

CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO HIGHGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL AT 7+

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 7+ TESTS

GENERAL

The children will be given three separate exam papers (Maths, English and Non-Verbal Reasoning). They will be required to sit and work independently for an extended period of time (up to 50 mins per paper). The instructions will be verbal as well as written and the children will be expected to interpret these without assistance. In addition to achieving a good performance in all three tests, we would expect the children to behave in a courteous and cooperative manner on the test day and be well-motivated to complete the tasks to the best of their ability.

ACADEMIC - English

A two-part paper, consisting of a written comprehension and short story-writing task.

For the comprehension paper, the children will be expected to read and extract relevant information from a passage, which could be from a variety of different writing genres. They will need to explain language choices and make inferences about the content of the passage. For the writing task they will be given a prompt and should write a simple story with a clear beginning, middle and end, which should include some descriptive language. Though the marking criteria emphasises composition and effect, the children will also be assessed on their spelling and ability to use simple punctuation reliably. We would expect them to spell many commonly occurring words correctly and have a good sense of spelling rules and patterns.

ACADEMIC - Maths

The Maths paper consists of a selection of mixed concepts and may include the following topics:

- Read and write two-digit and three-digit numbers in figures and words; describe and extend number sequences and recognise odd and even numbers.
- Explain what each digit in a two-digit number represents and partition such numbers.
- Order and compare numbers and position them on a number line using the greater than (>) and less than (<) signs.
- Find one half, one quarter and three quarters of shapes and sets of objects.
- Derive and recall multiplication facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times-tables and the related division facts.
- Use written methods and related vocabulary to support multiplication and division.
- Use the symbols +, -, x, ÷ and = to record and interpret number sentences involving all four operations; calculate the value of an unknown number in a number sentence.
- Visualise and identify common 2-D shapes and 3-D solids; sort, make and describe shapes, referring to their properties.
- Use lists, tables and diagrams to sort objects.
- Use the units of time (seconds, minutes, hours, days) and to identify time intervals; tell the time on analogue and digital clocks.
- Estimate, compare and measure lengths, weights and capacities, choosing and using standard units (m, cm, kg, litre).
- Solve word problems involving the four number operations in various contexts.
- Present solutions to problems in an organised way, explaining results in pictorial or written form.

ACADEMIC - Non-Verbal Reasoning

In this multiple-choice paper, children are required to spot patterns and solve problems using visual reasoning.

THE INTERVIEW DAY

We invite approximately half the candidates to come back to Highgate for an interview day in January. This is many more children than we have places for in Year 3. Our admissions panel considers the children's interview day performance alongside their test scores when making offers.

On the interview day, children can expect to participate in classroom-based lesson activities and a small group discussion. At no stage do they have a formal 1:1 interview. Our assessors will be looking out for the children's character skills, (outlined below) with a focus on cooperation and good judgement. Children attending interviews will be expected to be able to work collaboratively in small groups and to be comfortable with taking turns and sharing.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE START OF YEAR 3

Independence

We help the children to develop their sense of pride in their school by being smartly dressed, with neat hair and tucked-in shirts. It is important that children have good personal hygiene and have established routines at home. We would like the children to be able to dress and undress independently, fasten zips and buttons and to tie shoelaces. As a lot of things go missing during the first few weeks of term, the children are encouraged to take increased responsibility for their own belongings and to show respect for the property of the school and that of other pupils. We actively monitor the children's eating habits and encourage independence and good table manners in the dining hall. Children are expected to be able to cut up their own food, use cutlery correctly and eat a range of foods.

School Values and Character Skills

At school and beyond we aim to foster:

- A passion for learning.
- Being a positive and productive member of the community.
- Living a healthy life.

This is underpinned by our Character Skills programme, which focuses on nine different skills that all children are expected to demonstrate and develop during their time at Highgate.

1. Resilience and Effort
2. Independence
3. Cooperation
4. Creativity
5. Organisation and Focus
6. Reflectiveness
7. Good Judgement
8. Empathy
9. Persistence

Please see www.highgateschool.org.uk/admissions for further details.

N B *The points outlined above are a guide for parents only.*

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