



BEXLEY SELECTION TEST SEPTEMBER 2020

Special arrangements for children with special or additional needs or disabilities

The London Borough of Bexley will consider applications for special arrangements to enable children with particular needs and disabilities to participate in the selection test for entry to grammar school.

It is expected that the child's need or difficulty will have been identified well in advance of the test and that similar concessions or adaptations to those requested are already being made in the classroom in the child's primary school.

Applications may be made by the Head Teacher of the child's current school or by the parent, but all applications must be accompanied by the required evidence and supporting reports. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all evidence is provided, before the closing date.

Applications should be submitted as early as possible but by Friday 19 June 2020 at the latest, to allow time for assessment and for adapted test papers to be ordered if required. Late applications will not be accepted.

All applications made by the child's current Head Teacher must be made on the Selection Test Special Arrangements Application Form and must be supported by a report from an educational psychologist, doctor or consultant, or a suitably qualified specialist teacher. Applications made by parents should be by letter, enclosing the above assessment reports and a letter from the child's current Head Teacher, as it is necessary for the panel to understand the current arrangements to support the pupil within the school.

Section B of the Selection Test Special Arrangements Application Form should be completed where appropriate to give a profile of the child's difficulties. Only current and correctly administered test results will be accepted, and parents are advised to ensure that tests meet this standard if commissioning a report from an independent Educational Psychologist.

If you are applying for special arrangements for your child, either directly or through the school, you must also register your child separately online. The application for special arrangements is not a valid registration for the test. Details of how to register are on www.bexley.gov.uk/selectiontests.

Each application will be assessed individually by a Panel of appropriately qualified professionals using the following criteria:

- Any diagnosis of dyslexia has been made at least one year in advance of the application and the child's school has put measures in place in the classroom to address the child's needs
- The supporting reports are not more than two years old, unless where a need is not likely to change.

- The cognitive ability of the child is at least average. Special arrangements would not be appropriate for any child who is generally working below the expected age-related levels.
- Specific learning difficulty is seen to be sufficiently detrimental to the child's ability to take part in the testing, to warrant the application of additional time or other assistance, the difficulty would need to be moderate or severe in nature. A mild difficulty experienced by a child who is achieving scores within the expected range would not warrant special arrangements in the selection test.
- Sensory impairments are sufficient to require adaptations in a normal classroom, for example enlarged materials, signed communication, physical adaptations or extra time because of processing difficulties.
- The child's Head Teacher is supporting the application with details of the current measures in place in the school to address the child's needs and a view on whether the child will continue to need similar support at secondary school.

Children with a statement of special educational need or an Education, Health and Care Plan are not automatically entitled to special arrangements in the Bexley selection test. Applications will be assessed using the criteria above.

Applications will not be assessed until all supporting evidence has been supplied. The London Borough of Bexley will aim to make only the same arrangements as the child's school already has in place for tests within school, or intends to request for the KS2 national assessment tests. These may include modified materials, rest breaks, special environment, spoken sessions without audio soundtrack, additional time (25%) or specialist equipment, but not scribes, readers or support assistants, except in extreme cases. It is not possible to complete the test using a laptop.

The outcome of applications will be notified to the person making the application as soon as possible after the decision has been made by the Panel. Applications received just before the closing date in June may not be assessed until after the end of the summer term, and decisions will be sent during the summer holiday. It is not possible to appeal against the Panel's decision.

Children with agreed special arrangements that cannot be provided in the normal test centre will be invited to attend a separate test session. The provisional date for children allowed extra time is 17 September 2020. Other sessions will be arranged as required shortly after the main test dates of 15 and 16 September.

Applications should be sent to:

School Admissions Team
 London Borough of Bexley
 Civic Offices
 2 Watling Street
 Bexleyheath
 Kent DA6 7AT

Email selectiontests@bexley.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday 19 June 2020.