Transfer to Secondary School 2021 - Medway Test Results

Information for pupils assessed as non-grammar at this stage

1. The Medway Test is to assess children for entry to the **Medway grammar schools only**.

These schools are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Holcombe Grammar School *(boys)* | Sir Joseph Williamson’s Mathematical School *(boys)* |
| Chatham Grammar School for Girls *(girls)* | The Rochester Grammar School *(girls)* |
| Fort Pitt Grammar School (*girls)* | The Howard School *(boys) bi-lateral school (designated grammar section)* |
| Rainham Mark Grammar School *(mixed)* |  |

1. The Medway Test is made up of three papers (verbal reasoning, mathematics and extended writing). The tests are marked individually and the results are standardised.
2. **Standardisation** means that each child's score can be compared with those achieved by other children in the group and an allowance made for age so that the youngest are not at a disadvantage.
3. The standardised scores are **weighted**. The weighted scores are then calculated to provide a total weighted score using the following formula:

* 2 x Extended Writing standardised score ***plus***
* 2 x Mathematics standardised score ***plus***
* 1 x Verbal Reasoning standardised score

***The below is for example only:***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Standardised Score* | *Weighted Score* |  |
| *Extended Writing* | *119* | *(119 x 2)* | *= 238* |
| *Maths* | *117* | *(117 x 2)* | *= 234* |
| VR | *122* | *(122 X 1)* | *= 122* |
| *Total weighted score* |  |  | *= 594* |

1. Each year a minimum total weighted score is determined based on 23% of children attending Medway maintained schools in the year group. This sets the score needed to be assessed as grammar. For September 2021 admissions, the minimum total weighted score required to be assessed as grammar is **483**.
2. All children attending Medway maintained schools whose score is above the minimum total weighted score will be assessed as grammar.
3. In addition all children who attend non-Medway schools or Medway independent schools whose score is above the minimum total weighted score will also be assessed as grammar.
4. All children who have taken the tests and achieved scores that are below the minimum score will be deemed non-grammar at this stage\*

***\*please turn over to read information about the academic review process***

**Medway Test Results**

**Academic Reviews**

**Please note:   
All review requests must be received no later than 4pm on Monday 9 November 2020**

**Review requests received after this time will not be processed due to the time constraints of the procedure.**

**What is an academic review?**

The academic review process allows a child’s school work to be looked at to determine whether that shows your child to be of grammar ability, even when the Medway Test scores have determined your child to be assessed as non-grammar.

**Can I ask for an academic review for my child?**If your child has been assessed as non-grammar and you feel that this does not reflect their ability, you can request for an academic review to be undertaken. *Children assessed as grammar cannot request an academic review.*

**What do I need to do first?**  
We strongly recommend that you read this information, information available in our digital information guide ([www.medway.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.medway.gov.uk/admissions)) and discuss your decision with your child’s primary school Headteacher or class teacher before submitting your request.  
  
Ultimately it is your decision as to whether or not you proceed to the next stage and request a review.

**How do I request a review?**  
In order to request an academic review you must complete the “**Review Request Form (R1)**”. This is available to download at [www.medway.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.medway.gov.uk/admissions)nextsteps.   
  
Review request Forms must be sent to: School Admissions & Transport  
 Medway Council  
 Gun Wharf  
 Dock Road   
 Chatham, ME4 4TR

**NB: all requests must be received no later than 4pm on Monday 9 November 2020**

If you submit a review request, we ask that you advise your child’s school so that they can prepare your child’s work books to be submitted when requested by Medway Council to enable the review panel to make a decision.

If your child’s school does not supply the work requested by Medway Council by the time required, the review will not take place for your child. *This does not stop you pursuing an admissions appeal in March 2021, as explained below.*

*Cont’d*

**What happens after your request form is received?**

When we receive the request form, we will contact your child’s school to ask them to submit the academic work. The school must provide:

a) A selection of your child’s Maths, English, Science, Humanities/topic work/curricular books and Reading journals from Term 1 to 4 of year 5 and Term 1 of year 6.

b) Your child’s KS1 results, attainment at the end of Year 5 and predicted attainment at the end of Year 6.

c) A recommendation as to the most appropriate type of secondary school for your child (i.e. grammar or non-grammar)

**Please note:**

* Where your child’s school does not provide the workbooks as specified above, a review of work will not take place.
* The review panel will not look at or take into account any documents or statements provided in addition to those requested. **The review is of academic work only.**

**Who considers the review requests?**

The review panel is made up of senior educationalists from Medway grammar and primary/junior schools. They consider each child’s work individually.

The review panel makes a decision based on the academic evidence provided by the school. Only the academic work is presented to the review panel along with your request form (R1).

**When will I know the review decision?**  
The result of the review will be notified to you in writing by 24 November 2020.

**What is the likelihood of my child being assessed as grammar at a review?**The full Medway Test assessment procedure seeks to assess 25% of the cohort of children in Year 6 in Medway maintained schools as grammar.

* 23% are assessed as grammar directly from their Medway Test scores
* Up to 2% may be found to be grammar from the academic process.

Last year (for 2020 admissions) the review panel considered academic work for 187 pupils and 18 of these were subsequently assessed as grammar. Decisions are based on the academic work provided, so we may not achieve up to 2%.  
  
NB: a grammar assessment through the academic review process only changes your child’s assessment. It does not alter their Test score, as this process is not a re-mark.

**What happens if the review panel does not decide for my child to be assessed as grammar?**If the review decision is that your child’s work does not support a grammar assessment you can still appeal for a Medway grammar school after national offer day (1 March 2021), as long as you name it on your secondary school application.  
  
**Can I only lodge an admission appeal if I have requested a review?  
No**  
You may submit an admission appeal for a Medway grammar school irrespective of whether you have requested a review or not, as long as you have named it as a preference on your secondary school application   
*Cont’d*

**When can I lodge my admission appeal?**Admission appeals cannot be submitted until after school offers are made on 1 March 2021.  
  
Full details of how to appeal will be published in March 2021. This guidance note should be read in conjunction with the School Admission Appeals Code, which is available at [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk).   
  
**Is there any difference to the way an admission appeal is considered if I have had a review?**The table below provides brief detail on the manner in which an Independent Appeal Panel considers a case if a review has been undertaken or not:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Route taken** | **Evidence considered at the admission appeal** |
| **Appeal when an Academic Review has been undertaken** | Where a local review process has been followed the Independent Appeal Panel cannot make its own assessment of your child’s academic ability but must consider whether your child’s review was carried out in a fair, consistent and objective way.   Only in cases where there is insufficient evidence that this has been done may the Independent Appeal Panel then consider any factors you contend may have affected your child’s performance and evidence you wish to submit to support your claim that your child is of the required academic standard. |
| **Appeal when an Academic Review has not been undertaken** | If you chose to not request an academic review and to go straight to an admission appeal the Independent Appeal Panel should consider any factors that you believe may have affected your child’s performance.  The Independent Appeal Panel may then need to consider any clear evidence you present to support your claim that your child is of the required academic standard.  This evidence may include school reports giving attainment information and/or a letter of support from your child’s current or previous school clearly indicating why your child is considered to be of grammar school ability.   Please note that representatives of schools being appealed for are not allowed to provide a letter supporting your appeal or to attend the appeal hearing with you. |