

The SEAG 2025 Entrance Assessment

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The 2025 Entrance Assessment General Information

- For pupils* who will be transferring to post-primary school in September 2026
- All 63 schools in N Ireland which use academic selection for all, or for a portion, of their admission to Year 8 are members of SEAG
- SEAG schools will use the outcomes from the 2025 Entrance Assessment within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria
- Parents/Guardians who are considering one or more of these 63 schools for their child(ren) should register their child(ren) to sit the Entrance Assessment*
- *NB There is a separate Year 8 admissions procedure for children who have a formal "Statement of Special Educational Needs". This procedure is run by the Education Authority and does not use SEAG Entrance Assessment Outcomes



The 2025 Entrance Assessment Key Dates

• SEAG Pupil Registration Period

Monday 19 May 2025 (8.00am) – Friday 19 September 2025 (11.59pm)

- SEAG Entrance Assessment Paper 1 Saturday 15 November 2025 (am)
- SEAG Entrance Assessment Paper 2

Saturday 22 November 2025 (am)

- SEAG Outcomes released to parents/guardians
 - Saturday 24 January 2026
- NB SEAG has set aside 29 November 2025 as a contingency Assessment Day. This date will only be used in the event that it is not possible to hold the Assessment <u>at all</u> on either 15 or 22 November 2025



The 2025 Entrance Assessment Really Important

Registration

- Only pupils who have been registered to sit the Entrance Assessment (*registration closes at 11.59pm on Friday 19 September 2025*) will be able to sit the Assessment
- The Registration Period is open for 4 months 124 days. DO NOT LEAVE IT TO THE LAST MINUTE!!
- For 2024 SEAG was able to open a Late Registration Window, for 4 days in September, with a non-refundable £50 Administration Fee. There is no guarantee that this window will be available in 2025
- If a pupil has not been registered, they will NOT be able to sit the Entrance Assessment

SEAG Entrance Assessment Papers

- The Entrance Assessment consists of two Assessment Papers taken **one week** apart
- Pupils sit both Papers. It is not a choice between sitting Paper 1 or Paper 2

SEAG Outcomes

• It is planned that these will be available **online** from Saturday 24 January 2026

SEAG Schools' Entrance Assessment Group

The 2025 Entrance Assessment The Registration Process (Be Prepared)

Parents/Guardians will:

 $\checkmark~$ use a portal on the website <u>www.seagni.co.uk</u> to

register their child by completing a "Pupil Application"

- $\checkmark~$ need to have the following documentation to hand:
- Pupil's Birth Certificate/Passport/Residence Permit
- > Pupil's Photograph a head and shoulders picture

and, if claiming exemption from the £20 registration fee:

- <u>Current</u> Free School Meals Eligibility Entitlement (FSME)
 <u>approval</u> documentation provided by the Education Authority (EA)
 - with the child's name and date of birth:
- i.e. EITHER an FSME confirmation email from EA
 - OR an appropriate screenshot from the parent/guardian's account in the EA portal
 - **OR an FSM "Entitlement Letter" from EA**





The 2025 Entrance Assessment The Registration Process (Learning from the 2024 experience)

- Last year over 1000 parents/guardians registered on the first day to try and make sure they were able to get a place at their preferred Assessment Centre
- There were still places at every Centre, even the most popular Centres, over two weeks later AND there were still places at nearly every Centre over two months later
- Last year around 10% of all parents/guardians left it until the last week before trying to register and some forgot to register
- Last year there were errors in around 10% of all the Pupil Application forms
- Prepare well and take time to fill the form in accurately. There is a review page for you to check over what you have entered on the Pupil Application form
- > There was **no** advantage last year in rushing to register on day 1, day 2, day 3, day 4, day 5

> There is a risk that, by leaving it too late, a pupil may not be registered at all and would not be able to sit the Entrance Assessment 6



Parents / Guardians will use a portal on the website <u>www.seagni.co.uk</u>

Step 1 Parent/Guardian Registration

- ✓ The process starts with the parent/guardian creating their own account in the portal
- ✓ The portal is open from 8:00am Monday 19 May 2025 until 11.59pm Friday 19 Sept 2025

This Step involves providing an email address

- > NB Use an email address which you are confident you will still be using until February 2026 after the results are issued
- If a parent/guardian has more than one child sitting the Entrance Assessment, then both Pupil Applications can be carried out using the same Parent Registration with the same email address
- If you set up a SEAG account in 2023 or 2024 and you have another child sitting the Entrance Assessment in 2025 you will need to set up a new account for 2025
- If you cannot access a smartphone, tablet, laptop or other electronic device to register your child on the SEAG website, please give your details to the Assessment Centre and we will contact SEAG on your behalf



Step 1 Parent/Guardian Registration

> NB Use an email address which you are confident you will still be using until February 2026 – after the results are issued

- NB The parent/guardian can choose to set up a recovery email address
- SEAG recommends that you do this
- If you set up a recovery email and, at some later point in time you cannot access your main email account you can use the recovery email instead
- If you choose not to have a recovery email and, later, you cannot log into your main email account it will not be possible for you to access your account, e.g. to edit information OR to see your child's SEAG Outcomes in January 2026



Step 2 Pupil Application

✓ Details about the pupil who is being registered are entered

The name and date of birth which the parent/guardian enters MUST be identical to the information on the birth certificate/passport/residence permit for the Pupil Application to be valid

✓ The parents/guardians choose the SEAG school where they would like their child to sit the Entrance Assessment

- Parents/Guardians choose, from a drop-down 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 63 schools, but over time a school could reach its maximum capacity. If that happens, that school will no longer appear in the list of choices
- Take care, when reading the name of the Assessment Centre, that you know where it is located. Last year some parents, in error, selected Centres which were many miles from their home
- Do not be misled into thinking that, for 2025, a Centre will definitely use rooms or definitely use halls. Some of these decisions cannot be made until the end of September, when the school knows how many pupils are coming, what Access Arrangements are needed and what its resources are available



Step 3 Add Essential Documentation

✓ The birth certificate/passport/residence permit AND the passport style photograph are uploaded to confirm the identity of the pupil

- NB When registering their child a parent/guardian can save the details and return later to the portal to complete the process
- However, the birth certificate*OR the passport* OR the residence permit* (both sides) AND a passport style photograph** need to be available and uploaded at some point before submitting the Pupil Application

*If a child's name has been changed by Deed Poll, then a copy of the Deed Poll, not the birth certificate/passport /residence permit, should be uploaded

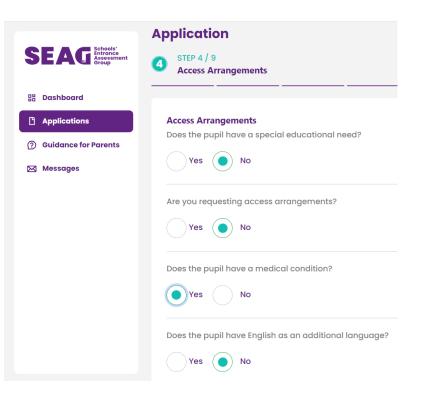
**The photograph should be a head and shoulders picture of the child



Step 4

Access Arrangements

- You will be asked if your child has Special Educational Needs; is requesting Access Arrangements; has a Medical Condition* and/or has English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- At this step, parents/guardians <u>must</u> answer YES or NO to 4 important questions regarding Access Arrangements
- If you select "Yes" to any of these questions, you will be directed to the detailed "Access Arrangements" section later in the Pupil Application process
- If you select "No" to all 4 questions you will NOT be directed to the "Access Arrangements" section later





Step 4 Access Arrangements

Does the pupil have a medical condition?

- If, for example, your child has asthma and you would want them to bring an inhaler to the Assessment Centre, you will need to make an Access Arrangement request to SEAG
- If they have any serious or long-term medical condition you need to let SEAG know, even if you are not requesting Access Arrangements
- Later, in the Access Arrangements Section of the form you can tick beside the "Medical Condition" button, and provide SEAG with information about the medical condition
- If you are absolutely certain that, even though your child has a medical condition, it is not something which the Assessment Centre could ever need to know about, then you can choose to answer "No"



It is the responsibility of the Parent/Guardian to inform SEAG of any serious or long-term medical condition, whether you are requesting Access Arrangements (reasonable adjustments) or not. It is important to read the Access Policy and relevant section under 'Medical' in the Access Guidance documents.



Step 4

Access Arrangements

Does the pupil have English as an additional language?

- You may respond "Yes" if your child will have spent less than three academic years in the UK/Ireland by October 2025 AND if their first language is neither English nor Irish
- If you are considering responding "Yes" you should read the "Access Arrangements Policy, Procedures and Guidance" to help you decide if you wish to request that your child can use a bi-lingual dictionary during the Assessment
- If your child will have spent three or more academic years in the UK/Ireland by October 2025 and you will not be requesting that your child can use a bi-lingual dictionary during the Assessment you may choose to respond "No" even if their first language is neither English nor Irish

Access Arrangements

Does the pupil have a special educational need?



Are you requesting access arrangements?

Yes 💽 No

Does the pupil have a medical condition?

Yes 💽 No

Does the pupil have English as an additional language?





Step 4 Access Arrangements

This may include Special Educational Needs and/or Medical Conditions and/or English as an Additional Language

- ✓ Access Arrangements documentation is available in the "Guidance for Parents" "Access Arrangements" section of the SEAG website
- Links to the documentation, particularly "The Access Arrangements Policy, Procedures and Guidance" are provided, in the portal, at this Step to assist
- Parents/Guardians should ensure that they have read and understood the documentation before completing their request for Access Arrangements

SEAG appoints an Independent Access Arrangements Panel to evaluate and make decisions on each Request based on the evidence provided. Those decisions will be communicated to parents/guardians through the portal. Parents/Guardians have the right of appeal



Step 5Review all the information you have included

- ✓ We outlined in an earlier slide that last year around 10% of submitted Pupil Application forms contained errors
- There is an Application "Review" page for parents/guardians to see all the information they have added and to carefully check that everything is absolutely correct
- ✓ If there are any errors, e.g. a spelling error, the wrong Assessment Centre chosen, incorrect details of the primary school, now is the opportunity to correct these errors before moving to the "payment" step
- ✓ Also check that the photographic ID and the birth certificate/passport/residence permit have uploaded correctly
- ✓ You will also need to:
- confirm that all the information you have provided is accurate and that you accept any liability for providing inaccurate information and accept all responsibilities as parent/guardian of the pupil for whom this application is made
- agree to the Terms & Conditions



Step 5 Primary School details

- Select the primary school from a drop-down list OR type in the details
- ✓ Make sure you have the correct address and correct school name
- ✓ If your child is "home schooled" type in "Home Educated" followed by your own address

Step 6 Payment

• As part of the Pupil Application 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, provided by the Education Authority (EA) of FSME status when registering

- ✓ Parents/Guardians will need to make sure that they have a debit/credit card available to make the payment OR
- ✓ if payment is exempt through FSME, then current approval evidence of FSME which includes the child's name and date of birth must be uploaded
- Evidence can be a copy of either:
- the current FSME confirmation email from the EA
- OR a screenshot from the EA portal account which provides evidence of your child's **current** FSME
- OR a current FSM "Entitlement Letter" from the EA

SEAG Schools' Entrance Assessment Group

The 2025 Entrance Assessment The Registration Process – After the Payment Step

- As soon as the Administration Fee payment has been made OR approved FSME payment exemption evidence has been submitted, the pupil's place at the chosen Assessment Centre has been secured
- ✓ Parents/Guardians receive an email to confirm that they have registered a pupil, pending verification by SEAG
- ✓ All Pupil Applications will be reviewed and verified by the SEAG team
 - e.g. Do the name and date of birth on the birth certificate match what the parent/guardian has entered?
 - Is the photographic ID appropriate?
 - If FSME payment fee exemption has been claimed, was correct evidence provided?
- ✓ SEAG will contact parents/guardians if there is an issue with verifying the application
- ✓ NB Parents/Guardians who are requesting Access Arrangements or who indicated a medical condition or SEN or EAL still have one final step in the Pupil Application process to complete



The 2025 Entrance Assessment The Registration Process (Additional notes)

- Access Arrangements If a parent/guardian has made an Access Arrangements Request, this is reviewed separately, by the Access Panel; the parent/guardian will receive an email once an Access Arrangement decision has been made
- Pupil Card This is needed for Admission to the Assessment Centre on 15 and 22 November. Parents/Guardians will be able to download the Pupil Card, which will include the photograph that was uploaded, after the registration period has closed in late September
- FSME If a claim for Free School Meals is unsuccessful because of inadequate evidence, the parent/guardian will receive an email that payment is required. Unpaid applications will not be valid, and the pupil will not be registered
- Change of details A parent/guardian can edit parts of the Pupil Application after it has been submitted, if e.g. the home address, contact number, email address or the pupil primary school have changed
- Changing Assessment Centre If parents/guardians wish to change their chosen Assessment Centre after submitting the Pupil Application, they <u>must complete a new Pupil Application and withdraw the old one</u>



The 2025 Entrance Assessment

The Registration Process - Requesting Access Arrangements

- > If a parent/guardian is directed to the Access Arrangements Section it is really important to read the "Access Arrangements Policy, Procedures and Guidance"
- In the Access Arrangements Section, parents/guardians outline details of their child's need. This would include details of any Special Educational Need(s) and/or Medical Conditions and/or EAL, whether or not they are requesting an Access Arrangement
- > e.g., Your child could have asthma and, if you would like them to bring an inhaler you will need to make an Access Arrangements request
- Your child may have a serious or long-term medical condition and, while you may not want to request an Access Arrangement, use the text box in the Access Arrangements section to inform SEAG about the medical condition
- > Alternatively, you should use this box to describe your child's Special Educational Need(s) as appropriate
- If an Access Arrangement is being requested, there is an opportunity to indicate the relevant Access Arrangements AND upload the documentary evidence to support the request(s)
- NB <u>Before</u> the Access Arrangements Section is submitted, parents/guardians can edit their Access request(s) and add to or amend uploaded supporting evidence as much or as often as they need to
- Please only submit the Access Arrangements Section when you have ensured that you have included all the Access requests you wish to apply for AND you have uploaded all the supporting evidence. You cannot submit your Access Arrangements request(s) and, later, try to edit, add or amend what you have submitted 19



The 2025 Entrance Assessment The Papers (1)

- Details, including the format and specification of the Entrance Assessment, are provided on the SEAG website (<u>www.seagni.co.uk</u>) in the "Guidance for Parents" Section
- Two SEAG Practice Papers, along with Practice Answer Sheets, in both English and Gaeilge, are also provided along with a Guide for Parents with the Answer Keys for each question on each Paper

Summary:

- The Entrance Assessment consists of Paper 1 and Paper 2
- Both Papers have an identical format which is the same as that of the SEAG Practice Papers which are available, at no cost, on the SEAG website
- Each starts with a Practice Test section containing 5 English 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 the Main Paper, but without those questions being marked or timed
- The Practice Test section is followed by an English section which has 28 questions and then a Maths section which also has 28 questions



The 2025 Entrance Assessment The Papers (2)

- The English begins with a punctation 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
- Spelling is only assessed in the spelling exercise NOT in the free response answers
- The first 22 Maths questions (29-50) are multiple-choice and the final 6 questions (51-56) 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 that pupils will have 60 minutes* to work through the paper (*unless granted additional time through Access Arrangements)
- Invigilators will also tell pupils when they have about 30 minutes left and when they have about 10 minutes left (Timing prompts are slightly different for those with additional time)
- Each pupil is free to start the Main Test with either the English or the Maths section
- When completing a multiple-choice answer on the Answer Sheet a pupil may draw a horizontal line OR shade in the little box. Both are equally acceptable



The 2025 Entrance Assessment SEAG Outcomes (1)

- Parents/Guardians receive a Statement of Outcomes which has five main outcomes (or results) for their child
- The first two outcomes are the ones most likely to be used by SEAG schools within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria
- The other three outcomes provide additional information for parents/guardians and schools
- 1. The Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS)
- 2. The Band
- 3. The English SAS
- 4. The Maths SAS
- 5. Information about the Cohort Percentile Ranking

In addition, parents/guardians are provided with a range of other outcomes relating to e.g. how many questions their child answered correctly in English and in Maths and to how their child performed in Paper 1 and in Paper 2



The 2025 Entrance Assessment SEAG Outcomes (2)

1. The Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS)

- This is the pupil's overall outcome from the SEAG Entrance Assessment based on answers to the 56 English 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 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 they 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



The 2025 Entrance Assessment SEAG Outcomes (3)

2. The Band

- There are six Bands
- The Bands are designated as Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4, Band 5 and Band 6
- Cohort Percentiles are used to determine the borderline for each Band (See Outcomes (5))

SEAG Band	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cohort						
Percentile	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.



The 2025 Entrance Assessment SEAG Outcomes (4)

3.

The English SAS

- This is the Standardised Age Score based on answers to the 56 English questions
- The English SAS range is 69-141 with a mean (or average) of 100
- The English SAS is provided to inform parents/guardians 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 is 69-141 with a mean (or average) of 100
- The Maths SAS is provided to inform parents/guardians as to how their children have performed in this aspect of the Entrance Assessment



The 2025 Entrance Assessment 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

* "Cohort" means everyone who sits the SEAG 2025 Entrance Assessment



The 2025 Entrance Assessment SEAG Outcomes (6)

SEAG provides parents/guardians with all the Outcomes information we hold about their child

• In addition to the 5 main Outcomes there are 12 "raw score" Outcomes

	Total Questions	Total Answers	English/ Irish	Maths	
Paper	Attempted	Correct	Correct	Correct	
	(Max 56 per Paper)	(Max 56 per Paper)	(Max 28 per Paper)	(Max 28 per Paper)	
1	56	43	21	22	
2	56	41	20	21	
TOTALS	112	84	41	43	

- The 5 main Outcomes are standardised and take account of how a child performed in their English and in their Maths <u>when compared with all the other pupils</u> who sat the Assessment "the cohort"
- The "raw score" outcomes are not standardised. They tell how many questions a child answered correctly, <u>but</u> provide no information as to how those scores compare with those of all the pupils who sat the Assessment



The 2025 Entrance Assessment SEAG Outcomes (7)

There are a number of reasons why parents/guardians receive different types of Outcomes including:

- Academically selective schools tend to use 2 main types of outcomes within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria.
 Some choose to rank order using TSAS, others use SEAG Bands and some use both. SEAG is, therefore, providing TSAS and Bands
- Calculating the English SAS and, separately, the Maths SAS means that both subjects have equal weighting in the Assessment
- Providing the English SAS and the Maths SAS may be helpful to parents/guardians, primary schools and post-primary schools
- ✓ Some parents/guardians find it helpful to have a further breakdown of their child's results relating to e.g. how many questions their child answered correctly in English and in Maths and also how their child performed in Paper 1 and in Paper 2



The 2025 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 3e
- It is the responsibility of each academically selective school (NOT SEAG) to set out, within its 2026 Year 8 Admissions Criteria, how it will treat estimated outcomes. e.g. through "Special Provisions"



The 2025 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 Assessment Centre, a file containing details of every pupil registered to sit the Entrance Assessment in that school
- Each SEAG school (Assessment Centre) will:
- make all the practical arrangements for the pupils who will be sitting the Entrance Assessment in their school (Assessment Centre)
- by mid-October 2025, communicate directly with each parent/guardian whose child(ren) are sitting the Assessment in their school
- > provide practical details e.g. about dropping off children before the Assessment and collecting them afterwards
- > liaise with parents/guardians as appropriate e.g. if there are particular medical or other needs



The 2025 Entrance Assessment Role of a SEAG school with P7 parents and pupils (2)

- It is envisaged that each Assessment Centre will hold a Familiarisation session in October 2025 to help children prepare for their time in the school on 15 and 22 November 2025
- 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 can only be admitted to the Assessment Centre if they are registered to sit the Entrance Assessment
- Pupils cannot be admitted to the Assessment Centre Room/Hall after the Assessment has started
- If a child cannot attend on one of the two Entrance Assessment dates the parents/guardians must inform the Assessment Centre as soon as it is practically possible to do so
- Pupils who are absent on one of the two days will only sit part of the full Entrance Assessment



The 2025 Entrance Assessment

For further information about SEAG and the 2025 Entrance Assessment, including Registration, visit www.seagni.co.uk

The "Guidance for Parents" Section includes Frequently Asked Questions, a list of the 63 member schools, along with various resources such as The Specification, The Format, Practice Papers, Practice Answer Sheets and the Access Arrangements documentation

OR

Check out Facebook@SEAG NI OR Instagram @SEAG_NI_Official

NB parents/guardians can email SEAG directly from the SEAG portal as soon as they have created an account

SEAG 1 May 2025