

**Lough View Integrated
THE TRANSFER PROCESS**



**A
Guide for Year 6 Parents**

Primary School

Transfer Guidance – Year 6 Parents – Lough View Integrated Primary

Introduction

At the conclusion of their primary school careers, all Year 7 pupils transfer to post primary schools. The process of thinking about possible schools and the requirements to gain admission, become important from the middle of Year 6 onwards.

This information is aimed at helping you make the right decision for your child and will:

- outline the transfer process and provide you with a timeline;
- guide you on how Lough View manages the process;
- provide you with useful links for further information; and
- help you make an informed decision on the route to transfer and the type of school that might be right for your child.

The Transfer Process

The nature of the transfer process your child will go through largely depends on the kind of school you wish your child to attend. Grammar schools continue to use academic selection based on 11 + results as their principal way of allocating places. Non grammar schools do not!

For those considering the grammar option, your child will be opting into a lengthy process which will involve them studying over the summer break and taking on additional homework in preparation for tests which they sit in November.

Following the transfer tests, in December and January most post primary schools hold their Open Days. These showcase what schools have to offer and also provide admissions information.

Following these Open Days, you need to decide on which schools you wish to apply for and have a list of 3 or 4 in rank order. Transfer scores/grades are published in late January/early February.

Following the publication of the Transfer results, you will complete a Transfer form which goes to the Education Board for processing. On this form you will list in rank order the post primary schools you would like your child to attend. You will indicate on the form how your child meets the school's admissions criteria and it is on this basis that they will consider your application and offer your child a place.

If applying for a grammar school, the mark or grade your child achieves in the tests must be included in your application and will be used by schools to select pupils. If you are considering a non- grammar school for your child, the transfer process simply involves visiting schools on open days and then making your choices.

In May of Year 7 you will learn which school your child has been placed in. An appeals process exists.

The Transfer Tests

At present two tests are operated by grammar schools. These are:

CEA/AQE schools – mostly controlled and voluntary grammars. This process involves 3 tests on 3 separate days.

PPTC/GL Assessment – used by catholic, maintained grammars. This process involves 2 tests on a single day.

A small number of schools use both tests – Lagan College, Victoria College and Wellington College.

To find out more about either of these tests and the associated registration arrangements and timetable, go to the following websites:

www.aqe.org.uk - AQE schools

www.pptcni.com - GL schools

Another really helpful site for parents is: www.thetransfertest.com

This site provides a great overview of the whole transfer process.

Should your child sit the Transfer Test?

The decision to enter a child for the Transfer Test rests entirely with you, the parents. However, if considering the transfer test for your child, you need to think about the following:

- Do I want my child to attend a grammar school/grammar stream? Will they flourish within a largely academic environment?
- Is my child working at a level which corresponds with the demands of the tests?
- Is my child willing to undertake the work involved in preparing for the tests?
- Will my child cope with the stress/pressure which is often associated with this process?

What is our role as a school in relation to the above?

Your child's Year 6 teacher will be available to offer you helpful advice and guidance on some of the above issues. Reflecting on the results of standardized tests in literacy and numeracy, class tests and ongoing class work, the teachers can give you an indication of how suited your child may be to the demands of the Transfer Test.

Even if in Year 6 your child opts into the process, you can at a later date change your mind, if on the basis of his/her progress, you are concerned that the test may not in fact be the right choice.

Ultimately the school and our teachers can only operate in an advisory capacity and the decision to sit the test or not, rests with parents.

How do we prepare pupils for the Transfer test at Lough View?

The Transfer Test is important for many children and parents. Accordingly, at Lough View we aim to support this process to ensure that our children are well prepared for the tests that they will sit.

In practical terms from the middle of Year 6 until the Transfer process is completed in the following autumn, we group the pupils to teach literacy and numeracy at the appropriate levels, in line with the demands of the NI curriculum and the Transfer test. This means that many children will be working at Level 4 / 5 (which match the Transfer level) while others will be working at Level 3 / 4 (which is below the required level for Transfer). The Level 4/5 group and any others who have opted to do either or both tests will additionally use practice papers for homework which are intended to help develop familiarity with the format and exam technique.

What if my child doesn't choose to opt into the Transfer process?

Matching the correct level of work to your child is an important way of helping him/her learn effectively. Indeed, whether your child is in or out of the Transfer process we will be providing our pupils with work appropriate to their ability and expect them to work hard and make progress.

Will my child have to work over the summer break?

It is helpful if children can undertake some related study over the summer holiday. Accordingly, a Transfer Pack is available to buy from the school for July /August. In addition to or instead of school packs, a range of other resources can be purchased commercially e.g. via Amazon or Waterstones book shop in Belfast. A list of useful sources is included at the end of this booklet.

Is it worth getting a tutor?

There is huge pressure on parents to find tutors to coach their children, often because everyone else seems to be doing so and not because the children actually require it. If you are considering a tutor, talk to other parents and look for someone who comes with a good recommendation.

Parent Workshop

A workshop will be held in the summer term to which all parents who wish their children to enter the Transfer tests will be invited. This will be led by our Year 7 teachers and will focus on practical ways in which parents can support their children's 'transfer' preparation.

How do I deal with my child's test scores?

It is important that you are supportive of your child in this process and are a positive role model. This means giving lots of praise when things go well and being constructive and supportive when things don't. Many children's scores will initially go up and down before settling into a pattern. The end goal is that they reach a level of consistency in line with their ability.

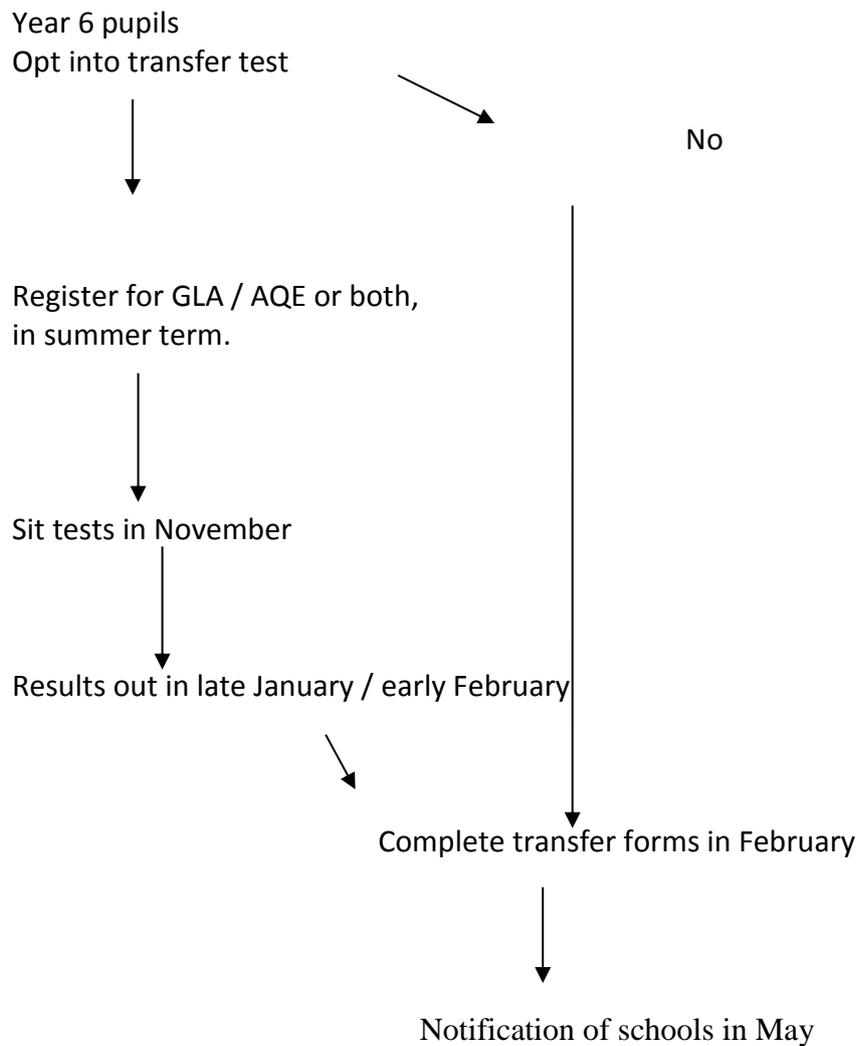
Ongoing Communication is important

If you have any concerns about the Transfer process or about your child's progress through it, please contact your child's teacher for advice or guidance. Similarly, we will contact you if we have any concerns. Our aim is to work with you and your child to make this process as straightforward as possible.

Finally

Try to keep the Transfer Test in perspective, should your child opt for it. If you adopt a measured and supportive approach, it is likely that your child will be less stressed and will have a better chance of doing his/her best.

FLOW CHART – TRANSFER PROCESS



USEFUL RESOURCES

PTQ Tuition CEA Practice Papers

PTQ Tuition Create a specific set of CEA practice tests, they seem to be about £1.50 per pack cheaper buying online than from the high street shops.

[CEA Practice Tests in English and Maths: Tests 1 – 4 Pack 1](#)

[CEA Practice Tests in English and Maths: Tests 9 – 12 Pack 3](#)

[CEA Practice Tests in English and Maths: Tests 13 – 16 Pack 4](#)

[CEA Practice Tests in English and Maths: Tests 17 – 20 Pack 5](#)

[CEA Practice Tests in English and Maths: Tests 21 to 24 Pack 6](#)

The same company also publish GL type tests in the English and Maths multiple choice format.

GL Assessment who produce the actual test used by schools, also publish 11+ practice papers, which can be accessed via Amazon.

The Belfast Telegraph also publish practice tests as a supplement to the paper.

A good summary of resources can be found at www.transfertest.com

