



BANBRIDGE ACADEMY



# WELCOME

# Banbridge Academy

**Entry to Year 8 (Form 1)**  
**September 2024**





# Banbridge Academy

Mr D Livingstone	Chairman
	Board of Governors
Mr R McLoughlin	Principal
Mrs H Evans	Vice Principal
Mr D McFarland	Vice Principal
Mrs H Morrison	Senior Teacher
	<i>(i/c SEAG Assessment Arrangements)</i>





# Outline of Presentation

- Transfer Procedure
- Key Dates
- Registration Arrangements
- SEAG Assessment
- Admissions Criteria
- Further Information





# Roles in the Process

## Role of Department of Education

To determine Admissions Arrangements

To communicate details to schools

To set Admissions and Enrolment numbers

## Role of Education Authority

Administer EA online application system

Application Timeframe

Issue of Parents' Guide

Statements of SEN





# Roles in the Process

## Role of Primary Schools

- Assist parents with the procedure
- Support with Claims for Special Circumstances

## Role of Boards of Governors (Post-Primary)

- Statutory Admissions Authority
- Draw up & publish Admissions Criteria
- Apply Admissions Criteria
- Fill all places up to the approved Admissions Number





# The SEAG 2023 Entrance Assessment

# The 2023 Entrance Assessment General Information

- **For pupils who will be transferring to post-primary school in September 2024.**
- All 62 schools in N.Ireland which use academic selection for all, or for a portion, of their admission to Year 8 are members of SEAG.
- **SEAG schools will use the outcomes from the 2023 Entrance Assessment within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria.**
- Parents / guardians who are considering one or more of these 62 schools for their child(ren) should register their child(ren) to sit the Entrance Assessment\*.

*\* There is a separate admissions procedure for children who have a formal “Statement of Educational Needs”.*



# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## Key Dates

- **Registration Period**  
Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 (9.00am) – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 (5.00pm)
- **SEAG Entrance Assessment Paper 1**  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (am)
- **SEAG Entrance Assessment Paper 2**  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (am)
- **SEAG Outcomes released to parents / guardians**  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024





# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## Really Important

### Registration

- Only pupils who have been registered to sit the Entrance Assessment by 5.00pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 will be able to sit the Assessment.
- There is NO late registration after the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 deadline.
- If a pupil has not been registered he / she will NOT be able to sit the Entrance Assessment.

### SEAG Entrance Assessment Papers

- The Entrance Assessment consists of two Assessment Papers taken a fortnight apart.
- Pupils sit both Papers. It is not a choice between sitting Paper 1 or Paper 2.

### SEAG Outcomes

- These will be available **online** from Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## The Registration Process (Step 1)

- Parents / Guardians will use a portal in the website [www.seagni.co.uk](http://www.seagni.co.uk)

### Step 1 Parent / Guardian Registration

**The Registration process starts with the parent / guardian creating their own account in the portal.**

This Step involves providing an email address.

If, for example, a parent has twins sitting the Entrance Assessment then both Pupil Applications can be carried out using the same Parent Registration with the same email address.



# The 2023 Entrance Assessment The Registration Process (Step 2)

## Step 2 Pupil Application

**Details about the pupil who is being registered are entered and the parent / guardian chooses the SEAG school where he / she would like their child to sit the Entrance Assessment.**

The name and date of birth which the parent / guardian enters MUST be identical to the information on the birth certificate for the Pupil Application to be valid.

Parents / Guardians select, from a drop-down list, the SEAG school (Assessment Centre) which is most convenient for their child to sit the Entrance Assessment. The drop-down list will, initially, contain all 62 schools but, over time, a school could reach its maximum capacity. If that happens that school will no longer appear in the list of choices.



# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## The Registration Process (Step 3)

### **Step 3**      **Add Essential Documentation**

**The birth certificate and passport sized photograph are uploaded to confirm the identity of the pupil.**

When registering their child a parent / guardian can save the details and return later to the portal to complete the process.

However, the birth certificate and a passport sized photograph need to be available and uploaded at some point.



# The 2023 Entrance Assessment The Registration Process (Step 4)

## Step 4 Optional Documentation

**Some parents / guardians may wish to request “Access Arrangements”. Details, e.g. the Access Arrangements Policy, are provided, in the portal, at this Step to assist.**

**Those requesting Access Arrangements must upload supporting documentation as part of this Step.**

The SEAG Access Arrangements Panel will evaluate and make decisions on each request based on the evidence provided. Those decisions will be communicated to parents through the portal.

# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## The Registration Process (Step 5)

### Step 5      Payment

**As part of the pupil registration process the parent / guardian is required to pay a non-refundable administration fee of £20 through a secure online payment method.**

**Those entitled to Free School Meals (FSME) are exempt from the administration fee but must provide necessary verification of FSME status.**

Parents / Guardians will need to make sure that they have a debit / credit card available to make the payment OR if exempt through FSME then evidence of FSME must be uploaded.



# The 2023 Entrance Assessment The Registration Process (Step 6)

## **Step 6**      **Registration Complete**

**A completed pupil registration is confirmed through the online portal.**

# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## The Papers (1)

- Details, including the format and specification of the Entrance Assessment, are provided on the SEAG website.
- Two SEAG Practice Papers, along with Practice Answer Sheets and a Guide for Parents with the Answer Keys for each question on each paper, are also provided.

In summary:

- The Entrance Assessment consists of Paper 1 and Paper 2.
- Both Papers have an identical format.
- Each starts with a Practice Test section containing 5 English (or Gaeilge) questions and 5 Maths questions.
- The Practice Test section allows pupils time to settle and practise answering the same types of questions as those in Main Paper but without those questions being marked or timed.
- The Practice Test section is followed by an English (or Gaeilge) section which has 28 questions and then a Maths section which also has 28 questions.



# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## The Papers (2)

- The actual Entrance Assessment papers to be taken in November 2023 have the same format as the Practice Papers which are on the website.
- The English (or Gaeilge) begins with a punctuation exercise (5 questions), followed by a grammar exercise (5 questions) and a spelling exercise (5 questions). All 15 questions are multiple choice.
- Next, pupils are asked to read a comprehension passage and answer 13 questions which follow. Questions 16-22 are multiple choice and questions 23-28 are “free response” where the pupil writes a short answer to each in the space provided in the Answer Sheet.
- The first 22 Maths questions (29-50) are also multiple choice and the final 6 questions (51-56) are “free response” where the pupil writes a short answer to each in the space provided in the Answer Sheet.
- Invigilators tell the pupils when to start the Main Test and pupils will have 60 minutes\* to work through the paper (\*unless granted additional time through Access Arrangements).
- Each pupil is free to start the Main Test with either the English (or Gaeilge) or the Maths section.

# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## SEAG Outcomes (1)

- **Parents / Guardians will receive five outcomes for their child.**
  - The first two are those which are most likely to be used by SEAG schools within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria.
  - The other three outcomes provide additional information for parents and schools.
1. **The Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS)**
  2. **The Band**
  3. **The English (or Gaeilge) SAS**
  4. **The Maths SAS**
  5. **Information about the Cohort Percentile Ranking**

# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## SEAG Outcomes (2)

### 1. The Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS)

- **This is the pupil's overall outcome from the SEAG Entrance Assessment based on answers to the 56 English (or Gaeilge) Questions in Papers 1 and 2 and the 56 Maths questions in Papers 1 and 2.**
- The Total SAS is the sum of the English (or Gaeilge) SAS and the Maths SAS.
- The Total SAS range will be 138-282 with a mean (or average) of 200.

*A Standardised Age Score (SAS) takes account of a child's age when he/she took the assessment, the number of correct answers and the degree of difficulty of the assessment. Parents / Guardians may be familiar with the scores from standardised tests used in their child's primary school, e.g. Progress Test in English and / or Progress test in Maths, which also use SAS.*



# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## SEAG Outcomes (3)

### 2. The Band

- There will be six Bands.
- The Bands will be designated as Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4, Band 5 and Band 6.
- Cohort Percentiles will be used to determine the borderline for each Band (See Outcome 5).

SEAG Band	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cohort Percentile	60%+	50-59%	40-49%	30-39%	20-29%	<20%

*60%+ (Band 1) means pupils who are in the top 40% of those who sat the Assessment; 50-59% (Band 2) means pupils who are in the top 50% but not the top 40% of those who sat the Assessment, etc.*

# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## SEAG Outcomes (4)

### 3. The English (or Gaeilge) SAS

- This is the Standardised Age Score based on answers to the 56 English (or Gaeilge) questions.
- The English (or Gaeilge) SAS range will be 69-141 with a mean (or average) of 100.
- The English (or Gaeilge) SAS is provided to inform parents as to how their children have performed in this aspect of the Entrance Assessment.

### 4. The Maths SAS

- This is the Standardised Age Score based on answers to the 56 Maths questions.
- The Maths SAS range will be 69-141 with a mean (or average) of 100.
- The Maths SAS is provided to inform parents as to how their children have performed in this aspect of the Entrance Assessment.

# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## SEAG Outcomes (5)

### 5. Information about the Cohort Percentile Ranking (CPR)

- 60%+ (Band 1) means that the pupil's outcomes are in the top 40% of those who sat the Assessment.
- 50-59% (Band 2) - outcomes are outside the top 40% but in the top 50% of those who sat the Assessment.
- 40-49% (Band 3) - outcomes are outside the top 50% but in the top 60% of those who sat the Assessment.
- 30-39% (Band 4) - outcomes are outside the top 60% but in the top 70% of those who sat the Assessment.
- 20-29% (Band 5) - outcomes are outside the top 70% but in the top 80% of those who sat the Assessment.
- <20% (Band 6) - the pupil's outcomes are outside the top 80% of those who sat the Assessment.

# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## SEAG Outcomes (6)

**There are two main reasons why parents receive different types of outcome.**

- Academically selective schools have tended to use 2 main types of outcomes within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria. Some schools have created a rank order using SAS; others have preferred to group scores together to create “grades”, “bands” or “a pool”. SEAG envisages that some schools will wish to rank order using Total SAS (TSAS), others will prefer to use SEAG Bands and some may use both. SEAG is, therefore, providing TSAS and Bands.
- GL Assessment, the SEAG test provider, is able to separate out pupils’ performance in the English (or Gaeilge) part of the Entrance Assessment from the Maths performance. The additional information available by providing an English (or Gaeilge) SAS and a Maths SAS may be helpful to parents, primary schools and post-primary schools.

# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## Sitting just one of the two Papers

**SEAG is very clear that its Entrance Assessment consists of two papers.**

- Pupils who only take one paper (i.e. either Paper 1 or Paper 2 but not both) will **not** have completed the full Entrance Assessment.
- Such pupils will, however, have their “single paper” marked by GL Assessment.
- The SEAG Board has determined that pupils who only sit one paper should be provided with SAS and Band outcomes which reflect their performance.
- Outcomes for pupils who only sit one paper will have the designation “e” (for estimate) immediately after the Outcome, e.g. TSAS 196e; Band 4e.



# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## Role of a SEAG school with P7 parents and pupils (1)

- **After the Registration Period has ended SEAG will make available to each SEAG school a file containing details of every pupil registered to sit the Entrance Assessment in that school.**
- **Each SEAG school (Assessment Centre) will:**
  - make all the practical arrangements for the pupils who will be sitting the Entrance Assessment in their school (Assessment Centre).
  - by mid-October 2023, communicate directly with each parent / guardian whose child(ren) are sitting the Assessment in their school.
  - provide practical details e.g. about dropping off children before the Assessment and collecting them afterwards.
  - liaise with parents / guardians as appropriate if there are particular medical or other needs.

# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

## Role of a SEAG school with P7 parents and pupils (2)

- **It is envisaged that each Assessment Centre will hold a familiarisation session in October 2023 to help children prepare for their time in the school on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**
- Parents / guardians have the responsibility to ensure that their children arrive in the SEAG Assessment Centre in good time on the Entrance Assessment days.
- **Pupils cannot be admitted after the Assessment has started.**
- If a child cannot attend on one of the two Entrance Assessment dates the parents /guardian must inform the Assessment Centre as soon as it is practically possible to do so.
- **There is no “third Assessment Day” – so pupils who are absent on one of the two days will only sit part of the full Entrance Assessment.**



# The 2023 Entrance Assessment

**For further information**

**about SEAG and the 2023 Entrance Assessment,**

**including Registration, visit**

**[www.seagni.co.uk](http://www.seagni.co.uk)**



## Further Information

- No other Assessments available
- Assessments held in Post-Primary Schools
- Nominate chosen school to sit the Assessment when registering – *SEAG allocates assessment places on a first come first served basis*
- Informed in advance of venue
- No bearing on eventual Post-Primary school
- Familiarisation by school arranged in October/November





# January

- Outcomes issued: late January
- Consultation with Primary Principals
- Online Transfer Application via Education Authority portal
  - Including details of Special Circumstances/Special Provisions





## March - June

- Transfer Applications processed
- Schools apply Admissions Criteria
- Decisions are made
- Parents informed of allocated schools
- Appeals process opens





# Banbridge Academy

- Unregulated system not our preferred option
- The current position is not of our choosing
- We would prefer a test run and administered by DE
- The Board of Governors will continue to have regard to the DE's Guidance





# Entry to Banbridge Academy

- Outcome in the SEAG Assessment will be used in the Admissions Criteria
- To improve the chances of your son/daughter gaining entry to Banbridge Academy in September 2024 he/she **must** sit the SEAG Assessment







# Draft Admissions Criteria Transfer 2024

Will be determined and applied by the Board of Governors

1. Rank order of SEAG TSAS outcomes
2. If the number of applicants exceeds the approved Admissions Number:
  - i. Current Sibling/Eldest
  - ii. Primary School from which pupils have been admitted 3 out of the past 5 years
  - iii. Tie Breaker: Random

*Further details available from the Principal*





## Scores Admitted

- Don't make assumptions about scores
- No cut off score and AQE scores will not link to SEAG outcomes
- Rank order





BANBRIDGE ACADEMY



# Further Information

<https://seagni.co.uk/>

[www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk](http://www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk)

[www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)





# Our Vision & Commitment

*Our central aim is for everyone to be happy at school,  
known personally and cared for individually.*

Excellence in a caring and supportive environment,  
enabling all pupils to realise their full potential and  
become tolerant and confident adults.

*academically*

*personally*

*socially*

*physically*

*spiritually*

