

Local Review Process – Southern Area
Committee of Reference Meeting Minutes
10th February 2021

Present were representatives from the following:

King Edward VI School (KES) – Bennet Carr
Alcester Grammar School (AGS) – Clive Sentance
Stratford Girls' Grammar School (SGGS) – Jacqui Cornell

Warwickshire County Council Representatives:

Hayleigh Lynch (Grammar School Admissions Officer)
Cheryl Wild (Lead Officer for Admissions)

Apologies:

N/A

Introductions:

The LO thanked everyone for attending and details of the main testing dates were given, including the number of candidates sitting the test so far this year, which was approximately 2100 children who sat the test with Warwickshire, and an additional 1000+ children who sat the test with Birmingham but whose results have been shared between both authorities.

General information relating to the testing process

The main testing dates for Warwickshire were Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 November 2020, with a further supplementary date on 23 January 2021. The main sessions were delayed from September in accordance with DfE guidance surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

NB: There was also a final session for on-time candidates held on 12 February 2021.

Testing delays in November due to the current COVID-19 situation caused some concerns however these were dealt with accordingly.

The testing so far has consisted of 48% female and 52% male.

Shared Testing Process:

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) - representing the six grammar schools within the county - and The Foundation of Grammar Schools in Birmingham (BH) have agreed, for the September 2021 entry year, to operate a shared testing process. This means that, for children who wish to be considered for grammar schools in both authorities, only one sitting of the 11+ test will be undertaken and the results from that one test will be shared between both authorities. The same 11+ test has been used for this year of entry, with all admission authorities involved agreeing to this process prior and determining it within their admission arrangements for 2021 entry.

Test and Scoring Format:

Members were reminded of the three sections tested within the papers: Verbal Reasoning (VR), Numeracy (Num), and Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR). The answer format has not changed from last year, in line with the shared testing process, ie: candidates must enter every answer to the questions within the test on to a separate answer sheet. All questions are multiple choice, with a 'lottery style' marking system in operation. Full instructions are supplied through an audio CD recording, with

these being reiterated in written format on the actual answer sheets. Each test paper is broken down into short, timed sections, with each section comprising an example question prior to the timed questions commencing so that candidates are aware of the question structure and the required answer format.

Score Data:

Analysis on test score data was handed out to the Committee Members, including data comparing the scores achieved by each gender and data concerning the top 200 scorers and the bottom 200 scorers.

Committee Members were reminded that the same papers were used for the cohort, regardless of when the child sat the test.

Provisional Qualifying Scores

King Edward VI School

Proposed Qualifying Score for KES = 240

- Category 1 (LAC + QS or up to 20 below) = 0
- Category 2 (PP + QS or up to 20 below) = 3 (Not published)
- Category 3 (In Area + QS) = 84 (down to a score of 240 - *split by distance, offers made up to a distance of 16.317 with 3 students remaining on the waiting list.*)
- Category 4 (Out Area + QS) = 0
- Category 5 (Waiting list range) = 0

Total number of places is 87.

A score of 230 was agreed as the minimum waiting list score.

Alcester Grammar School

Proposed Qualifying Score for AGS = 221

- Category 1 (LAC + QS) = 0
- Category 2 (PP + QS) = 0
- Category 3 (In Area + QS) = 150 (down to a score of 221 - *split by distance, offers made up to a distance of 13.803 with 5 students remaining on the waiting list.*)
- Category 4 (Out Area + QS) = 0
- Category 6 (Waiting list range) = 0

Total number of places is 150.

A score of 215 was agreed as the minimum waiting list score.

Stratford Girls' Grammar School

Proposed Qualifying Score for SGGs = 224

- Category 1 (LAC + QS or up to 10 below) = 0
- Category 2 (PP + QS) = 1 (Not published)
- Category 3 (In Area + QS) = 119 (down to a score of 224 - *split by distance, offers made up to a distance of 10.776 with 5 remaining on the waiting list.*)
- Category 5 (Waiting list range) = 0

Total number of places is 120.

A score of 218 was agreed as the minimum waiting list score.

Further Discussions

Other Comments:

Changes can happen to the above numbers however this is the current indication of the first offers that will be made after confirmation with the school. After Offer Day, approximately 190 late testers will also need to be included.

Each Member was provided with an 'SEN/Access Arrangements' spreadsheet to refer to.

This was considered by each Member and each were then given the opportunity to refer any individual cases for further consideration.

Members understand that such requests have been dealt with previously during the assessment process with a specialist SEN Panel, which included colleagues from the Integrated Disability Service (IDS) and a Senior Educational Psychologist from Warwickshire County Council. However, if there is anything any Member wishes to raise further regarding the access arrangements, either approved or not approved, in these cases then this was the opportunity to do so.

Access Arrangement Referrals:

- **Do Committee Members wish to refer any child who applied for assistance in accessing the 2021 entry 11+ test due to SEND or medical issues?**

All Members agreed that no referrals were required.

- **Do all Members agree that the arrangements that were considered and provided (or not) were fair and consistent?**

All Members agreed that the Access Arrangements process was fair and consistent.

Other Comments:

Individual Case Referrals: All Members agreed that no individual circumstances will be considered through the Local Review Process, but families will be able to outline their specific cases through an appeal at a later stage, should this be required.

Any children who have a statement of Special Educational Needs/Education, Health and Care Plan, who have met the relevant admissions criteria for a grammar school offer, were also discussed, where relevant.

Closing:

The LO reiterated that, at this stage, everything is provisional, and nothing will be confirmed

until later in the process.

If the information within these minutes does change at any point, then this will be reflected as an additional note (NB:).

No Further Business