



AQE Information

May 2020



Common Entrance Assessment (CEA)

- 34 grammar schools use the AQE Ltd test (CEA).
- Based on the Key Stage 2 curriculum.
- English & Maths.
- Three 1 hour papers (best two count).
- Test dates: 21st, 28th November & 12th December 2020.
- Taken in one of the 34 AQE schools – not necessarily the one to which application will be made.
- Charge - £55 (but fee waived if child entitled to FSM).



Timetable – May-Dec 20 (1)

- **Registration 14th May – 25th September 2020**
- Online Application forms available from AQE website (www.aqe.org.uk/registration-2020/) – ***NB. parents must apply for their child to sit the tests. They will not be registered by their primary schools.***



Timetable - May-Dec 20 (2)

- AQE processes application forms, confirms test centre and sends out candidate examination number.
- Saturday 14th November (tbc) – Familiarisation day for applicants.
- Tests – 21st, 28th November & 12th December.
- Marking & collating of tests by AQE.



Timetable – Dec 20-Jan 21

- The Board of Governors of each school determines the admissions criteria and it will be published prior to Christmas 2019.
- Results (Age-Standardised scores) sent to parents & to schools (to arrive on 30th January 2021).



Timetable – Feb 21

- Most primary schools will provide guidance to parents on completing the Transfer Form.
- Transfer form completed & forwarded (along with any application for Special Circumstances) to Education Authority.



Timetable – Mar-May 21

- Post-primary schools receive forms and apply published criteria.
- Parents informed of schools allocated.



Criteria for Entry

(subject to amendment)

1. Rank order of the Common Entrance Assessment (CEA) Score.
2. *Sister/Brother of a current pupil.*
3. *Random tie-breaker.*

**Special Circumstances
and
Special Provisions**



Timetable – May-June 21

- If a parent thinks that a school has refused to admit a child because it did not apply its admission criteria correctly, an appeal can be made to an Appeal Tribunal.



Access Arrangements

- Parents wishing to apply for Access Arrangements must complete a second form (ACC 20 – form and guidance notes available from the AQE website – www.aqe.org.uk/access-arrangements-2020/ - and return it to the AQE office.
- An AQE Access Panel will meet to make decisions on all applications for access arrangements.
- Examples of arrangements that may be made include:
 - extra time
 - enlarged test booklet
 - bi-lingual dictionary
 - specific test venue.



Special Circumstances

- Any parent who feels that their son/daughter under-achieved due to circumstances beyond his or her control may make a claim.
- Form SC20 obtained from the AQE office, AQE website or any AQE school after the assessment.
- Completed Form SC20 and any accompanying evidence should be brought to the Transfer interview with the Primary Principal and attached to the back of the Transfer Form.
- Each school will consider claims and decide on the validity of each case.



Other considerations

- Statemented pupils – do not have to sit the CEA. They will continue to be assessed by the Education Authority.
- Pupils who miss all the CEAs – application made to schools under Special Provisions.
- Pupils arriving in NI post CEAs - application made to schools under Special Provisions.
- Irish language version of the CEA will be available.