

# **GLA Entrance Assessment Outcomes & Next Steps**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

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## 1. Who set and marked the Entrance Assessment?

The Entrance Assessment was set and marked by GL Assessment (GLA).

## 2. Who is GL Assessment?

Originally founded by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), GL Assessment is the leading provider of formative assessments to UK schools and is a main provider of 11+ assessments. Renowned for their rigour and high quality, GL Assessment tests are used every year in a high proportion of UK primary and post primary schools. You may be familiar with your child taking the Progress in English or Progress in Mathematics assessments in primary school which are GL Assessment products.

GL Assessment is the largest independent provider of educational assessments in the UK and N. Ireland. With over thirty years of experience in this field, GL Assessment enjoys an established, trusted reputation for high-quality assessment resources and services.

## 3. What results or outcomes have I received for my child?

### • Standardised Age Score (SAS)

You have been given the Standardised Age Score for the English and Mathematics assessments. The Standardised Age Score takes account of your child's age when he/she took the assessment, the number of correct answers and the degree of difficulty of the assessment. The SAS gives an indication of how your child has performed in the Entrance Assessment compared to other children within the same age group in the UK.

The Standardised Age Score for English and for Mathematics is given as a number between 69 and 141. As well as the SAS for English and Mathematics, you have received the Combined Total SAS for both assessments, given as a number between 138 and 282. You may be familiar with the scores from standardised tests used in your child's primary school, e.g. Progress in English and / or Progress in Maths, which also use this scale.

### • Overall Grade

An Overall Grade has been provided: A, B1, B2, C1, C2 or D. This grade has been assigned to your child on the basis of his / her Combined Total SAS and is in line with past outcomes for GLA Entrance Assessments.

### • Cohort Percentile

This is a number in a range from <30 to 99+. It indicates how well your child has scored compared to all the other children who sat the assessment. The higher the Combined Total SAS, the higher the Cohort Percentile will be.

***Please make sure that you upload a copy of the GLA Entrance Assessment Outcomes 2021 as part of your child's Transfer Application and keep a copy for your records. In addition, you should accurately record all the outcomes in the spaces provided in the Transfer Application.***

## 4. Why have I received three different types of outcome?

Every post-primary school has published 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.

## 5. How was the grade assigned to my child?

The Combined Total SAS were used to assign grades using the following grade boundaries:

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B1</b>	<b>B2</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Boundary:*</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>138</b>

*The boundary is the minimum Combined Total SAS that a child must achieve to be allocated each grade.*

## 6. Did the age of my child affect his/her results?

An age allowance operates within the scoring of the assessment and it is one of the reasons why GL Assessment will report the results as Standardised Age Scores. In calculating the Standardised Age Score, the age of your child in years and months when he/she took the test was taken into account but no child loses marks because of his/her age.

**7. Does where my child took his/her Entrance Assessment affect the school I want him/her to attend?**

No. The assessment and admission processes are entirely separate. If your child took the Entrance Assessment in any of the Assessment Centres listed at the end of this document, you may apply for a place in **any** of these schools irrespective of where your child has taken the Entrance Assessment. All of these schools have agreed to accept results of children who take the GLA Entrance Assessment regardless of the centre where they have taken the assessment.

**8. Can I have my child's assessments re-marked?**

Yes. If you decide to request a Re-mark, please contact the Assessment Centre to obtain **Form RM1**. Please complete this form and return it to the centre where your child took the assessment. You can apply for a Re-mark of your child's Entrance Assessment up to **2.00 pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**. The Assessment Centre will send your request to GL Assessment, who will hand mark every request and will aim to inform you of the Re-mark outcomes no later than **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022**. There is no cost involved.

**Please note that PPTC encourages parents to submit the completed Form RM1 to the Assessment Centre by noon on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 if possible.** The Centre can then forward your Re-mark request to GL Assessment before the half-term break. (The Assessment Centre will aim to inform parents of Re-mark outcomes by Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 for RM1s received by 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022.)

**Please note that the outcomes of a Re-mark will be taken as the final outcomes regardless of whether the Combined Total SAS and / or Overall Grade and / or Cohort Percentile are increased, decreased or remain the same.**

PPTC understands that parents have until 4pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to notify the Education Authority of any change to Outcomes following a Re-mark, for a Transfer Application that has already been submitted.

**9. Can I have access to my child's Entrance Assessment papers?**

No. The assessment papers and answer sheets belong to GL Assessment. GLA, which owns the copyright on all the assessment materials it produces, does not make the Entrance Assessment material available. Schedule 7 paragraph 9 of the Data Protection Act 1998 provides GL Assessment with an exemption in respect of access to examination scripts.

**10. What do I do now to apply for a place in the post-primary school of my choice?**

If you go to the Education Authority website, [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk) and then to "Admissions" you will find a Section entitled "Post-Primary School Admissions Guide". That section includes several useful materials which include a short video entitled "Admission to Post-Primary School in September 2022". Subtitles in several languages are available on the video. Other helpful materials include a "P7 Transfer Leaflet" and a "Post-Primary Admissions Guide 2022-23".

You will need to complete and submit a Transfer Application by 4pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022. Your child's primary school will share with you an electronic copy of the key information leaflet 'Applying for a post-primary school place'. If applying to one or more schools which use GLA Entrance Assessment Outcomes you must upload a copy of your child's Outcomes to the Transfer Application or attach a copy if you are not using the online service. This information is needed so that post-primary schools know the GL Entrance Assessment outcomes your child achieved.

**11. What Overall Grade, Combined Total SAS score or Cohort Percentile will my child need to be admitted in the school of my choice?**

Every post-primary school has published its own admissions criteria and these are available from the school or from the Education Authority website – [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk). Within its admissions criteria, each school states the number of children who applied and the number who were admitted over each of the past three years.

The minimum grades or Combined Total SAS or Cohort Percentile required for admission to a particular school can vary from year to year.

If you have any queries, you should contact any of the schools you have listed on your child's Transfer Application.

## 12. Which schools are using the GL Assessment Entrance Assessment results?

All 22 schools listed in the Table below are using the results from the GLA Entrance Assessment within their Admissions Criteria for either all or part of their year 8 intake.

The final column indicates if the school is using Grade (✓), \*SAS (✓), a combination of Grade and \*SAS (✓ ✓) or Cohort Percentile. Please note that this column provides an indication only.  
(\*SAS = Combined Total Standardised Age Score)

**You are advised to make sure that you are familiar with the admissions criteria being used by each school you are interested in listing on the Transfer Application.**

School	Address	Web-site	Grade	*SAS
Antrim Grammar School	10 Steeple Road, Antrim, BT41 1AF	www.antrimgrammar.org.uk	Cohort Percentile	
Aquinas Grammar School	Ravenhill Road, Belfast, BT6 0BY	www.aquinasgrammar.com	✓	✓
Assumption Grammar School	24 Belfast Road, Ballynahinch, BT24 8EA	www.assumptiongrammar.org.uk	✓	
Campbell College, Belfast	Belmont Road, Belfast, BT4 2ND	www.campbellcollege.co.uk	Cohort Percentile	
Dominican College Belfast	38 Fortwilliam Park, Belfast BT15 4AQ	www.dominicancollege.org.uk	✓	
Hunterhouse College	Upper Lisburn Road, Finaghy, BT10 0LE	www.hunterhousecollege.org.uk	Cohort Percentile	
Loreto Grammar School, Omagh	James Street, Omagh, BT78 1DL	www.loretogs.com		✓
Lumen Christi College	Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ	www.lumenchristiccollege.co.uk	✓	✓
Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock	120 Gilnahirk Road, Belfast, BT5 7DL	www.knock.co.uk	✓	✓
Rainey Endowed	79 Rainey Street, Magherafelt, BT45 5DB	www.raineyendowed.com		✓
Rathmore Grammar School	Kingsway, Finaghy, Belfast, BT10 0LF	www.rathmoregrammarschool.org	✓	✓
Royal Belfast Academical Institution	College Square East, Belfast, BT1 6DL	www.rbai.org.uk	Cohort Percentile	
Slemish College	147a Larne Road, Ballymena, BT42 3HA	www.slemishcollege.org.uk	Cohort Percentile	
St. Dominic's High School	135-137 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6AE	www.stdominics.org.uk	✓	✓
St Joseph's Grammar School	58 Castlecaulfield Rd, Donaghmore, BT70 3HE	www.stjosephsdonaghmore.com	✓	
St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena	Cullybackey Road, Ballymena, BT43 5DW	www.stlouisgrammar.com		✓
St Malachy's College	36 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2AE	www.stmalachyscollege.com	✓	
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt	3 Castledawson Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6BE	www.stmarysmagherafelt.com		✓
St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon	37 Killymeal Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DF	www.stpatricksacademy.org.uk		✓
St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	109 Saul Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6NJ	www.spgs.org.uk	Cohort Percentile	
Victoria College, Belfast	2a Cranmore Park, Belfast, BT9 6JA	www.victoriacollege.org.uk	Cohort Percentile	
Wellington College, Belfast	18 Carolan Road, Belfast, BT7 3HE	www.wellingtoncollegebelfast.org	Cohort Percentile	