



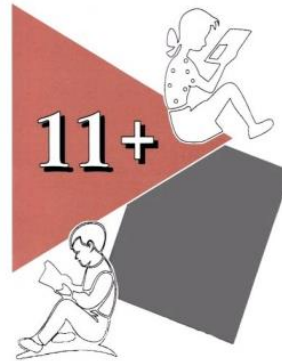
Booklet 2

The Selection Test

September 2020 Entry



The Consortium of
Selective Schools
in Essex



The objectives of this booklet are to give you a clearer insight into what is involved in the Selection Test (11+), including:

- *What schools are associated with the CSSE.*
- *How to apply for the Selection Test*
- *How to prepare for the Selection Test*
- *To set out the dates involved with the Selection Test.*

SELECTIVE SCHOOLS

Essex has a small number of Selective or Grammar schools. Selective schools have **admission criteria** which state **highest rank** in the selection tests as their **first** admission criteria. The nearest ones being:

- King Edward VI Grammar School (Boys)
- Colchester County High School for Girls
- Colchester Royal Grammar School (Boys)
- Southend (1 boys' school, 1 girls' school)
- Westcliff (1 boys' school, 1 girls' school)

- **Chelmsford County High for Girls** – are not part of the same process, they have their own admission exam, called the CEM 11+ Entrance Test. Details of their application process are available on their website www.cchs.co.uk under 'Admissions.' Their application process opens on **Friday 3rd May 2019** and closes on **Wednesday 26th June 2019**. The entrance test will be on **Saturday 14th September 2019**.

BACKGROUND

- Only the top 2-3% of children in Essex will obtain a place at a selective school. In our school this would be the top 1 or 2 in each class.
- Emphasise to your children that it's not a pass or fail and they will succeed at any school they go to.
- The consortium control the whole process, White Court School are not consulted
- It's up to parents to purchase the practice papers and work through them with your child. We will support them, but we do not coach them at school.

REGISTERING

- Children will apply for the Selective Test early, take the test early and receive their results early. Along with the results will be advice that lets you know if your child has a realistic chance of securing a place at the Selective Schools. See Page 4 for a list of dates.
- Copies of the application packs are normally sent to me during May, as soon as I receive them, I will send them out to you.
- Make sure you copy the application form before you send it or email it.
- You will be notified of the test centre where your child will be sitting the test nearer the time.
- You then need to list all your preferred Secondary Schools on the Secondary School Application Form, in order of preference. Including Selective Schools if it has been indicated your child has a realistic chance of being accepted. Please remember you will then only have 2 weeks left to complete the application (by 31st October 2019).
- CSSE schools will hold open days/evening throughout the year. These dates will be in the Information Guide sent out during May.

ON THE TEST DAY

- **Test day - Saturday 21st September 2019** (could be a.m. or p.m.)
- Illness – They will give you an alternative test day, but you must have a doctor's certificate.
- If the weather is poor, listen to the local radio station or contact the test centre.
- The children need to take a pencil case with a pencil, ruler and rubber.

FORMAT OF THE TEST

- English – comprising of Comprehension, Grammar and Vocabulary questions, two pieces of continuous writing, and Applied Reasoning (literacy/verbal). This will last one hour, with 10 minutes additional reading time and is worth 60 marks in total.
- Mathematics – comprising of questions consistent with KS2 of the National Curriculum and Applied Reasoning (mathematical/non-verbal). This will also last one hour and be worth 60 marks.
- One set of free CSSE familiarisation papers are available to download from www.csse.org.uk and past papers are available to buy.

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

- Buy copies of past tests from the CSSE or practice papers from bookshops.
- See next page 'Preparing for the 11+'

Preparing for the 11+

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 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 texts
- 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

The Headteachers of the CSSE schools believe that in addition of 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 grammar school education.

ESSEX 11+ SELECTION TEST – 2020 ENTRY
IMPORTANT DATES

May	Application packs will be sent to White Court School during May, as soon as they arrive we will send them out with your children. This pack will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Key dates- Details of each school- A list of open evenings- Frequently asked questions- The application form- An order form for practice packs
From 14 th May 2019	Parents can register for the 11+ tests by post OR online by referring to the CSSE website: www.csse.org.uk
June / July 2019	CSSE Schools Open Days / Evenings.
1 st July 2019	Deadline date for CSSE Registration form to be returned to the CSSE office.
21st September 2019	MAIN 11+ TEST DAY
Mid October 2019	Results will be sent out by first class post to all candidates. A look up facility for test results will also be available for candidates who were registered online
31 st October 2019	Closing date for the receipt of applications to Local Authorities.
2nd March 2020	NATIONAL OFFER DATE

SUPPORT

Feel free to come in and ask us any questions or concerns you may have. Or you may simply want to talk through anything mentioned in this booklet.

Russell Pryke
Primary/Secondary Liaison

Useful links:

www.csse.org.uk Information on preparing for the 11+, changes to the selection test, free familiarisation papers, past papers.

www.whitecourt.essex.sch.uk – Hover the cursor over 'Key Information' – then click on 'Secondary School Admissions'. This will be updated as we receive up to date information.