

# Executive Summary

## Streamlining the 11+ Process

The Education Board discussed the Consultation Results at its meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Members agreed unanimously that the current process could usefully be streamlined along the lines of the consultation findings (see Consultation Results). **The changes will come in to effect from September 2012.**

These can be summarised as follows:

1. Reduce the number of 11+ test papers
2. Reduce the number of test papers from seven papers to two. These new papers would include both verbal and non-verbal reasoning questions which would be similar to the VR and NVR papers used within the current selection process.
3. 11+ test papers will continue to be sat at a pupil's own school.
4. 11+ test papers will continue to be sat during the normal school day.
5. The new 11+ tests will be sat by pupils during the Spring Term
6. The two tests will be sat one week apart.
7. The border-lining process will continue
8. The average score of the two tests will be used

Board members wished to clarify a number of points with regards to the way forward.

### The Validity of the Tests

Board members wished to be reassured that the validity and rigour of the test results would not be compromised by reducing the number and type of papers included in the selection process.

Further information from GL Assessment, the provider of Guernsey's test papers and those of many other local authorities and jurisdictions, confirms that the most reliable predictor of future academic achievement is Verbal Reasoning tests closely followed by Non-Verbal Reasoning tests. GL Assessment also confirms that the addition of Maths and English tests will not have a statistically significant impact on the overall ranking of test scores.

### The New Test Papers

Board members also wanted to provide further clarity on the number of test papers and when children would sit the new tests. Board members felt it was important to advise parents, schools and pupils of the changes at the earliest opportunity. These changes would be implemented for

those entering Year 6 in September 2012. Guidance for parents would be updated at the earliest opportunity and the scheduled meetings with Year 6 parents in October would confirm the details of the new arrangements. The Board is proposing that the two sessions be on the last Tuesday in January with the second following seven days later on the first Tuesday in February **(for those pupils going into Year 6 in September this would be January 29<sup>th</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup> 2013)**

Parents would still be able to opt out of their children sitting the 11+ papers.

The Board wanted to clarify that although it had agreed to reduce the number of test papers from the seven current papers it was effectively supporting a change to four papers sat at two sessions. This is because the new sessions would include both Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning questions whereas under the current process these questions are included in separate papers sat on different days.

The Department is in the process of working with GL Assessment to develop these new papers and will provide further information when this becomes available.

Pupils would still be given the opportunity to sit a practice paper at school similar to the format and content of the new papers. It should be noted that the practice Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning test papers that are available for parents to buy from various retailers are still valid.

## Border-lining

The Board felt it was important to retain the rigorous border-lining process.

As highlighted in the Consultation Paper, during this process children who have achieved scores which place them between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> percentile (the Borderline Group) have their test results and their school work looked at by a Panel which includes the Grammar School Headteacher, a Headteacher from one of the High Schools and a Senior Officer of the Education Department. This Borderline Panel also looks at the test results and work of any pupils who the schools feel should exceptionally be considered, even if they fall outside the borderline range. A school will only ask exceptionally for a review if there is a significant disparity in the child's normal performance in school work and his/her scores in the tests.

## Future Changes

The Board felt it was important to acknowledge that the recent independent reviews of primary and secondary education carried out by Denis Mulkerrin refer to the 11+ process. Although Mr Mulkerrin does not make explicit recommendations about the future of the Bailiwick's selective system, he does refer to the absence of a comprehensive school system as 'the elephant in the room'.

The Board is happy that the recent consultation did not consider the wider question of whether to abolish or retain the selection process but concentrated on making the current process less stressful for pupils, parents, families and schools.

However, the Board is unanimously of the view that the system of selection itself should be reviewed within this political term.

It is in the process of developing a vision for the future of the Education Service which it plans to publish before the end of the year. The timescale for any such review of the system of selection will be included within this vision document.