

tutorelite

Getting ready to take the 7+

What you need to know

Children sit the 7+ examination for entry to preparatory schools, usually in the Spring term of Year 2 to secure the offer of a place in Year 3.

Year 2 is the end of Key Stage 1 in the National Curriculum. It is also known as the transition point between Infants (Years 1 and 2) and Juniors (Years 3 to 6). In the Independent or private school sector, the terms pre-prep and prep are used.



Lots of different terms meaning the same thing, but the 7+ is always the transition point between the two. Other schools may use terms such as "Transition" for Year 2 or Lower and Upper.

There is no centrally administered 7+, rather the school to which you are applying will set the tests. This means there is no standard and tuition must be bespoke.

What does the 7+ involve?

Because there is no central body to administer the tests, they vary hugely. Generally, there will be an element of maths and/or mental maths, English may include writing and/or comprehension. Your child is likely to be given a verbal reasoning paper or a non-verbal reasoning paper. There may also be an interview, especially for some of the more competitive schools.

How will they take the tests?

More and more, there is an element of online testing. Some schools will put straightforward multiple-choice questions online, whilst others will use computer adaptive testing. This is when the question level is adjusted automatically according to how the child is managing with the questions.

This is one of the main reasons online tuition is such a good way to support children taking the 7+.

tutorelite

How do you support my child?

Following our welcome chat, with you and your child, I will structure the sessions in such a way as to directly support the test (or tests) they may be taking. Perhaps maths needs to be a focus? No problem, that will be our key objective. The first thing is to get to know where their strengths and weaknesses lie. Therefore, the first session or two will involve working together through some appropriate test papers (from the schools they are applying to if possible) so I know what we need to do to get them where they need to be. Further sessions will involve a mixture of technique development, confidence building and further assessments from a range of sources – I only use the highest quality assessment materials from Bond and Schofield & Sims.

You and your child will always receive regular feedback and personalised advice.

What do I need to do next?

Don't forget to get in touch with the school or schools you are considering. Generally, they will encourage you to visit. You will usually have to pay to register your interest and sit the examination.

How can private tuition help?

There is no question that this is a young age to take such an important examination and it's vital that your child knows that nobody is asking them to do anything other than their best.

It is vital that anyone working with primary-aged children, but especially at this age, understands and can use appropriate terminology – for example, I often use the term "quiz" rather than "test" or "examination". Your child is desperate to please you and they must never be made to feel like a failure if they find things tough or plans don't go as you hoped.

By working out a plan for your child – which won't be a two-week quick-fix – their skill, as well as their confidence, will grow and they will be in the right mindset to realise their potential.

If you choose to work with a tutor, ensure that whoever you choose to work with your child has experience of the 7+ and working with private schools.

tutorelite

Ensuring your child's well-being.

The well-being of all children is essential, and I will not work with families where I feel unreasonable pressure is being placed on a child to get a result to their psychological detriment.

I will never promise or guarantee a result – I never have during my teaching career and I have had no hesitation telling parents with unrealistic expectations that my school is not for them. I have maintained an enviable pass rate for many years despite this and I will work with your child in such a way as to ensure together we realise their potential.

If you would like to find out more, then visit my website to book a welcome chat

www.mytutorelite.co.uk

tutorelite