



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 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*.
- *** A few SEAG schools only use academic selection for a portion of their Year 8 intake. Pupils can gain a “non academically selected” place at one of these schools without sitting the 2023 Entrance Assessment.**
- * There is a separate admissions procedure, which does not use SEAG outcomes, for children who have a formal “Statement of Educational Needs”.

- **Registration Period**

Wed 3rd May 2023 (9.00am) – Friday 22nd September 2023 (5.00pm)

- **SEAG Entrance Assessment Paper 1**

Saturday 11th November 2023 (am)

- **SEAG Entrance Assessment Paper 2**

Saturday 25th November 2023 (am)

- **SEAG Outcomes released to parents / guardians**

Saturday 27th January 2024

Registration

- Only pupils who have been registered to sit the Entrance Assessment by 5.00pm on Friday 22nd September 2023 will be able to sit the Assessment.
- There is NO late registration after the 22nd September 2023 deadline. (Space needed) • 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 27th January 2024.

- Parents / Guardians will use a portal in the website 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 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 list. school could reach its maximum capacity. If that happens that school will no longer appear in the drop down



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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 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 here 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 logo for SEAG (Schools' Entrance Assessment Group) is located on the left side of the slide. It consists of the letters 'SEAG' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font, followed by the words 'Schools' Entrance Assessment Group' in a smaller, white sans-serif font, all set against a solid purple rectangular background.

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 logo for SEAG (Schools' Entrance Assessment Group) is displayed. It features the acronym 'SEAG' in large, bold, white capital letters on a purple rectangular background. To the right of the acronym, the full name 'Schools' Entrance Assessment Group' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, stacked in three lines.

The 2023 Entrance Assessment The Registration Process (Step 6)

Step 6 Registration Complete

A completed pupil registration is confirmed through the online portal.

The logo for SEAG (Schools' Entrance Assessment Group) is displayed. It features the acronym 'SEAG' in large, bold, white capital letters on a purple rectangular background. To the right of the acronym, the full name 'Schools' Entrance Assessment Group' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, stacked in three lines.

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 are also multiple choice and the final 6 questions 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 (SAS)

- **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.



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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).

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.



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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.



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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 use its outcomes to rank order using SAS, others will prefer to use SEAG Bands and some may use both. SEAG is, therefore, providing SAS 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. SAS 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 with details of every pupil who has been registered to sit the Entrance Assessment in that school.**

- We, as a SEAG school, will make all the arrangements for the pupils who will be in our care on the Entrance Assessment days.
- We will, by mid-October 2023, communicate directly with each parent / guardian whose child(ren) are sitting the Assessment.
- We will provide practical details about dropping off children before the Assessment and collecting them afterwards.
- If there are particular medical or other needs we will liaise with parents / guardians as appropriate.



The 2023 Entrance Assessment

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

- **We will hold a familiarisation session in October 2023 to help your child prepare for his / her time with us on 11th and 25th 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 your child cannot attend on one of the two Entrance Assessment dates you must inform us 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