



The SEAG 2024 Entrance Assessment – A Summary for Parents and Guardians

- All 63 post-primary school in N. Ireland which use academic selection are member of SEAG and plan to use outcomes from the 2024 Entrance Assessment within their 2025 Year 8 Admissions Criteria.

Key Dates:

Registration Period:	Monday 20 th May 2024 (8.00am) – Friday 20 th September 2024 (11.59pm)
SEAG Entrance Assessment Paper 1:	Saturday 16 th November 2024 (am)
SEAG Entrance Assessment Paper 2:	Saturday 23 rd November 2024 (am)
SEAG Outcomes released to parents / guardians	Saturday 25 th January 2025

Registration

- Registration is through a portal on the website 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.
- Take time to complete the Pupil Application form accurately. Last year around 20% of applications contained errors. Some of those happened because parents were concerned with getting the form submitted as quickly as possible rather than as accurately as possible.
- Parents / Guardians need to have the following documentation ready to upload as part of the Pupil Application: Child's Birth Certificate; Child's Photograph (head and shoulders – passport style); and Free School Meals Entitlement evidence - if claiming exemption from the £20 Administration Fee.
- There are thousands of places available at the different Assessment Centres. Most will have spaces up to September 2024; judging from last year no Centre ran out of spaces in the first week or two.

Only pupils who have been registered during the Registration Period can sit the SEAG 2024 Entrance Assessment. If a pupil has not been registered he / she will NOT be able to sit the Entrance Assessment.

When making a Pupil Application to register your child:

- the name and date of birth **must be identical** to the birth certificate information;
- you must provide a copy of the birth certificate* and an appropriate passport style photograph of your child, to confirm identity; *Or a copy of the Deed Poll if the child's name has been legally changed.
- take care when selecting the Assessment Centre (SEAG school) where you would like your child to sit the Assessment. Last year some parents chose Centres which were over 50 miles away – by mistake.
- 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.
- you will, during the pupil application process, move to a "Review" page where you should check that everything you have entered or selected is correct. Please also "View" the birth certificate and photographic ID. If necessary, please edit anything that is incorrect before moving to the "payment" section.
- you will also need to confirm that that all the information you have provided is accurate, accept liability and responsibility AND 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 £20 fee, **but must provide current verification of FSME status when registering**. A copy of a FSME confirmation email from the Education Authority (EA) OR 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 FSME £20 exemption but cannot locate the confirmation email and cannot provide a screenshot then you can request an Entitlement Letter from EA by ringing their helpdesk (028 90418044) or by emailing info@eani.org.uk and providing your details and your child's details.

As soon as the Administration Fee has been paid or approved FSME payment exemption documentation has been uploaded the pupil's place at the chosen 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.

- SEAG will check e.g. that the name and date of birth entered match those on the birth certificate, that the photographic ID is appropriate and, if FSME registration fee exemption has been claimed, that correct evidence has been provided.

- **SEAG will contact the parent again, by email, if there is an issue with the application.**
- **If there is no issue there is NO follow up email.**
- In the Application we ask you to indicate if your child has Special Educational Needs and/or a Medical Condition and/or English as an Additional Language AND we ask if you are Requesting Access Arrangements.
- If you answer “yes” to any of these questions you will be taken to the Access Arrangements Section of the Application Form later in the process. (e.g. you may want to let us know that your child has a Medical Condition and then in the Access Arrangements Section to let us know that he / she has asthma and will need to bring an inhaler – but doesn’t need Access Arrangements.
- If Access Arrangements have been requested the documentation is reviewed separately, by the Access Panel, and the parent will receive an email once an Access Arrangement decision has been made.
- **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 Assessment Centre, a new Pupil Application is made; the existing Application must be withdrawn.**

Parents indicate which Access Arrangements they are requesting and/or tell us about the “SEN”, the Medical Condition and/or EAL AND, if requesting Access Arrangements, they upload the documentary evidence they wish to submit to support their request(s).

- Parents can complete and submit the Access Arrangements Section **at any time** up to the close of registrations – 20th September 2024 (11.59pm).
- NB 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.

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.

SEAG Entrance Assessment Papers

- The Entrance Assessment consists of two Papers taken a week apart – **Saturday 16th and 23rd November 2024.** The format is the same as for SEAG Practice Papers and is set out in the SEAG website.
- Pupils sit **both** Papers. It is not a choice between sitting Paper 1 (16th November) or Paper 2 (23rd 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).
- Each pupil is free to start with the English (or Gaelige) or the Maths.
- Each Assessment Centre provides pencils and rubbers. **Pupils may bring and use their own highlighters** which can be used on the Question Paper or rough work paper (provided by the Centre) but not on the Answer Sheet.
- Pupils answer a multiple choice question by drawing a horizontal line in the little box on the answer sheet or, as advised by SEAG in 2023, pupils may, if they choose, fill in the little box instead of drawing a line. SEAG can assure pupils that either method is acceptable.

SEAG Outcomes

- These will be available **online** from **Saturday 25th January 2025.**
- The key outcomes which are most likely to be used by SEAG schools within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria are the **Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS)** and the **Band**.
- The TSAS is the overall outcome based on answers to all the questions in Papers 1 and 2.
- 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%

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.

Academically selective schools tend to use 2 main types of outcomes within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria. Some schools will wish to use TSAS, others prefer SEAG Bands and some use both. SEAG provides TSAS and Bands.

Additionally, parents will be provided with other outcomes relating to e.g. how many questions their child answered correctly in English (or Gaelige) and in Maths and also how their child performed in Paper 1 and in Paper 2.