

Secondary Selection Tests 2026

London Borough of Bexley

Selection Tests

- Provider is Quest Assessments
- Experienced assessment test provider
- Registration must be completed by parents / carers between 1st and 31st March 2026.
www.bexley.gov.uk/selectiontests
- **Late registrations will not be accepted**
- All registered children will sit the test during the test window of 2nd-10th September 2026, 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.

Test Format

- The test format is unchanged from previous years
- Each paper lasts approximately 50 minutes, plus additional time for instructions and practice questions. The total session will last from 2½ – 3 hours
- Children are supplied with question booklets and OMR (answer sheets). Examples are available on the Bexley website
 - All questions are multiple choice
 - Rough work can be completed on the question booklets
- Invigilators will provide instructions on what to do and time warnings
- There is a short break between the 2 papers

Test Content

There are 4 sections in the test across the 2 papers

- Comprehension
- Verbal ability (including vocabulary)
- Numerical reasoning
- Non-verbal reasoning

Preparing for the test

- Encourage daily reading for enjoyment and understanding.
- Practise basic maths skills in fun, everyday ways — cooking, shopping, games.
- Make space for reasoning activities like puzzles, logic games, and wordplay.
- If using practice materials, focus on small, regular sessions rather than long hours

A calm, rested, and happy child will perform far better than a tired, anxious one.

Support this by:

- Encouraging plenty of sleep
- Providing nutritious meals and time outdoors
- Making sure there's downtime for hobbies, friends, and fun

The aim is to build confidence, not stress.

- The 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 is provided

Test results

- Test results will be sent in October 2026 via the online portal. The date of the results will be posted on the Bexley website
- In 2025, for admission to secondary school in September 2026, 5866 children sat the test and 2070 were deemed selective
- 800 grammar schools places are available in Bexley. Pupils with the top 180 scores are guaranteed a place in one of the 4 grammar schools
- Places are then 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.

Special Arrangements

Information on special arrangements can be found on www.bexley.gov.uk/selectiontests

- It is the parent / carer responsibility to complete the special arrangements requests.
- Headteachers will be required to complete a short supplementary form confirming access arrangements and adjustments in place as part of normal classroom practice.
- Headteachers **do not** have influence on the decision of the special arrangements panel.

Test Centres

- Bexley primary schools who have agreed to act as test centres do not have influence over:
 - The content of the tests
 - The marking of the tests
 - Special arrangement decisions
 - Headteacher review decisions
- Bexley primary school test centres will administer tests on their chosen date within the test window.

Grammar School Test Centres

- Grammar schools will act as test centres for all registered children whose primary school is not acting as a test centre.
- The tests in the Grammar schools will be held between 7th and 10th September 2026

Questions

For enquiries, please refer to www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions and www.bexley.gov.uk/selectiontests

Any queries that cannot be answered on the website should be sent to schooladmissions@bexley.gov.uk