

HIGHGATE

Criteria for entry to Year 7 (11+)

The children who benefit from an education at Highgate are bright, motivated and sociable young people, keen to learn and willing to rise to the challenges of a curriculum that stretches them academically. In Year 6, they should be capable of working independently for at least thirty minutes without adult supervision or prompting.

Decency and sensitivity towards each other are qualities we value highly. In the classroom and at play, therefore, we expect our pupils to be respectful, cooperative and considerate.

We test the children formally in English, Mathematics and non-verbal reasoning. Interviews will be held for those invited, following the tests.

English

The test in English is written to identify pupils who are confident with language, both in their reading and their writing. We would expect the very best candidates to

- Read for explicit and implicit meaning
- Analyse how a writer achieves effects through the use of language and grammar features
- Express themselves with concision and precision
- Ability to respond to a specific task with creativity and ambition
- Secure grasp of spelling, punctuation and grammar rules

The test will consist of a passage to read. There will be some comprehension-based questions. Technical knowledge of English will be important. Those who can identify parts of speech and stylistic devices will be rewarded. The ability to employ a range of vocabulary will also attract higher marks. Some questions will invite a creative response.

Mathematics

The test in Mathematics is written to identify pupils who have a secure knowledge of arithmetic, a clear understanding of the mathematical concepts covered by Key Stage 2, and a confident control of the associated techniques. The ability to reason coherently and clearly, and to explain in writing one's reasoning, is of paramount importance: some questions will explicitly request that detailed justification of a solution to a problem be given. There will be a mix of short questions and longer ones; some will be unstructured.

The test will not require knowledge beyond that taught at Key Stage 2. The following areas are of particular importance:

- Number
 - Place value
 - Properties of numbers
 - Positive and negative integers
 - Fractions, decimals and percentage
- Calculations
 - Pencil and paper procedures
 - Estimation and approximation
 - Checking results

- Solving problems Using appropriate operations to solve problems
- Shape and space Shapes, lines and angles
 Perimeter and area

Activity session and Interview

We expect to invite a considerable proportion of those who take the test back for an activity session. This is not further academic testing; instead, it is an opportunity for us to assess each child's "teachability" and his or her likely overall contribution to the school. Children take part in practical lessons, last year these were Art and Design Technology, where they get an opportunity to produce something to take home with them. There is a more formal interview where children complete a problem and take part in a creative project as part of a small team, usually 3 or 4.

No explicit preparation is required for the interview.

Report from current school

We request reports from each child's current school and consider this information to be very important. We may speak directly to a child's school if we believe this would be helpful.