

11+ Courses

At Flying Start we offer a range of courses, all designed to fully equip your child for the 11+ test. Choose from full year, one term or intensive (one week) holiday courses. Tuition can also be arranged on an individual or group basis - please call or email us for further details.

Courses take place in one of our fully equipped classrooms in Chesham, where each child has access to a computer. All lessons are carefully planned by one of our highly skilled tutors and are ability-appropriate, fun and engaging. Groups are kept small and are supported by trained classroom assistants, so the pupil : staff ratio never exceeds 3 : 1.

All resources required for each course are included in the fees, such as practice questions, worksheets and help guides. We also provide each child with a unique user name and password, allowing unlimited access to our online Learning Zone. The Learning Zone is a fantastic resource which enables your child to access over 6,000 unique verbal reasoning questions from home – all you need is a computer with an internet connection.

Full Year 11+ Course

This course runs for three terms throughout the time your child is in Year Five. It offers full coverage of all the areas required for the 11+, building confidence and maximising students' chances of achieving their potential in the test.

The course begins by familiarising pupils with all the different question types, teaching them the various techniques needed to tackle the questions effectively. Once the techniques are mastered, emphasis is placed on increasing speed and accuracy, with plenty of timed exercises and practice papers in exam conditions.

Throughout the year, core mathematics skills and vocabulary building activities are also undertaken and any areas of weakness are highlighted for focused practice and reinforcement. Regular feedback is given to parents and weekly homework is set in order to consolidate the skills taught in the lessons.

Short Courses

Short courses commence at the beginning of the summer term and run for twelve weeks. They are suitable for Year Five pupils as a precursor to an intensive summer course; or for Year Four pupils who wish to start early preparation for the 11+, perhaps before embarking on the full year course.

Summer Intensive 11+ Courses

These courses run for two hours each day over five consecutive days during the summer holidays. There are two levels:

Level 1

This level is aimed at pupils who have only limited experience of verbal reasoning. The course familiarises students with all the 11+ question types and is suitable either for Year Five pupils requiring a crash course in the run up to the exam; or for Year Four children as an introduction before commencing a further course.

Level 2

This level is for Year Five pupils who are already familiar with the types of questions found in the Bucks 11+ tests. It builds on techniques, helping students improve speed and accuracy and also includes practice of timed 11+ tests under exam conditions.

We also offer a range of courses for children aged 5 to 12. Please see our website for further details.

Flying Start Tuition
LEARNING MADE EASY



11+ Courses

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For current fees and availability, please see our website, email or call us on 01494 772 898.

www.flyingstarttuition.co.uk

The Eleven Plus

The Eleven Plus (11+) is an examination taken by some students in their last year of primary education as a means of establishing which type of secondary school they will move on to. It was once used throughout the United Kingdom but, since the 1970s, most areas have replaced the 11+ with the non-selective comprehensive education system. However, in a small number of Local Education Authorities, of which Buckinghamshire is one, there still exists a system of grammar and comprehensive schools and the results of the 11+ tests determines the school for which your child will be offered a place.

The Bucks 11+ Test

The 11+ in Buckinghamshire consists of two verbal reasoning tests sat on different days, usually during the October when the child is in Year 6. Each test is a 50 minute multiple choice paper, containing 80 questions. The results of these exams form the basis of the selection process. Places are offered primarily on the distance from your home to the school gates and children living in catchment for the school take priority. There is also an appeals process for those who narrowly miss the qualifying mark or are not allocated their preferred school.

What is Verbal Reasoning?

Verbal reasoning is language-based problem solving which involves thinking about words and text, number patterns and sequences. There are around 50 different types of question, of which the Bucks 11+ test uses about 21. Questions are designed to assess aptitude through exercises such as identifying the right answer from a selection given, making or finding words, construction of words within sentences and mathematical calculations.

A good grasp of English grammar and a broad vocabulary are essential, as is a sound understanding of core mathematical concepts, together with strong mental arithmetic skills.

Preparation

All Buckinghamshire state primary schools are provided with 11+ familiarisation packs. A month or so in advance of the tests, Year 6 children will work through the practice exercises in class over the course of about five lessons. They will then undertake three practice papers under exam conditions.

Private schools are provided with a familiarisation pack for each applying pupil which will be administered in the same way as in state schools. Some private schools also work through additional, commercial materials with their pupils but this is discouraged in state schools.

Pupils applying from outside the county will also be sent a familiarisation pack but unless they are sitting the test at their school (a Bucks "Partner" School) they will need to work through this themselves.

Whilst these preparation packs provide children with basic familiarisation and practice, many parents choose to give their children additional practice and support in the run-up to the exams so that they will stand a greater chance of success.

Some parents choose to prepare their children themselves, working through practice papers and using books to teach the different techniques. However, the process of preparation can be daunting and stressful for both parent and child, which is why growing numbers of parents are now turning to private tuition.

This is where Flying Start can help!

Why Flying Start?

At Flying Start, we have a range of tuition options to suit your needs. Whether you require a regular weekly session or a short, intensive holiday course, Flying Start is your ideal solution for 11+ success.

Furthermore, our courses are not just about 'passing' the 11+. Often, parents are not certain if their child would be suited to a grammar school education. However, they, like us, believe in giving their child the best possible chance to prepare for the 11+, so that he/she will be able to approach the test feeling confident and calm. In addition, the benefits of attending a course far exceed preparing for the 11+ because your child will be learning so many other skills along the way... and having fun too!

When to start

Whilst it is possible to improve verbal reasoning scores through practice in the months leading up to the exams, more advanced preparation will yield a greater chance of success. It is almost never too soon to start preparing because early practice will enable any areas of weakness to be addressed and will increase a pupil's speed and accuracy. A longer preparation period also allows time to build up vocabulary and maths skills which are fundamental to many of the question types.

Just as it is never too soon to start preparing for the 11+, it is almost never too late either. A single mark can make all the difference between success and failure, so every minute spent preparing your child is a minute invested in his or her future.

At Flying Start we run a range of courses to cater for early starters and last-minute learners.

Please turn over to find out more.