

Frequently Asked Questions:-

When is the test?

Saturday 3rd October 2026. Registration is from 8:45am.

What do I need to do in order for my child to take the test?

All applications for Sport and Performing Arts must complete the school's application form (SIF) to attend the test day. The form should be completed and submitted by Noon, Friday 2nd October 2026. [Click here for Supplementary Information Form](#)

What if I can't make this date?

It is expected that **all** applicants wishing to be admitted via the Sport or Performing Arts test should be able to make the date stated above. Only in an extenuating circumstance will an alternative date be considered. Parents with a **compelling reason** why they cannot make the date should write to the school to have their request for an alternative date considered.

How many places are allocated via the Aptitude Test for Sport and Performing Arts?

30 from the 300 places available for entry to Year 7.

Does it matter where I live?

Only in the event of a tie between two or more candidates will the distance tie-break apply. Priority will be given to the child who lives the nearest the school.

How long is the test? What time should we arrive at the school?

Sport

The test is expected to last for approximately 2 ½ hours starting at 9.30am. The test will consist of:-

- 4 Fitness tests (Long run, 60m sprint, Standing long jump and a throw)
- Team game

Performing Arts

Dance - The test is expected to last for approximately 2 ½ hours starting at 9.30am. The test will consist of:

- Technique workshop.
- Choreography workshop.
- 1½ minutes performance of a pre-organised piece in a style of your choice.

Drama – The test is expected to last for approximately 2 ½ hours starting at 9:30am. The test will consist of:

- Devising.
- Following direction
- Sight reading of a monologue.

Music - The test is expected to last for approximately 1 hour starting at 8.30am. The test will consist of:

- Rehearsal
- 1–2 minutes performance of a pre-organised piece on an instrument of your choice.

My child already has a sibling at the school, should he or she sit the aptitude test?

If the sibling will be still on the school roll at the time of the proposed admission, then it is not necessary for any sibling to sit the test.

Can I find out my child's results?

You will receive a letter via email notifying you of your child's test within 10 days of completion of the test. This result may inform your choice of schools but should not be viewed as a guarantee that your child will be offered a place. All will know which school place they have on National Offer Day 1st March.

How are the results calculated?

All those who have taken part in the aptitude test will be given a percentage score. Scores from all test areas will be ordered together highest to lowest. An anticipated threshold for entry will be communicated in the results letter to give parents an informed choice when completing their secondary school application.

Sport

The boys and girls test results are ranked separately. The fitness scores are ranked from the fastest to slowest or high to low and then awarded a score out of 20. We divide the number of pupils who attended by 20. For example, if 100 boys attended then it would be $100/20 = 5$. Every 5 scores we would award a point out of 20. The first 5 scores would be awarded 20 points, next 5 scores 19 points, next 5 scores 18 points and so on. The team game score is awarded based on how well they performed during the mini-games. Staff assess them on their sporting attributes within the game (communication, movement, game understanding and sport skills).

Performing Arts

The tests are scored out of 30 marks. Each separate discipline has their own criteria.

Dance - Technique, Choreography and Performance

Drama - Devising with a performance, following direction for a performance and performing a monologue as a sight reading.

Music - Fluency and Musical Detail, Technical Control and Communication and Style

When will you know the confirmed threshold for entry?

We will know the confirmed threshold for entry via the category of aptitude on National Offer Day, 1st March. Essex Education Authority will offer school places according to the choices made so the threshold will not be confirmed until we receive the final offer list.

How will I know if my child gained a place via aptitude?

If your child's place with us is offered via aptitude you will be contacted to attend an information meeting during the summer term after National Offer Day on 1st March. If you wish to know sooner you can ask via email. Please email

admissions@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

What are the expectations and benefits of being offered a place via aptitude?

There is an expectation that successful candidates will commit themselves to the wide range of competitive Sports and whole school Performing Arts productions.

Those youngsters selected for their dramatic, musical or dancing ability will receive a place on our coveted Artistic Performance Team (APT) where they will have the opportunity to play a part in all school shows, longer school events, both internally and externally, attend trips to widen knowledge and interest in the arts as well as look at future careers in the creative arts sector.

It is expected that all on APT will be committed to all that Creative Arts offer.

Pupils selected on the basis of a sporting aptitude will be guaranteed a place on our Elite Player Development programme (EPD) where they will receive specialised coaching, such as personalised strength and conditioning training, delivered by qualified professionals in our outstanding facilities. Further information regarding the EPD can be found on the school's website.

It is expected that all on EPD will be committed to all that Athletic Performance offer.

Is the aptitude the only way to be a part of APT or EPD?

No, all pupils will have an opportunity to apply for APT or EPD once they have joined us in September.

Who should I contact for further information?

For any sport aptitude queries please contact Mr B Manners, Head of Athletic Performance Faculty via email on bmanners@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk.

For performing art aptitude queries please contact Mr M Townsend, Co-Ordinator for the Artistic Performance Team via email on mtownsend@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk.