FAQ Reading School

Admission to Year 7 in September 2026
Frequently Asked Questions regarding Admission Test Results

IMPORTANT: The school will not be able to give any further information about test results other than the information you have received in your email communications.

Q	**Why have I not been told my child's test results?**
A	We want parents to have the information they need to make confident, informed choices when completing their Common Application Form (CAF). In the past, we've found that publishing individual test scores often causes confusion and misunderstanding — particularly on social media and online forums. This can be especially unhelpful for families for whom English is an additional language. Because we receive a large number of applications each year, we know we will need to apply our Oversubscription Criteria. By letting you know which oversubscription category your child falls into, we aim to give you as much clarity as possible at this stage of the process. Grammar schools are only required to tell parents whether a child has met the standard for entry. If your child has achieved an eligible score, please read the Oversubscription Categories carefully. These will help you understand whether your child will be offered a place, may be offered a place, or is unlikely to be offered a place. The Eligible Score is based on performance in English, Maths, Foundation subjects and Creativity. Students have been ranked based on their weighted total scores of all four subjects, subject to the Oversubscription Criteria in the current Admissions Policies: Admissions Policy – Day Students Admissions Policy – Boarding Students
Q	**My child has achieved the eligible score. Will he be offered a place?**
A	Your son has achieved the eligible score for Reading School and therefore may be offered a place depending on: • Including Reading School as a preferred school on your CAF • The number of candidates with an eligible score who put Reading School on their CAF • The application of the oversubscription criteria (see below): OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR DAY APPLICANTS 1. (Previously) Looked After Children and/or Children previously in care outside of England with a score up to 5 marks below an eligible score; 2. Children with Pupil or Service Premium living within the catchment area with a score up to 5 marks below an eligible score; 3. Children with a Social or Welfare Need; 4. Up to 15 places for children who have demonstrated aptitude in sport, who live within the Catchment area or who have applied for a boarding place, (by achieving a score in the Sporting Aptitude Assessment above the threshold) by rank order of performance in the sporting aptitude assessments; 5. Children whose permanent home address is within the catchment area; 6. Children whose permanent home address is NOT within the catchment area; Evidence of all of the above will need to be submitted and approved in order for a child to be admitted. OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR BOARDING APPLICANTS 1. (Previously) Looked After Children and/or Children previously in care outside of England with a score up to 5 marks below an eligible score;

	2. Children with Pupil or Service Premium with a score up to 5 marks below an eligible score; 3. Children with a boarding need; 4. Up to 15 places for children who have demonstrated aptitude in sport, who live within the Catchment area or who have applied for a boarding place, (by achieving a score in the Sporting Aptitude Assessment above the threshold) by rank order of performance in the sporting aptitude assessments; 5. All other Candidates; As per the communication sent to you, you will see the Oversubscription Category your child has been placed in and the likelihood of them being offered a place at Reading School if you name Reading School as first choice on your CAF. If you feel your child is in the wrong Category, please email: admissions@reading-school.co.uk with the appropriate evidence.
Q	**What is the eligible score for Sporting Aptitude for entry in September 2026**
A	If your child participated in the Sporting Aptitude Assessments and achieved the standard required **and** achieved the minimum eligible score for English, Maths, Foundation subjects and Creativity, he will be considered for one of up to 15 places in Year 7. If he is placed in Category 4 (Day Applicants) or Category 4 (Boarding Applicants) then he **will** be offered a place if you name Reading School as your first preference on the Common Application Form. Scores were based on the Sporting Aptitude Assessments. 131 were taken through to the second stage assessments. The top 15 have been ranked in Category 4 (Day Applicants) or Category 4 (Boarding Applicants).
Q	**I live outside the catchment area and my son has achieved the eligible score. What is the likelihood of him being offered a place?**
A	Please see above. If your son was living outside of the catchment area on 31st August 2025 then it is unlikely that he would be offered a day place at Reading School due to the large number of applications received from those who live within the catchment area. You must consider this when completing your Common Application Form.
Q	**Where is my son's place in the rank order?**
A	Reading School does not know this information as we do not know at this stage who has applied for a place at Reading School and the extent to which the application of our oversubscription criteria may need to be used. We do not see the CAF and therefore we do not know where you have placed the school in your ranked list until it is communicated to us by the Local Authority.
Q	**How many candidates sat the entrance test for Reading School for entry in September 2026?**
A	A total of 991 candidates sat the test for Reading School.
Q	**How many candidates who took the test achieved Reading School's eligible score**
A	471 candidates achieved the eligible score.
Q	**How many day applicants who took the test achieved the eligible score or above and were living in the catchment area as at 31st August 2025?**
A	358 candidates who have registered for a day place achieved the eligible score and were living within the catchment area as at 31st August 2025.
Q	**How many boarding applicants who took the test achieved the eligible score or above?**
A	61 candidates who have applied for a boarding place achieved the qualifying score or above.
Q	**How many day applicants were placed in each Category of the Oversubscription Criteria?**
A	Day Applicants EHCP - 4 Category 1 – 0 Category 2 – 14 Category 3 – 1 Category 4 – 13 Category 5 – 328 Category 6 - 50

Q	How many boarding applicants were placed in each Category of the Oversubscription Criteria?
A	Boarding Applicants Category 1 – 0 Category 2 – 1 Category 3 - 0 Category 4 – 2 Category 5 – 57
Q	**What is my son's raw score for each test?**
A	Reading School considers this information to be commercially sensitive under exemption 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which states that information is exempt of information if its disclosure under the Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person.
Q	**When will I know if I have been offered a place at Reading School?**
A	The National Offer date is 2nd March 2026.
Q	**Can I see my son's test papers?**
A	It is not possible to see a candidate's test papers as they are commercially sensitive and the property of FSCE Ltd.
Q	**Which postcodes make up Reading School's catchment area?**
A	RG1, RG2, RG4, RG5, RG6, RG7, RG8, RG10, RG12, RG18, RG19, RG30, RG31, RG40, RG41, RG42, RG45. RG9 1, RG9 2, RG9 3, RG9 4 & RG9 5 RG14 1, RG14 2, RG14 3, RG14 5, RG14 6 & RG14 7 RG20 4, RG20 5, RG20 6 & part of RG20 7 (east of A34) RG26 3, RG26 4 & part of RG26 5 (north of A339) RG27 0 & parts of RG27 8 & RG27 9 (north of M3) GU15 1, GU15 2, GU15 3 & GU15 4 GU17 0 & GU17 9 GU19 5 GU46 6 & GU46 7 GU47 0, GU47 8 & GU47 9 OX10 0, OX10 8, OX10 9 & part of OX10 6 (south of A4130) OX11 9 SL4 4 SL5 0, SL5 7, SL5 8 & SL5 9 For a map of the Catchment Area, please see: Map of Catchment Area
Q	**What is Pupil Premium?**
A	There are three separate eligibility criteria for the Pupil Premium funding (payable to the school). • Children who are eligible for free school meals, or have ever been eligible in the last 6 years. • Children who are, or have ever been, looked after in local authority care. • Children for whom one of their parents is in the armed forces, or has been, in the last 6 years. (This does not include the national free school meal in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as this is available to all children regardless of household income).
Q	**What is Service Premium?**
A	The service premium is designed to support children with parents serving in the regular British armed forces. Pupils attract the premium if they meet the following criteria: a) one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces;

	b) one of their parents served in the regular armed forces in the last 3 years or one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces c) the pupil is in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS)
Q	**How does being eligible for Pupil Premium or Service Premium affect my son's application?**
A	If your son's permanent home address is within the catchment area for Reading School and he is a pupil premium or service premium child, then he is eligible to be considered under Category 2 of the oversubscription criteria. This means if he has achieved the eligible score he will be offered a place at Reading School before Categories 3 and 4 are applied. If this applies to your son, please ensure the admissions office has all the evidence required to ensure your son is ranked correctly. If your son sat the test at Reading School, verification of Pupil Premium or Service Premium was obtained from your son's current primary school via the Registration Form brought to the test day. Clarification may be sought if necessary.
Q	**How was the Sporting Aptitude Assessment judged?**
	The assessment included a range of non-sport-specific tasks designed to measure potential and propensity to develop ability in sport. It was conducted in two stages by experienced Reading School staff: **Stage 1**: All candidates participated. Those who met the minimum threshold continued to Stage 2. Candidates not meeting the threshold were asked to leave after Stage 1. **Stage 2**: Further sports aptitude tests were carried out. Scores were awarded for each element of each test. The test was invigilated and scored by experienced Reading School staff, including senior leaders and staff from the PE department. The scores were age standardised and a threshold applied. A final rank order was produced as overseen by the Director of Admissions for Quality Assurance purposes.
Q	**How was the Creativity paper judged?**
	All Creativity papers from applicants who achieved minimum standards in English, Maths and Foundation subjects were assessed using the No More Marking platform, which uses comparative judgement. Each creativity paper was reviewed a minimum of 10 times by a pool of 16 Reading School teachers. The platform produces a scaled score from the judgements. Experienced Reading School staff reviewed the rankings, using their professional judgement to determine which scores were deemed to meet the 'Reading School Standard'. All judgements were monitored by the Director of Admissions for Quality Assurance purposes. The results were all age standardised. This process ensures that decisions are not based solely on the scores/ranking generated by No More Marking but incorporate expert evaluation to maintain fairness and uphold academic standards.
Q	**Can papers be remarked?**
A	All the entrance tests are double scanned and checked using different optical mark readers and different staff. The process is reliable and trustworthy and as a result re-marks would be unnecessary. The likelihood of any mistake being made in recording the correct test responses from the multiple choice answer sheet is negligible. We will therefore not undertake any test re-marks until after the national offer date (2nd March 2026). The cost of a re-mark to parents is £75 per paper. Please note that Creativity is not eligible for a re-mark. This is because they have already been manually judged numerous times by a minimum of 10 individual members of staff from Reading School who are aware of the standard required for entry.
Q	**Can I appeal?**
A	Your offer letter from your Local Authority on 2nd March 2026 will contain details of how to appeal if you have not been offered a place at your preferred school. More information can be found here: School admissions: Appealing a school's decision - GOV.UK

Q	**I would like to make a Freedom of Information request for an anonymised copy of the results.**
A	This information will be published on the school's website in May 2026. We are not obliged under section 22 of the FOIA to provide information that is intended for future publication. In line with the terms of this exemption, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.
Q	**I have completed my CAF already but now wish to change my choices.**
A	Please contact your Local Authority directly to see if this is possible.