

Highgate School

Criteria for entry to Year 7 (11+)

The children who benefit from an education at Highgate School 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; there are also two interviews (on the same day) 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

- be able to read and show understanding of the intention and the vocabulary of a piece of text, either fiction or non-fiction (the passage will not come from a children's book but will be both suitable and challenging for a pupil in y6 to deal with)
- demonstrate an ability to look beyond the surface meaning of a text;
- be able to express themselves on paper in a clear and precise way;
- write creatively, developing a reading of a stimulus text into a personal response.
- respond thoughtfully to open questions;
- identify technical grammatical and stylistic features of language;
- demonstrate an ability to spell, punctuate and use grammar accurately in their writing;

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

Interview

We expect to interview a considerable proportion of those who take the tests. There are two parts to the interview: in the first, the children are in pairs; in the second, children are interviewed individually about their interests and hobbies. There is no further academic testing; instead, this is an opportunity for us to assess each child's "teachability" and his or her likely overall contribution to the school.

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.

Revised 11/9/09

Key Dates for 11+

Applications must be received by 30 November 2009 at the latest

11+ Entry Tests will take place on Thursday 14th January 2010

Interviews will take place from Tuesday 26 January to Friday 29 January
Offers sent out Tuesday 23 February

Please address any queries to the Admissions Coordinator, Julia Condor, on 020 8347 3564 or email to admissions@highgateschool.org.uk