



## Northbourne Park School

### Kent Test Policy and Procedure

Author	Issue date	Review date	Purpose	Scope	Version	Agreed by
EWB/AT	Sept 2014	Sept 2016	Academic	Teaching Staff / Parents	2	SMT
SR/AT	Sept 2016	Sept 2018	Academic	Teaching Staff / Parents	2	SMT
SR	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	Academic	Teaching Staff / Parents	2	SMT
SR	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Academic	Teaching Staff / Parents	2	SMT
SR	Jan 2021	Jan 2022	Academic	Teaching Staff / Parents	3	SMT
SR	Jan 2022	Jan 2023	Academic	Teaching Staff / Parents	3	SMT

Northbourne Park School recognises the importance of the Kent Test to many of our parents as a route through to Kent Grammar schools. The 11+ Kent Test is an academically selective test aimed at identifying those pupils who are academically eligible for Grammar School places.

#### **The Process.**

The Headmaster writes to all parents of Year 5 in September asking whether they are:

- a.) Interested in their child taking the Kent Test.
- b.) Not sure about whether they are interested in their child taking the Kent Test or
- c.) Not interested in their child taking the Kent Test.

In order to discuss the Kent Test further, the Headmaster meets individually with all parents who have selected a.) or b.) above.

#### **Assessment of Pupils in School.**

NPS knows its pupils well. We measure pupil progress constantly through informal observation and discussion, as well as through a wide variety of more formal, policy-driven procedures, including nationally standardised benchmarking of pupil attainment and progress. Using our extensive knowledge of each child, we make recommendations to parents regarding the likelihood of their child passing the Kent Test or Grammar School tests.

#### **Individual Kent Test Meetings with Parents.**

Based on this assessment information above, the Headmaster will inform parents that whether their child is:

- a) Recommended by NPS to take the Kent Test. (*This does not mean that passing the Kent test is a certainty.*)
- b) A borderline candidate

- c) Not recommended to take the Kent Test. (*In which case we cannot appeal a decision at a later stage on academic grounds.*)

The Kent Test pass mark changes every year, but is usually an aggregate of 320 marks with no one mark falling below 106 / 107, although this changes slightly year by year.

The Headmaster also discusses the following with parents deciding whether to put their child forward for the test. :

1. We recommend that there should be a good reason for doing the Kent Test.
2. It is a stressful process and is not to struggle over. Candidates should be confident and comfortable with the tests.
3. Parents and children should go into the tests with realistic expectations regarding the likelihood and consequences of success and failure.
4. Some children are suited to the Grammar School environment but not all.
5. Leaving NPS at 11 years rather than 13 years has other pastoral implications.
6. 90% of the **preparation** that NPS provides for the Kent Test is through our normal curriculum, which pays due regard to and enhances the National Curriculum.
7. NPS does provide Kent test candidates with **familiarisation** sessions held on alternate Working Saturdays in term time and some voluntary after school sessions nearer to the exam. (please see below)
8. Kent County Council does not endorse individual **coaching** for the Kent Test. The reality is that many candidates do receive individual coaching but 'hot-housing' can create pupils who later struggle in Grammar Schools.
9. NPS does not provide individual coaching in preparation for the Kent Test.
10. Some schools solely prepare / coach for the Kent Test. NPS believes in a broader holistic education for young children including wide range of extra-curricular and pastoral opportunities.

The Headmaster will then write to the parents summarizing the main points of the meeting and asking for the parents to confirm in writing as to whether they would like to put their child forward as a Kent Test candidate.

### **The Familiarisation programme for Kent Test Candidates.**

NPS will provide candidates for the Kent Test with:

1. Voluntary after school sessions to familiarize them with all of the Kent test papers in.
  - Verbal Reasoning,
  - Maths,
  - Non-Verbal Reasoning and an Essay paper.

### How parents choose schools.

Parents need to register children for the test by July of Year 5.

Parents choose four schools and NPS advice is that parents should visit a good range of local grammar schools before completing the forms.

KCC priority is given to: 1) LEA, 2) Siblings, 3) Catchment

NPS advice is to select at least one High School.

Sir Roger Manwood, Simon Langton and the Dover Boys / Girls Grammar schools are all very competitive.

The Dover Grammar schools have their own test and it is the *parental responsibility* to apply for these tests.

After receiving results of the Kent Test in October, parents apply for school places either online or by returning the form to NPS by the specified deadline.

### Test your knowledge of our Kent Test Policy

<b>Do we prepare for the Kent Test?</b>	<b>Yes</b> , through our normal curriculum and through familiarisation sessions.
<b>Do we coach for the Kent Tests?</b>	<b>No</b> , we <b>educate</b> our pupils to the Kent Test through our normal curriculum and through familiarisation sessions. .
<b>Do we familiarise our pupils with the Kent Test?</b>	<b>Yes</b> , we hold familiarization sessions leading up to the test.