

# **GLA Entrance Assessment Statement of Results**

**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), with whom they continue to work today, GL Assessment has been part of the Granada Learning Group since 2000. Renowned for their rigour and high quality, GL Assessment tests are used every year by over 85% of all UK and N.Ireland primary and secondary 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 largest independent provider of educational assessments in the UK and N.Ireland. With over twenty five years of experience in this field, GL Assessment enjoys an established, trusted reputation for high-quality assessment resources and services.

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

- **Raw Score**

You have been given the Raw Score for both the English assessment and the Mathematics assessment and this is the number of correct answers in each assessment. The maximum Raw Score for English is 65 and the maximum score for Mathematics is 45.

- **Standardised Age Score (SAS)**

You have been given the Standardised Age Score for the English and Mathematics assessments. The Standardised Age Score is calculated from the Raw Score of the assessment taking account of your child's age when he/she took 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 is given as a number between 69 and 141 and the average score is 100. As well as the SAS for English and Mathematics, you have received the combined SAS for both assessments. You will be familiar with the scores from standardised tests used in your child's primary school, e.g. InCAS results, which also use this scale.

- **Cohort Percentile**

This is a score which will only be used by Victoria College Belfast, it ranges from 1 to 99+ and you should refer to the Admissions Criteria published by Victoria College Belfast. If you wish to apply for a place at this school for your child, this score must be recorded in Section C of the Transfer Form.

- **Grade**

A 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 Standard Age Score and in line with the guidance provided to CCEA by the Department of Education for the allocation of grades for the previous Transfer Test.

### 4. Which of these results will the Grammar schools use?

All schools using academic criteria as part of their admissions procedures have published their admissions criteria and these can be found in the booklet you have received from your Education & Library Board. The table given with Q.12 shows the results which each of these schools will use in applying their admissions criteria.

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

The Raw Scores were converted into Standardised Age Scores which were combined before assigning the grades using the following grade boundaries:

| Grades    | A   | B1  | B2  | C1  | C2  | D   |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Boundary* | 235 | 230 | 225 | 220 | 213 | 138 |

\*The boundary is the minimum combined 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 we will report the results as Standardised Age Scores on which the grades are based. 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 Entrance Assessment regardless of the centre where they have taken the assessment.

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

Yes. You should contact the Entrance Assessment Centre where your child took the assessment and ask to have the assessments re-marked. There is no cost involved. The centre will send your request to GL Assessment and will aim to have the re-mark back to you within 5 working days. The closing date for applying for a re-mark of the Entrance Assessment is 4-00 pm on Friday 19th February 2010.

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

No. The assessment papers belong to GL Assessment and they are no longer available to the schools. Schedule 7 paragraph 9 of the Data Protection Act 1998 provides an exemption in respect of access of examination scripts.

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

You will complete the Transfer Form at a meeting with the Principal of your child's primary school. This form allows you to list the post-primary schools of your choice in order of preference and to send the results of your child's Entrance Assessment to these schools.

**11. How will the schools know the results my child achieved in the Entrance Assessment?**

When you will meet with the Principal of your child's primary school to complete the Transfer Form before it is sent to your Education & Library Board, you should record your child's results in Section C of the Transfer Form and attach one copy of the GLA Entrance Assessment results slip to the form to verify the results before you sign the Transfer Form. In Section C of the Transfer Form, you should record the Combined SAS, the Grade and the Cohort Percentile as provided on the GLA results slip.

It is parents/guardians responsibility to ensure that the results are recorded in Section C and the results slip is attached to the Transfer Form even where you are applying to the school in which your child took the Entrance Assessment.

**12. What grade or score will my child need to be admitted in the school of my choice?**

Each school has published the number of grades of children who applied and who were admitted over the last three years in its prospectus. You will see that the grades required for admission change from year to year but this information can be used as a rough guide to the grade your child might need to gain a place in the schools of your choice. If the school that your child is using the Standardised Age Score or Cohort Percentile, you can convert the combined SAS to a grade using the table in question 5 above to compare it to the published information. If you have any queries, you should contact any of the schools you have listed on your child's Transfer Form.

**13. Which schools are using the GLA Entrance Assessment results?**

Every school has published its own admissions criteria and these are available from the school or in the booklet provided to you by the Education & Library Board. 34 schools are using the results from the GLA Entrance Assessment and they are listed in the table below.

Some of these schools are using the grades and others are using the Standardised Age Scores to make decisions on admission. Victoria College Belfast is using the Cohort Percentile. The table below gives contact details for the schools using the GLA Entrance Assessment as part of their admissions procedures:

|  |                                       |  | Grade | Score |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-------|-------|
| Aquinas Grammar School                   | Ravenhill Road Belfast BT6 0BY        | <a href="http://www.aquinasgrammar.com">www.aquinasgrammar.com</a>             | ✓     |       |
| Assumption Grammar School                | 24 Belfast Road Ballynahinch BT24 8EA | <a href="http://www.assumptiongrammar.org.uk">www.assumptiongrammar.org.uk</a> | ✓     |       |
| Ballymena Academy                        | Galgorm Road Ballymena BT42 1AJ       | <a href="http://www.ballymenaacademy.org.uk">www.ballymenaacademy.org.uk</a>   |       | ✓     |
| Christian Brothers' Grammar School       | Kevlin Road Omagh BT78 1LD            | <a href="http://www.cbsomagh.org">www.cbsomagh.org</a>                         | ✓     |       |
| Christian Brothers' Abbey Grammar School | Courtenay Hill Newry BT34 2ED         | <a href="http://www.abbeycbs.org">www.abbeycbs.org</a>                         | ✓     |       |
| Dominican College Belfast                | Fortwilliam Park Belfast BT15 4AQ     | <a href="http://www.dominicancollege.org.uk">www.dominicancollege.org.uk</a>   | ✓     |       |

|  |  |                                    | Grade                | Score |
|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Dominican College Portstewart                | 2 Strand Road Portstewart<br>BT55 7PF          | www.dominican-portstewart.org.uk   | ✓                    |       |
| Lagan College                                | 44 Manse Road Belfast BT8<br>6SA               | www.lagancollege.com               | ✓                    |       |
| Loreto College Coleraine                     | Castlerock Road Coleraine<br>BT51 3JZ          | www.loretocollege.org.uk           |                      | ✓     |
| Loreto Grammar School Omagh                  | James' Street Omagh BT78<br>1DL                | www.loretogs.com                   |                      | ✓     |
| Lumen Christi College                        | Bishop Street Derry BT48<br>6UJ                | www.lumenchristicollege.co.uk      |                      | ✓     |
| Mount Lourdes Grammar School                 | Belmore Street Enniskillen<br>BT74 6AB         | www.mountlourdes.com               | ✓                    |       |
| Our Lady and St Patrick's College Knock      | Kingsway Gardens Belfast<br>BT5 7DQ            | www.knock.co.uk                    | ✓                    |       |
| Our Lady's Grammar School                    | Chequer Hill Newry BT35<br>6DY                 | www.ourladysgrammar.org.uk         | ✓                    |       |
| Portora Royal School                         | Derrygonnelly Road<br>Enniskillen BT74 7HA     | www.portoraroyal.co.uk             | ✓                    |       |
| Rainey Endowed                               | 79 Rainey Street Magherafelt<br>BT45 5DB       | www.raineyendowed.com              |                      | ✓     |
| Rathmore Grammar School                      | Kingsway Finaghy Belfast<br>BT10 0LF           | www.rathmoregrammarschool.org      | ✓                    |       |
| Sacred Heart Grammar School                  | 10 Ashgrove Avenue Newry<br>BT34 1PR           | www.shsnewry.com                   | ✓                    |       |
| Slemish Integrated College                   | 147a Larne Road Ballymena<br>BT42 3HA          | www.slemishcollege.org.uk          | ✓                    |       |
| St Colman's College                          | Violet Hill 46 Armagh Road<br>Newry BT35 6PP   | www.stcolmans.org.uk               | ✓                    |       |
| St Columb's College                          | Buncrana Road Derry BT48<br>8NH                | www.stcolumbs.com/joomla           | ✓                    |       |
| St. Dominic's High School                    | 135-137 Falls Road Belfast<br>BT12 6AE         | www.stdominics.org.uk              | ✓                    |       |
| St Joseph's Grammar School                   | 58 Castlecaulfield Road<br>Donaghmore BT70 3HE | www.stjosephs.donaghmore.ni.sch.uk | ✓                    |       |
| St Louis Grammar School Ballymena            | Cullybackey Road Ballymena<br>BT43 5DW         | www.stlouisgrammar.com             |                      | ✓     |
| St Louis Grammar School Kilkeel              | 151 Newry Road Kilkeel<br>BT34 4EU             | www.stlouis.org.uk                 | ✓                    |       |
| St Malachy's College                         | 36 Antrim Road Belfast BT15<br>2AE             | www.stmalachyscollege.com          | ✓                    |       |
| St Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School | 147a Glen Road Belfast<br>BT11 8NR             | www.stmaryscbgs.com                | ✓                    |       |
| St Mary's Grammar School Magherafelt         | 3 Castledawson Road<br>Magherafelt BT45 6AX    | www.stmarysmagherafelt.com         |                      | ✓     |
| St Michael's College Enniskillen             | Chanterhill Road Enniskillen<br>BT74 6DE       | www.saintmichaels.org.uk           | ✓                    |       |
| St Patrick's Academy Dungannon               | 35 Killymeal Road<br>Dungannon BT71 6DF        | www.stpatricksacademy.org.uk       |                      | ✓     |
| St Patrick's Grammar School Armagh           | Cathedral Road Armagh<br>BT61 7QZ              | www.stpatricksarmagh.org           | ✓                    |       |
| St Patrick's Grammar School Downpatrick      | Saul Street Downpatrick<br>BT30 6NJ            | www.stpatricksdownpatrick.org.uk   | ✓                    |       |
| Thornhill College                            | Culmore Road Derry BT48<br>8JF                 | www.thornhillcollege.org.uk        | ✓                    |       |
| Victoria College                             | Cranmore Park Belfast BT9<br>6JA               | www.victoriacollege.org.uk         | Percentile<br>Cohort |       |