

Preparing for the 11+ /statistical information for guidance

The purpose of the 11+ test is to select the children who have the potential to thrive in an environment which provides a highly academic curriculum, which also has depth and breadth, and a range of challenging pursuits. Such children will have demonstrated some of the following:

- curiosity, enjoyment of learning and problem solving
- perseverance and completion of challenging tasks
- understanding of all concepts taught at primary school
- enjoyment of a wide range of literature and/or non-fiction text
- creativity in sustained writing
- ability to make connections between various areas of knowledge
- good memory
- imagination and original ideas
- ability to work at pace and assimilate information quickly
- appreciation of numerical conventions
- ability to apply mathematical concepts

The Headteachers of the CSSE schools believe that in addition to the above, children should:

- be familiar with reading and responding to texts with a reading age greater than 11
- understand the rudiments of spelling, grammar and punctuation

Whilst it is advisable for children to spend a few hours familiarising themselves with the style of responses required in the papers, this can be done at home, using materials and papers available on the CSSE website.

Headteachers share a concern that extensive coaching for the 11+ is inappropriate, ultimately counterproductive and may jeopardize a child's ability to cope with the demands of a highly academic curriculum.

The precise difficulty of papers can vary and entry requirements are based on standardised score calculations which depend on the performance of the cohort. In addition, application numbers for any particular schools may vary over time and this will affect entry cut off scores. It is therefore impossible to give any exact guidelines about how well candidates need to do on 11+ papers in order to be offered a place in a school.

However, based on recent data and assuming an equal performance on English and Maths, the following are **rough guidelines** of the percentage score necessary on the papers:

55-60% for the Southend grammar schools' priority area and other Southend schools

65% for out of area places at most of the Southend grammar schools

65-70% for Colchester County High School

70% for CRGS and for KEGS priority area

75% for KEGS out of priority area