

Arrangements for 'under age' and 'over age' entry to CSSE Schools

Age at Entry to Consortium Schools.

The selection test for entry to selective places at Consortium Schools is normally available to children registered in Year 6 from the start of the academic year in which the test is to be taken and who are between eleven and twelve years of age on the following August 31, immediately prior to admission in September. **Any test candidate who is 'under age' or 'over age' will need to demonstrate that their application is supported by the necessary relevant evidence.**

The Governors of the ten Consortium Schools have jurisdiction over admissions to their schools. In the case of age at entry, this may be exercised through an investigation into the reasons for a child to be an under or over aged applicant, possibly leading to a refusal of admission where, in the Governors' view, the reasons given by parents fail to comply with the published rules. This jurisdiction is retained regardless of decisions made by the Local Authority to accept or refuse under and over age applications.

A panel of Headteachers, selected from the Consortium Schools and with full delegated authority from those schools, will review all 'under age' and 'over age' applications. The panel's decision is binding.

'Under age' applicants: An applicant is under age if he or she will be under 11 years of age on 31 August immediately prior to admission in September. Consortium schools will only accept applications from under aged applicants who are registered in Year 6 of their primary schools from the first day of the school academic year prior to secondary transfer. This effectively requires that the decision to promote the child to the year group above his/her chronological age group must be taken by the primary school prior to the end of the summer term in the calendar year in which the child is to sit the selection test. Confirmation of this is likely to be sought from the Headteacher of the primary school concerned by the Consortium Office.

'Over age' applicants: An applicant is over age if he or she is not under 12 years of age on 31 August immediately prior to admission in September. Consortium Schools do not accept over aged applicants unless there are verified exceptional circumstances, for example of extended illness, for a child to repeat one of the primary school years or to have been admitted 'late' at the start of primary school. The Panel will seek verification from the Headteacher of the primary school concerned that an over-aged applicant has medically certifiable reasons or some other justifiable reason for being an over-aged applicant. The Panel will wish to investigate thoroughly the circumstances through which any child is found to be studying in Year 6 for the second time, especially if this involves an application to sit the selection tests for a second time. Medical evidence will be required for such applicants. **If an applicant has made their 11+ registration confidential then the applicant will need to send the Consortium written authority to enable them to contact the applicant's primary school.**

For example, **test registration may be refused** where an investigation concludes that:

- ✗ an over aged child who is repeating Year 6 does not have exceptional reasons for so doing;
- ✗ an under aged applicant was not registered in Year 6 from the start of the school year in which the selection test is to be taken.

(October 19)