



The SEAG

2024 Entrance Assessment



The 2024 Entrance Assessment

General Information

- **For pupils who will be transferring to post-primary school in September 2025.**
- 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 2024 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 admissions procedure for children who have a formal
"Statement of Special Educational Needs".*

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Key Dates

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



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Really Important

Registration

- Only pupils who have been registered to sit the Entrance Assessment (*registration closes at 11.59pm on Friday 20th September 2024*) will be able to sit the Assessment.
- If a pupil has not been registered he / she 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

- These will be available **online** from Saturday 25th January 2025.



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The Registration Process (Be Prepared)

Parents / Guardians will:

- ✓ use a portal on the website www.seagni.co.uk to register their child by completing a “Pupil Application”.
- ✓ need to have the following documentation to hand:
 - Child’s Birth Certificate
 - Child’s Photograph – a head and shoulders picture.

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

- Current Free School Meals Eligibility Entitlement (FSME) documentation provided by the Education Authority (EA) **with the child’s name and date of birth:**

Either a FSME confirmation email from EA OR an appropriate screenshot from the parent’s account in the EA portal OR a FSM “Entitlement Letter” from EA.

The screenshot shows a webpage from SEAG (Schools' Entrance Assessment Group) with the title "What do I need to apply?". Below the title, it states: "Before you begin your application you must have the following documentation to hand:". There are three items listed, each with a circular icon:

- Child's Birth Certificate**: A scanned copy or photograph of the Child's Birth Certificate or National Identity Card (both sides)
- Child's Photograph**: A photograph of the child. [How do I take a good photo?](#)
- Free School Meals Entitlement Eligibility**: Is the pupil eligible for Free School Meals?
If so... You'll need current evidence from the Education Authority (EA), i.e. a copy of either the FSME confirmation email or a screenshot from your EA portal account which provides evidence of your child's FSME or a current FSME "Entitlement Letter"

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The Registration Process

(Learning from the 2023 experience)

- Last year almost 10% of all parents registered on the first day to try and make sure they were able to get a place at their preferred Assessment Centre BUT
- 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 left it until the last week before trying to register and some forgot to register.
- **Last year there were errors in around 20% 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.



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The Registration Process (Step 1)

- Parents / Guardians will use a portal on the website www.seagni.co.uk

Step 1 Parent / Guardian Registration

- ✓ The Registration process starts with the parent / guardian creating their own account in the portal.
- ✓ The portal is open from 8:00am on Monday 20th May 2024.

This Step involves providing an email address.

- *If a parent 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 had set up an SEAG account in 2023 and you have another child sitting the Entrance Assessment in 2024 you will need to set up a new account for 2024.*
- *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 us and we will contact SEAG on your behalf.*

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The Registration Process (Step 2)

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 for the Pupil Application to be valid.*

- ✓ **The parent / guardian chooses 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 more than 50 miles from their home.*
 - *Do not be misled into thinking that, for 2024, 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.*



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The Registration Process (Step 3)

Step 3 Add Essential Documentation

- ✓ **The birth certificate and passport sized photograph are uploaded to confirm the identity of the pupil.**
- 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* and a passport style photograph need to be available and uploaded at some point before submitting the Pupil Application.
- The photograph should be a head and shoulders picture of the child.
- *If a child's name has been changed by Deed Poll, then a copy of the Deed Poll, not the birth certificate should be uploaded.



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The Registration Process (Step 4)

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 **must** answer YES or NO to 4 important questions regarding Access Arrangements.
- If you select **“YES”** for **any** of these questions, you will be taken to the **“Access Arrangements”** area before finally submitting your application.
- **If, for example, your child has asthma and would need to use an inhaler during the Assessment you need to let SEAG know this. If you are not requesting Access Arrangements, you can just tick “YES” beside the “Medical Condition” button and leave everything else as “NO”.*

The screenshot shows the SEAG application interface. On the left is a navigation menu with 'Applications' selected. The main content area is titled 'Application' and 'STEP 4 / 9 Access Arrangements'. It contains four questions with radio button options for 'Yes' and 'No':

- Does the pupil have a special educational need? (Yes: , No:)
- 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? (Yes: , No:)



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The Registration Process (Step 4)

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, e.g. the Access Arrangements Policy and Access Arrangements 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 through the portal. Parents have the right of appeal.



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The Registration Process (Step 5)

Step 5 **Review all the information you have included**

- ✓ **We outlined in an earlier slide that last year around 20% of submitted Pupil Application forms contained errors.**
- ✓ For 2024 SEAG has added a “**Review**” page to the Form for parents 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, by clicking on “view”, that the photographic ID and the birth certificate 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.

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The Registration Process (Step 5)

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 exempt through FSME, then **current** 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.*

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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 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 if there is an issue with verifying the application.**
- ✓ **NB Parents 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.**

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The Registration Process (Additional notes)

- ✓ **Access Arrangements** - If a parent has made an Access Arrangements Request, this is reviewed separately, by the Access Panel; the parent will receive an email once an Access Arrangement decision has been made.
- ✓ **Pupil Card** – This is needed for Admission to the Assessment Centre on 16th and 23rd November. Parents will be able to download the Pupil Card, 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 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 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 a parent wishes to change their chosen Assessment Centre, after the Pupil Application has been submitted, they must complete a new Pupil Application and withdraw the old one.

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The Registration Process - Requesting Access Arrangements

- Parents continue to the Access Arrangements Section, where they **must** use the text box provided, to 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 while you may not want to request an Access Arrangement, you should use the text box to inform SEAG that they will need to bring an inhaler. 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 will be an opportunity to indicate the relevant Access Arrangements AND upload the documentary evidence to support the 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.

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The Papers (1)

- Details, including the format and specification of the Entrance Assessment, are provided on the SEAG website (www.seagni.co.uk).
- 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.
- **Each starts with a Practice Test section containing 5 English (or Gaeilge) 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 (or Gaeilge) section which has 28 questions and then a Maths section which also has 28 questions.**

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The Papers (2)

- **The actual Entrance Assessment Papers to be taken in November 2024 have the same format as the Practice Papers which are available on the website.**
- The English (or Gaeilge) begins with a punctuation 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.**
- The first 22 Maths questions (29-50) are also 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).**
- Each pupil is free to start the Main Test with either the English (or Gaeilge) 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.**

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SEAG Outcomes (1)

- Parents / Guardians will receive 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 and schools.

1. The Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS)

2. The Band

3. The English / Gaeilge SAS

4. The Maths SAS

5. Information about the Cohort Percentile Ranking

In addition, parents will be provided with other 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.

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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 (or Gaeilge) 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 / Gaeilge 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 he/she 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.



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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 will be 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.

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SEAG Outcomes (4)

3. The English / Gaeilge) SAS

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

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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 2024 Entrance Assessment*

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SEAG Outcomes (6)

There are a number of reasons why parents 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.
- ✓ GL Assessment, the SEAG test provider, can separate out pupils' performance in the English (or Gaeilge) part of the Entrance Assessment from the Maths performance. Providing an English/Gaeilge SAS and a Maths SAS may be helpful to parents, primary schools and post-primary schools.
- ✓ Some parents find it helpful to have a further breakdown of their child's results. SEAG provides additional 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.

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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 2025 Year 8 Admissions Criteria, how it will treat estimated outcomes. e.g. through “Special Provisions”.

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Role of a SEAG school with P7 parents and pupils (1)

- **After the Registration Period has ended SEAG will make available, to each SEAG school, 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 2024, 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.

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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 2024 to help children prepare for their time in the school on 16th and 23rd November 2024.**
- 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 cannot be admitted to the Assessment Centre room / hall after the Assessment has started.**
- **Pupils cannot be admitted if they are not registered to sit the Entrance Assessment.**
- If a child cannot attend on one of the two Entrance Assessment dates the parents/guardian must inform the Assessment Centre as soon as it is practically possible to do so.
- **There is no “third Assessment Day” – so pupils who are absent on one of the two days will only sit part of the full Entrance Assessment.**

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For further information

about SEAG and the 2024 Entrance Assessment,

including Registration, visit www.seagni.co.uk

OR Facebook @SEAG NI OR Instagram @SEAG_NI_Official

NB After parents have created an account on the SEAG portal they will be able to email SEAG directly from the portal.