



SPALDING GRAMMAR SCHOOL and SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL

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Access Arrangements for 11+ Entrance Testing

This guidance aims to clarify the procedure that we, at Spalding High School, follow with regards to determining access arrangements for pupils sitting their 11+ entrance tests.

Spalding High School is part of the Lincolnshire Consortium of Grammar Schools, and is committed to ensuring that candidates with special educational needs and disabilities are not placed at a substantial disadvantage when taking the entrance tests.

As stated in the Consortium's Frequently Asked Questions: *"The way in which the tests are constructed means that their validity requires all candidates to be treated in as nearly an identical manner as possible."* (Lincolnshire Consortium of Grammar Schools, FAQ: Access Arrangements). The Consortium also recognises its duties under equality legislation: *"However the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Act 2001 requires schools to take reasonable steps to ensure that SEND pupils are not placed at a substantial disadvantage."* (Lincolnshire Consortium of Grammar Schools, FAQ: Access Arrangements).

Any arrangements approved for the entrance tests will reflect the candidate's established *normal way of working* in school and will be considered in line with the current Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) guidance. As the Consortium states: *"Any special arrangements, made after consultation with the child's Primary School, will mirror the level of support that the primary school advised are the 'normal way of working'."* (Lincolnshire Consortium of Grammar Schools, FAQ: Access Arrangements).

How Access Arrangements Are Determined

Access arrangements are not awarded solely on the basis of a diagnosis or medical condition. Decisions are based on:

- Evidence of the candidate's normal way of working in school.
- A demonstrated need for the arrangement.
- Relevant specialist evidence where appropriate.
- Current JCQ Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments guidance.

Evidence may include:

- Specialist teacher assessment reports.

- Reports from an Educational Psychologist.
- Medical evidence from a consultant or relevant healthcare professional.
- SEND records and provision plans.
- Evidence of access arrangements routinely used in school assessments.

Spalding High School will consider whether the evidence demonstrates both:

1. A recognised need; and
2. That the requested arrangement reflects the candidate's normal way of working.

Access arrangements should be based on an identified need, supported by appropriate evidence such as a specialist teacher assessment, Educational Psychologist's report, or relevant medical evidence. Schools should then trial and implement suitable support so that, where necessary, it becomes the candidate's established normal way of working. Access arrangements are considered on the basis of both evidence of need and evidence that the arrangement is routinely used in school.

Working with Primary Schools

Although parents are welcome to contact us for advice and guidance, Spalding High School liaises directly with primary schools when considering access arrangements.

Supporting evidence must be submitted by the primary school rather than by parents. This ensures that decisions are based on objective educational evidence and an accurate understanding of the candidate's day-to-day support needs.

Primary schools may be asked to provide:

- Details of the candidate's normal way of working.
- Information about support routinely used in lessons and assessments.
- Relevant professional reports and evidence.
- Confirmation that any requested arrangements are regularly used and necessary.

We strongly advise primary schools not to promise or guarantee access arrangements for the 11+ examinations to pupils or parents unless these have been formally confirmed by Spalding High School. Decisions are made on an individual basis following consideration of the evidence provided and in accordance with current JCQ guidance. The final access arrangements applied will be determined by Spalding High School.

Submission Deadline

To allow sufficient time for applications to be reviewed and arrangements to be put in place, all supporting evidence must be received from the primary school **before the start of the summer holidays**. Evidence received after this date may not be considered unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Reference

Lincolnshire Consortium of Grammar Schools. *Frequently Asked Questions – Access Arrangements*. Accessed from the Consortium website. [Selection Process FAQ – Lincolnshire Consortium of Grammar Schools](#)
JCQ current guidance: [JCQ-AARA-2025-March-26.pdf](#)