



## The SEAG 2026 Entrance Assessment – Guidance Notes for Parents/Guardians

- All 63 post-primary schools in N. Ireland which use academic selection are members of SEAG and plan to use outcomes from the 2026 Entrance Assessment within their 2027 Year 8 Admissions Criteria.

### Key Dates:

<b>Registration Period:</b>	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 (8.00am) –	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 (11.59pm)
<b>SEAG Entrance Assessment Paper 1:</b>		Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2026 (am)
<b>SEAG Entrance Assessment Paper 2:</b>		Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2026 (am)
<b>SEAG Outcomes released to parents/guardians</b>		Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2027 (am)

### Parent and Pupil Registration

- Registration is through a portal on the website [www.seagni.co.uk](http://www.seagni.co.uk).
- Parents/Guardians first register themselves to create an account with SEAG and then complete a Pupil Application to register their child.
- When registering as a parent/guardian, you have the opportunity to include a recovery email address. The advantage of doing this is that if, sometime later, you cannot use the main email account, you have another way of accessing your SEAG account and your child's Application.
- If you choose not to add a recovery email and, later, you cannot use the main email account, it will not be possible for you to access your child's Application e.g. to change information or to view your child's SEAG Outcomes.
- Take time to complete the Pupil Application Form accurately. Each year around 10% of applications contain errors. Some of those happen because parents are concerned with getting the form submitted as quickly as possible, rather than as accurately as possible.

### What do I need when making a Pupil Registration?

Parents/Guardians need to have the following documentation ready to upload as part of the Pupil Application:

- Child's Photograph (head & shoulders – passport-style)
- Child's Birth Certificate / Passport or Residence Permit (both sides)
- If claiming exemption from the £20 Administration Fee, Free School Meals Entitlement **approval** evidence.

### Assessment Centres

- There are thousands of places provided, in total, at the different Assessment Centres. Most will have spaces up to September 2026; judging from last year, no Centre ran out of spaces in the first week.

### Pupil Registration

- **It is the responsibility of a parent/ guardian to register their child to sit the SEAG 2026 Entrance Assessment.**
- **Only pupils who have been registered can sit the SEAG 2026 Entrance Assessment.**
- **If a pupil has not been registered, he/she will NOT be able to sit the Entrance Assessment.**

- Plan to have your Pupil Application submitted well before 18<sup>th</sup> September 2026 – don't risk missing the deadline.

## GUIDANCE NOTES

- The name and date of birth you submit on the Pupil Application **must be identical** to that on the birth certificate / passport / residence permit information (e.g. if the birth certificate says “Daniel”, type in “Daniel”, not “Danny”. OR e.g. Mary Fiona McCain *not* MARY FIONA MCCAIN or Mary fiona Mccain.
- You must provide a **copy of the birth certificate\* OR passport\* OR residence permit (both sides)\*** to confirm your child’s name and date of birth (\*or a copy of the Deed Poll if the child’s name has been legally changed).
- You must provide an appropriate, head and shoulders, **passport-style photograph of your child** to confirm identity. This photo will appear on the Pupil Card your child brings to the Assessment Centre in November.
- You need to provide details of an adult, other than yourself, who can act as a second contact person.
- Take care when selecting the Assessment Centre (SEAG school) where you would like your child to sit the Assessment. You will be able to choose from all the Centres that have places available at the time you make the Pupil Application. Some have chosen Centres which were many miles away – by mistake.
- Selecting “Gaeilge” directs the parent to a choice of the available Assessment Centres which provide the “Gaeilge version”. The Invigilation will be in Irish for those pupils.
- 12 of our Assessment Centres can provide the “Gaeilge version” of the Entrance Assessment as well as the “English version”.
- Be aware that some Centres may use rooms, others may use halls and some may use a combination BUT many Centres won’t be able to work out their arrangements until after Registration has ended in late September.
- During the Pupil Application process, there is a “Review” page where **you must check that everything you have entered or selected is correct**. Check that the birth certificate / passport / residence permit and photographic ID meet SEAG requirements. If necessary, edit anything that is incorrect before moving to the “Payment” section.
- **You will also need to confirm that all the information you have provided is accurate, accept liability and responsibility AND you will need to accept the SEAG Terms and Conditions.**
- You are 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 current approval evidence from the Education Authority**. A screenshot from your EA Portal account which provides evidence of FSME OR a copy of an EA “Entitlement Letter” are suitable. Documents must show the child’s name, date of birth and that the FSME is current.

- If you are claiming the Administration Fee exemption, but cannot provide a screenshot, then you can request a Free School Meals Entitlement Letter from EA by ringing their helpdesk (028 90418044) or by emailing [info@eani.org.uk](mailto:info@eani.org.uk) and providing your details and your child’s details.
- After the Pupil Application has been submitted, the parent can edit the form if there is e.g. a change in address, phone number, email address or primary school.
- To change the Assessment Centre, a new Pupil Application must be made and, after that, the original Application must be withdrawn.
- NB If a Pupil Application is completely withdrawn, for any reason, the place in the chosen Assessment Centre is also withdrawn. That Centre may or may not have places available if a new Pupil Application is made.

## GUIDANCE NOTES

- NB When the Administration Fee payment has been made OR approved FSME payment exemption evidence has been submitted, the pupil's place at the selected Assessment Centre is secured.

After you have submitted your Pupil Application, you will receive an email from SEAG to confirm that your child is registered, pending verification by SEAG.

### This email is to confirm you have registered a pupil, pending verification from SEAG.

Please note, all applications will be reviewed and verified by the SEAG team. Your pupil's place at the Assessment Centre is secured during the verification process. We will only contact you if there is an issue. You can check on the status of your application at any time:

[View Application](#)

### Further Information

**Access Arrangements:** If you have submitted an Access Arrangements Request, this will be reviewed separately by an independent Access Panel.

**Changing Assessment Centre:** If you wish to change Assessment Centre you will need to:

1. Complete a new application
2. Withdraw the original application

NB A refund of the Administration Fee will not be given for changing the Assessment Centre.

**Pupil Card:** Parents/Guardians will be able to download the Pupil Card after the registration period has closed.

Kind Regards,  
SEAG

### Verification process

To verify a Pupil Registration, SEAG will carefully check:

- that the name and date of birth entered match those on the birth certificate/passport/residence permit.
- that the photographic ID is appropriate and a head and shoulders image of the pupil.
- that correct evidence has been provided if FSME payment exemption is claimed.

**If there is an issue with the Pupil Application, SEAG will send the parent/guardian a message via the SEAG portal. SEAG will only contact you about the Pupil Application if there is an issue.**

- As soon as a Registration has been verified you will see "verified" rather than "pending" when you log on to view your child's Pupil Application.
- NB Please do not contact SEAG to ask, "When will my registration be verified?"

### Access Arrangements

Access Arrangements are 'Reasonable Adjustments' made for the SEAG Entrance Assessment for children with identified specific, significant/substantial needs. They are put in place to meet the needs of an individual pupil without affecting the integrity of the Entrance Assessment.

During the pupil Registration you will be asked 4 questions:

- Does the pupil have Special Educational Needs and/or a Disability?
  - Does the pupil have a Long-term or Serious Medical Condition?
  - Has the pupil had less than 3 years in the UK/Ireland by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026? (i.e. they arrived in UK/Ireland after 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023).
  - Does the pupil need to bring an item(s) which falls under Access Arrangements to the Assessment Centre?
- If you answer "Yes" to any of these 4 questions, you will be taken to the Access Arrangements Section of the Pupil Application Form after you have completed the payment/waiver step.

## GUIDANCE NOTES

- If you select “No” to all 4 questions, you will NOT be able to include an Access Arrangements request in your Pupil Application.
- If your child has a medical condition which the Assessment Centre would need to know about, you should answer “Yes” to the medical condition question.
- If Access Arrangements have been requested, you will need to upload the evidence required in the SEAG Access Arrangements Policy, Procedure and Guidance document. This documentation is reviewed separately, by the Independent Access Panel, and the parent will receive an email once an Access Arrangement decision has been made.
- It is the responsibility of Parents/Guardians to read the Access Arrangements Policy, Procedures and Guidance document which is published on the SEAG website and to ensure that you have the necessary, independently verified evidence required to support each request. Please note that it takes time and care to complete the application for Access Arrangements to ensure that it is compliant with the Access Arrangements Policy, Procedures and Guidance document.
- Parents can complete and submit the Access Arrangements Section **at any time** up to the close of registrations – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2026 (11.59pm). However, and particularly if the request is complex, it is advisable to submit Access Arrangements requests well before the deadline.

- **Before the Access Arrangements Section is submitted, parents can edit their Access request(s) and add to or amend uploaded supporting evidence as much or as often as they need to.**
- After the Access Arrangements Section has been submitted, it is not possible to edit, add to or amend what has been submitted.
- **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.**

### SEAG Entrance Assessment Papers

- The Entrance Assessment consists of two Papers, taken a week apart, on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2026**.
- The format is the same as for SEAG Practice Papers and is set out on the SEAG website.
- Pupils sit **both** Papers. It is not either sitting Paper 1 (14<sup>th</sup> November) or Paper 2 (21<sup>st</sup> November).
- Invigilators take pupils through the Practice Test section. They then tell them when to start the Main Test and that they have 60 minutes\* to work through it (\*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.)
- 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.
- Each pupil is free to begin the Main Test with either the English (or Gaeilge) or the Maths section.
- Each Assessment Centre provides pencils, erasers and rough work paper.
- Pupils may bring:
  - A highlighter - which can be used on the Question Paper or rough work paper (provided by the Centre) but not on the Answer Sheet.
  - A pencil grip.
- Pupils answer a multiple-choice question by drawing a horizontal line in the little box on the answer sheet or pupils may, if they choose, fill in the little box instead of drawing a line. SEAG can assure pupils that either method is acceptable.

## GUIDANCE NOTES

### SEAG Outcomes

- It is planned that Outcomes will be available **online** from **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2027**.
- SEAG provides parents with a Statement of Outcomes which includes all their child's SEAG Outcomes.
- The key outcomes which tend to be used by SEAG schools within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria are the **Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS)** and the **Band**. Some schools use TSAS, some use Bands and some may use both.
- TSAS, the overall standardised outcome is the English/Gaeilge SAS added to the Maths SAS.
- The **Standardised Age Score (SAS) for English/Gaeilge** computation is based on how many English/Gaeilge questions were answered correctly, the difficulty of the Assessment and the age of the pupil. The English/Gaeilge SAS range is 69-141 and the mean (or average) is 100.
- The **Standardised Age Score (SAS) for Maths** computation is based on how many Maths questions were answered correctly, the difficulty of the Assessment and the age of the pupil. The Maths SAS range is 69-141 and the mean (or average) is 100.
- The Total SAS range is 138-282 with a mean (or average) of 200. An SAS takes account of a child's age when he/she took the assessment, the number of correct answers and the difficulty of the assessment.
- There are six SEAG Bands – Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4, Band 5 and Band 6.

SEAG Band	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cohort Percentile	60%+	50-59%	40-49%	30-39%	20-29%	<20%

A Cohort Percentile which is 60% or higher (Band 1) means pupils who are in the top 40% of all 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.

- Although the Cohort Percentile needed for each Band remains the same from year to year, the TSAS needed for each Band may vary slightly from year to year.
- In addition to the standardised Outcomes, SEAG provides parents with "raw score" Outcomes relating to e.g. how many questions their child answered correctly in English (or Gaeilge) and in Maths, and also how their child performed in Paper 1 and in Paper 2.

### Contacting SEAG

- As soon as a parent has created their own account, they are able to access a SEAG support message function when they are logged on to their account. This is the best way for parents to contact SEAG as your query will be linked to your Pupil Registration.
- People who have not created their own account with SEAG can access a more general SEAG helpline by emailing [admin@seagni.co.uk](mailto:admin@seagni.co.uk).

### Contingency

- SEAG has set aside 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026 as a contingency Assessment Day. This date will only be used in the event that it is not possible to hold the Assessment **at all** on either 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> November 2026.
- NB. This 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026 date is **not** an additional date for individual pupils who were unable to attend one of the Assessment days.

*Information as known at 29/04/2026*



# 2026 Entrance Assessment Format (at a glance)

## Overview

- The Entrance Assessment consists of two papers – pupils sit both
- **Paper 1 - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2026 (AM)**
- **Paper 2 - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2026 (AM)**
- Both papers assess English (or Gaeilge) and Mathematics
- Both papers have an identical format consisting of 3 Sections
- Section 1, the Practice Test, is not timed – only the Main Test is timed
- Pupils may begin their Main Test by starting with English (or Gaeilge) questions or by starting with Maths questions

## Section 1 – The Practice Test

- 5 English (or Gaeilge) questions
- 5 Maths questions
- Questions designed to help pupils settle before the Main Test begins
- The Practice Test Section does not count towards the overall Assessment marks

## Section 2 – The English (or Gaeilge) Main Test

- 28 questions (Q1-Q28)
- **Punctuation Exercise** (5 multiple choice questions)
- **Grammar Exercise** (5 multiple choice questions)
- **Spelling Exercise** (5 multiple choice questions)
- **English (or Gaeilge) Comprehension**
- Pupils read a passage - then answer 13 questions (Q16-Q28)
- Q16-Q22 multiple choice
- Q23-Q28 free response
- *NB Spelling is only assessed in the Spelling Exercise*

## Section 3 – The Maths Main Test

- 28 questions (Q29-Q56)
- Q29-Q50 multiple choice
- Q51-Q56 free response

## Other

- **60 minutes to answer the 56 questions in the Main Test**  
(unless additional time has been approved as an Access Arrangement)
- Each question is worth 1 mark
- Each multiple-choice question has 5 possible answers
- Answer Sheet provided – see practice materials

## Practice Materials (available free to download)

- **Practice Papers 1 and 2** - set out the format very clearly
- **Answer Sheets 1 and 2** - double-sided with clear spaces for every answer
- **Parents' Guide** - further details of format + answers to every question