two and a half to three hours, including instructions, both test papers, short practice examples and a break between the papers
- Coaching or tutoring for the Bexley selection test is not supported by the Grammar Schools or the London Borough of Bexley
- Test questions will be based on what children are learning in school  
Some of the questions will be quite difficult
- Bexley Selection Test will be different test to those held in different authorities or independent schools
- Encourage your child to read widely
- Link to Familiarisation paper sent in registration confirmation email
- Schools may choose to go through sample questions with pupils

# Test results

- Test results sent in October 2025, by email ( Exact date to be advised at a later date)
- In 2024,for admission to secondary school in September 2025, 5,850 children sat the test and 2,012 were deemed selective
- Places are offered according to the oversubscription criteria for each school. This means that even if a student is deemed selective there is no guarantee they will receive an offer. Advice is to always include a local all-ability school in the preferences.
- 800 grammar school places in Bexley in September 2026.
- Places may be offered to children who missed the selective score by one or two marks, only **if** offers have been made to all selective children and there are still unfilled places

# How to apply for a secondary school place

- Read the 'Admission to Secondary Schools in Bexley' booklet that will be available on the Bexley website in September 2025 and get details about any schools in Greenwich, Bromley, Kent etc that you are interested in. Decide on your preferred schools and make sure that your child meets the admission criteria. Some schools now give priority to children of staff, to children attending named feeder schools and to children eligible for free school meals.
- Complete your application online from 1 September 2025, at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk) or visit [www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions) for the link to the e-Admissions site
- Apply to your home Council regardless of where your preferred schools are
- If you really cannot apply online, paper forms can be requested from the School Admissions Team
- Bexley residents can list up to six preferences for any type of school in any area, in order from 1 to 6. You don't have to list 6 schools, but the more you list, the greater the likelihood of being offered a school that you would be happy with. All preferences are equal – schools do not know where you have placed them on your application form

# How to apply

- Include evidence for medical conditions or other requests for priority with your application. If you mention something on your application, you must provide evidence to support it, or it will not be considered
- You must provide evidence of your address and your child's date of birth. Scan and upload evidence with online applications, or send copies to the School Admissions Team by email or post. See the 'Admission to Secondary Schools in Bexley' booklet for full details that will be available on the Bexley website in September 2025
- Supplementary Information Forms must be completed for some schools. In Bexley these are the three faith Academies: St Catherine's, St Columba's and Trinity. Check closing dates for SIFs as they may be different from the application closing date
- Make sure you have provided all the information requested
- The national closing date for applications is 31 October 2025.

# Banding

- Schools that divide applicants into ability bands before allocating places will ask children to sit a Non Verbal Reasoning test in November or December. In Bexley, these will be Hurstmere School, Harris Academy Falconwood and the Harris Garrard Academy.
- Banding is not a pass or fail test but ensures that the school admits a balanced intake of children of all abilities
- Check each school's oversubscription criteria to see how many bands there are and how places are allocated in each band. Children living quite close to a school may not get a place if their band is full with others living even closer, or the school uses random allocation to offer places (Harris Academy Falconwood). Some schools do not give priority to siblings or for medical reasons.

# The offer process

- All the secondary schools in Bexley are Academies and consult on their own admission criteria, which the Local Authority follows when allocating places
- The School Admissions Team exchanges information with the schools in Bexley and other local authorities
- Schools put all applicants into rank order according to the school's oversubscription criteria (eg children in care, medical and social needs, siblings, home to school distance)
- If a child can be offered a place at more than one school, the one that is listed highest on the application will be offered. The other places can then be offered to children lower on the list for that school
- The offer of a place will come from the local authority where you live, even if you are being offered a school in another area
- One offer only. You cannot hold offers of more than one place

# Offers of places

- **If you apply online, you will be sent an email on Monday 2 March 2026, in the evening, with the name of the school your child is being offered.**
- **If you apply online, you will not be sent a letter, only the email**
- **If you apply on a paper form, you will be sent a letter on 2 March with details of the school offered**
- **If you apply online but are not offered your first preference school, there will be details on how to appeal**
- **You will be asked to accept or decline the offer by 17 March 2026 either online or by returning a paper slip**
- **If we can't offer one of your preferred schools, a place will be offered at the nearest, or one within a reasonable travelling distance, school to home with a vacancy**
- **You can ask for your child to be put on waiting lists for higher preference schools than the one offered. Students will automatically be added to waiting lists in Bexley Schools.**
- **Parents have the right to appeal if a school is not offered – contact the school for details**

# Offers for September 2025

- In 2025, over 70% of Bexley children were offered their first preference school and 96% one of their six preferences
- Examples of parents not being offered any of the schools listed on their application are:
  - Only listing grammar schools when the child was not selective.
  - Only listing faith schools and not submitting the SIF or not having a Church connection
  - Not applying for schools near the home address or only listing schools that band
  - Only listing one or two preferences for schools with random allocation or a long way from home

**ADVICE** – list your 6 schools in genuine order of preference but always include one near to your home address and one that doesn't use random allocation. Wait for the test results before applying for grammar schools, and always include at least one all ability school even where the child is deemed selective.

# Online tips

- Site is easy to use and very quick
- You can apply right up to the deadline of 11.59pm on 31 October 2025 but please remember to press the submit button
- You can go back in and change details up to the deadline  
**BUT**
  - Remember to complete all the fields
  - Add full name and date of birth of siblings in the correct field
  - Add any requests for priority on the correct field. Scan and upload supporting evidence or send copies to the School Admissions Team clearly marked with your application reference number
- You will get an email receipt if the application has been submitted correctly. Without the receipt, the application may not be valid
- If you do change anything, make sure that all application details are still correct before re-submitting

# Timetable

April 2025	Leaflet available to parents about the secondary application timetable and the selection test
1 May 2025	Opening date to register online for the Selection Test and to request special arrangements
31 May 2025	Closing date to register online for the selection test and to request special arrangements.
1 September 2025	Online application system opens
Week commencing 8 September 2025	Selection test only for those registered by 31 May 2025
Nation Offer Day	2 March 2026

# Timetable

September/October 2025	Schools open days and evenings
October 2025 – Date to be confirmed	Selection test results sent
31 October 2025	Closing date for secondary school applications
November/December 2025	Banding tests
2 March 2026	Offers sent by email to all parents who applied online Letters posted by first class post to parents who didn't apply online

# Check List

- If you want your child to sit the selection test, register online by 31 May 2025 at the latest – Applications received after this date will not be accepted
- Visit schools in September and October
- Check oversubscription criteria – make sure you know how each school allocates places
- Wait for selection test results before making final preferences
- Complete and return Supplementary Information Forms to faith schools by the published date
- Apply online by 31 October 2025
- Make sure you apply on time! Late applicants will miss out on the most popular schools