Quest

Kent County Council
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Kent Test guidance for parents

2027 (for 2028 entry)

Supporting your child on their grammar school journey

This guide is to help you understand the process and support your child. We'll walk you through what to expect, how to prepare, and how to make sure your child stays happy, healthy, and confident throughout.

What is the Kent Test?

The **Kent Test** is an entrance assessment used by grammar schools in Kent to help identify pupils who will thrive in an academically selective environment. The Kent Test is provided by Quest Assessments.

The test is **not** about perfection, but about showing what your child has learned and how they apply their knowledge and reasoning skills.

The **Kent Test** is designed to assess what children have covered in school **up to the end of Year 5**, so there's no need for them to learn Year 6 topics or content beyond the primary curriculum.

What skills are assessed?

Every child who takes the Kent Test sits the same papers, whichever Kent grammar school they hope to attend. The test will test your child's ability in the following areas:

- **English** (reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, spelling)
- **Mathematics** (problem-solving, arithmetic, reasoning)
- **Verbal reasoning** (using language and logic to solve puzzles)
- **Non-verbal and spatial reasoning** (working with shapes and patterns)

Preparation

The best preparation is **steady, meaningful learning** over time — not last-minute cramming or excessive tutoring.

The goal is to help your child feel **confident, curious, and comfortable** with the format and question types they'll see, while maintaining a love of learning.

Think of preparation as building understanding and habits, not drilling for a test. The best preparation is for them to focus and work hard in school.

Know the key dates and arrangements

The Kent Test is coordinated across the county by Kent County Council.

Look carefully at:

- **Registration dates** (you register through Kent County Council, not through individual schools)
- **Test date(s) and timings**
- **Venue** (children at Kent primary schools usually take the test at their own school; children from outside Kent take it at a test centre)
- **Results day** (and the deadline for your secondary school application)

You can find all of this on the Kent County Council website. Some Kent grammar schools also run their own additional assessments, so it's worth checking the admissions pages of any schools you're interested in.

Mark key dates in your calendar early!

Understanding OMR

The Kent Test uses **OMR (Optical Mark Recognition)** answer sheets. This means your child won't write out answers. Instead, they'll draw a line through a box beside the answer they've chosen.

This is very common and easy once they've tried it. Here's what you should know:



A horizontal line like this is the **only** way to mark your chosen answer.

- **Do not** shade in the whole rectangle
- **Do not** tick the box
- **Do not** put a cross through the box

If they make a mistake, they can **rub it out** and choose another answer. Each question number must match the number on the answer sheet. They might be asked to select more than one answer - remind your child to always double check what the question asks them to do!

Top tip: Any answers written in the question booklet will **not be marked**, so make sure your child is familiar with filling in the OMR sheet ahead of time. Download the familiarisation booklet from Quest so your child can practise filling it in.

Familiarisation materials

Quest has created some **familiarisation materials** to help children (and parents!) understand what the Kent Test looks and feels like.

These include **sample questions** from each subject, and a sample OMR sheet for practice. You can download these from the Quest website.

Encourage your child to work through these materials **at a relaxed pace**, focusing on understanding and confidence rather than perfection.

How you can help your child

1. Keep it positive

For many families, the Kent Test can feel like a big milestone. It's natural to feel invested, but try to keep the experience encouraging. Talk about it as an opportunity, not a test of worth.

Your child takes their emotional cues from you — if you stay calm and upbeat, they will too. Praise effort, curiosity, and perseverance rather than scores or speed.

Celebrate **effort and resilience**, whatever the outcome. Every step of learning and preparation builds skills that last far beyond exam day.

2. Support learning at home

- Encourage **daily reading** for enjoyment and understanding.
- Practise **basic maths skills** in fun, everyday ways — cooking, shopping, games.
- Make space for **reasoning activities** like puzzles, logic games, and wordplay.
- If using practice materials, focus on **small, regular sessions** rather than long hours.

Remember, learning should feel like discovery and be something your child enjoys!

3. Build good study habits

Children thrive with structure and balance, not marathon revision. They should focus on strengthening what they've learned in school. Help your child:

- Set up a quiet, organised space for short study sessions
- Plan breaks
- Reward effort
- Build reading into their routine

4. Prioritise wellbeing

A calm, rested, and happy child will perform far better than a tired, anxious one. Support this by:

- Encouraging **plenty of sleep**
- Providing **nutritious meals** and time outdoors
- Making sure there's **downtime** for hobbies, friends, and fun

The aim is to build confidence, not stress.

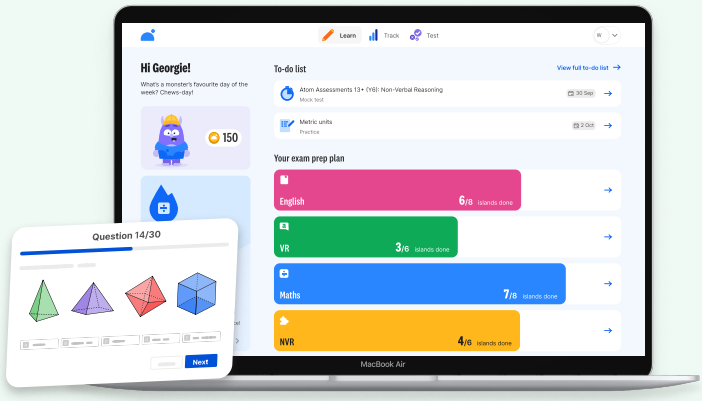
The Kent Test is an opportunity for your child to show what they've learned and experience a little challenge. **But remember**: a single test doesn't define a child's future. What matters most is curiosity, effort, and joy in learning.

With steady preparation, balanced routines, and plenty of encouragement, your child will walk into the assessment feeling ready, confident, and proud of how far they've come.

Support for Pupil Premium Eligible Candidates

KCC and Quest are both committed to ensuring every child has access to high-quality KS2 learning materials, regardless of their family's circumstances.

Quest Assessments is part of the education company Atom Learning. We are offering free access to Atom Home for all pupil premium eligible candidates. Atom Home provides structured exam familiarisation and KS2 learning across all subjects, with questions, progress tracking, and subject-specific learning paths your child can work through at home.



If your child is eligible for pupil premium, please complete the form using the button below.
Once their primary school has confirmed their eligibility, we'll give them free access to Atom Home.

REQUEST ACCESS TO ATOM HOME