

Bexley Secondary School Parents' Guide 2025/26

**A practical handbook for families in Bexley considering
secondary school options**



Parent Guide to Secondary Schools for (Sept 2025)

How admissions work (quick refresher)

- **Bexley grammars** use the **Bexley Selection Test (11+)**; applications are via Bexley's portal **1 Sept–31 Oct** in Year 6. **Kent grammars** use the **Kent Test (PESE)**; many Bexley families sit both.
- **Comprehensives & faith schools**: no formal borough-wide “catchments”, but **distance** is usually the tie-break; faith schools require a **SIF**. Each academy sets its own oversubscription rules.
- **SEN/EHCP**: children with an **EHCP naming the school** have priority; check each school's SEND page + Bexley Local Offer.

Understanding the School Performance Measures

When comparing schools, it helps to look at a few headline measures that give a sense of both academic outcomes and pupil experience.

The **Progress 8 score** shows how much progress pupils make from the end of primary to GCSEs, while the **Grade 5+ English and maths measure** highlight the proportion reaching a strong pass in core subjects. The **‘staying in education or entering employment’ figure** indicates how well schools prepare pupils for life beyond GCSEs, and **Ofsted ratings** provide an external judgement on teaching, leadership and pupil welfare.

Taken together, these measures offer a useful snapshot for parents weighing up options. However, they don't capture the full picture—factors such as pastoral care, extracurricular opportunities, travel time, and individual subject strengths can be just as important when choosing the right school for your child.

	Progress 8 (P8) <i>Shows how much progress pupils make from primary to GCSEs. 0 = average nationally; above 0 = better than average.</i>
	Attainment 8 (A8) <i>Average GCSE achievement across 8 subjects. Higher scores = stronger results overall.</i>
	Grade 5+ English & Maths <i>The % of pupils achieving at least a strong pass in both core subjects.</i>
	Staying in Education/Employment <i>The % of pupils who continue to study or work after Year 11.</i>
	Ofsted Rating <i>Independent judgement on quality of education, behaviour, leadership, and personal development.</i>

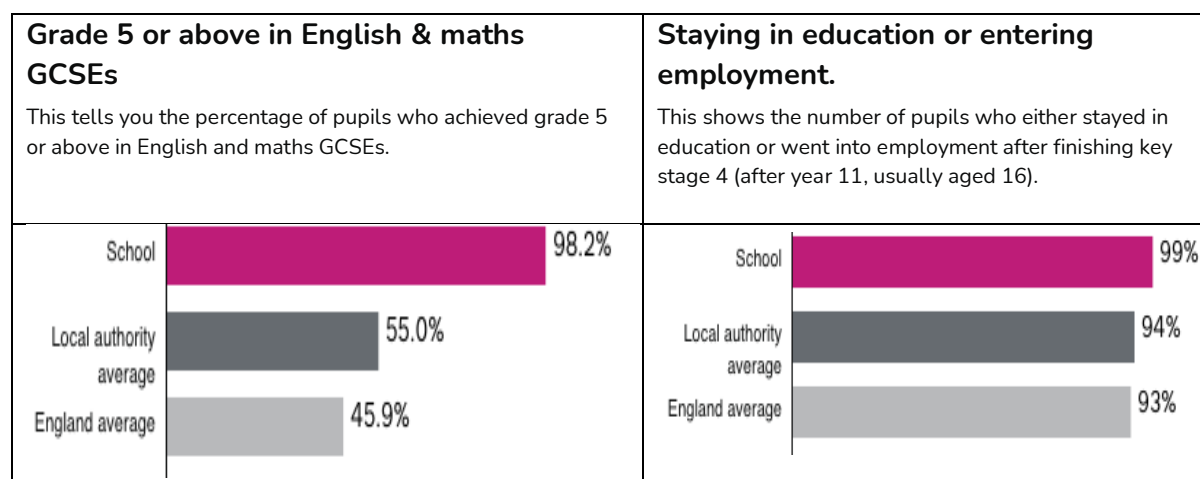
All Bexley secondary schools (alphabetical within type)

Selective grammar schools (Bexley 11+)

Bexley Grammar School (mixed, Welling)

- **GCSE:** School's 2024 subject summary shows **68.6% of grades 9–7; 17.9% were grade 9**; one pupil achieved 12×9s.
- **Ofsted: Outstanding** (Oct 2022).
- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**above average**' because the score is greater than 0 but lower than 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.



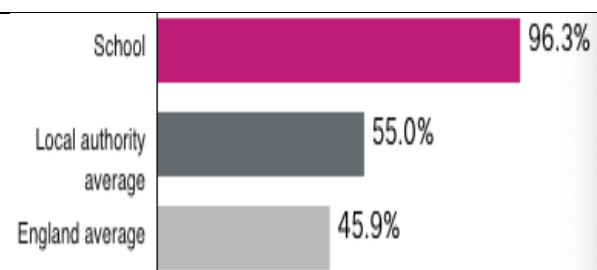
- **Admissions/oversubscription:** ranked by **Bexley 11+** score; distance is a common tie-break (see policy). Open evenings **14–16 Oct 2025** (school notices).
- **Pastoral note:** Sunday Times analysis reported **99% of parents** said their child is happy there.
- **Open Day:** 14th/15th/16th October 2025 (Booking will be open on school website once Bexley Selection Test Results have been released)

Beths Grammar School (boys, Bexley)

- **Ofsted: Good** (2022)
- **Admissions/oversubscription:** Bexley 11+ first; **Criteria 8** also allows offers to **Kent-Test-only** qualifiers **after** Bexley-selective applicants (policy/FAQ). Historical FOI data shows distance cut-offs around **7–10 miles** in some years. [Beths Grammar School+1](#)
- **Open events:** Y6 visits via booking page (school).

- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is 'well above average' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs	Staying in education or entering employment.																
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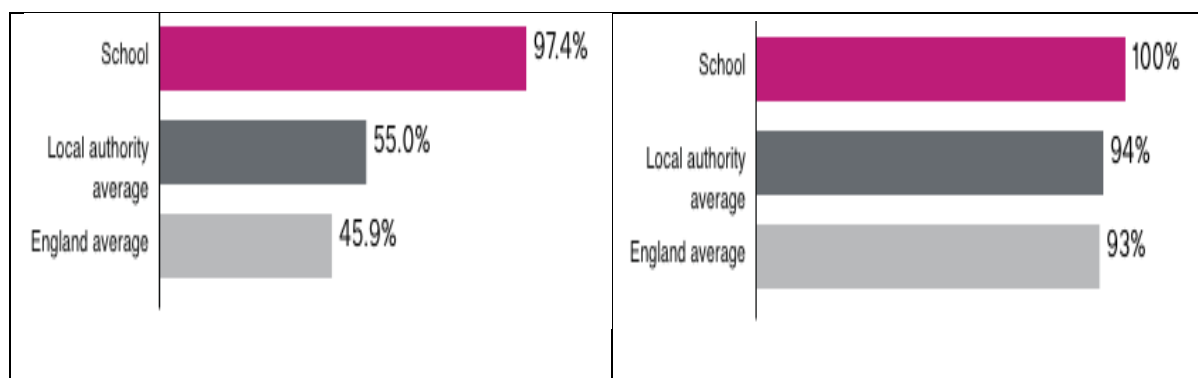
- **Open Day:** Not yet available. Keep checking school website.

Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (mixed, Sidcup)

- **DfE performance lens:** pupils achieve **over half a grade higher** than similar pupils nationally (Progress 8 comparison).
- **Ofsted:** Good (Dec 2022).
- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs	Staying in education or entering employment.
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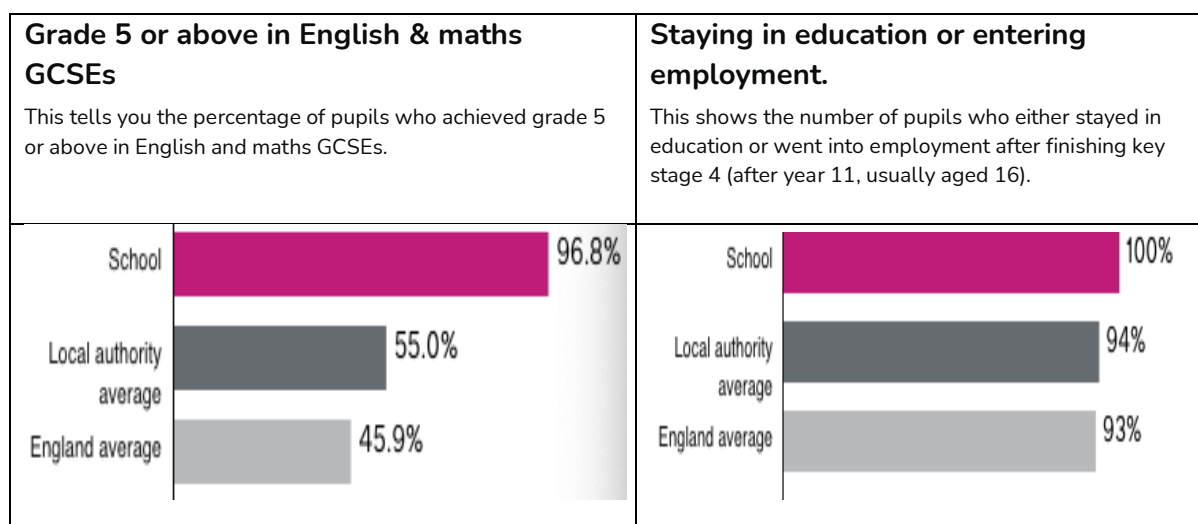


- Open Days: 17th/20th/21st October 2025 (Booking will be open on school website once Bexley Selection Test Results have been released)

Townley Grammar School (girls, Bexleyheath)

- **Ofsted:** Outstanding (2023)
- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.



- **Admissions/oversubscription:** 20 Pupil Premium places for girls who meet the qualifying score; then distance-ordered categories (see 2025/26 policies).
townleygrammar.org.uk+1
- **Open Day:** Open Mornings 9th/10th/13th/14th/15th/16th/17th September.

Non-selective / comprehensive academies

Lift Bexleyheath (mixed; formerly Bexleyheath Academy)

- **Name:** rebranded **Sept 2025** as part of Lift Schools.
- **Ofsted:** Good (2021)
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**below average**' because the score is lower than 0 but greater than or equal to -0.5, and the entire confidence interval is below 0.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs This tells you the percentage of pupils who achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs.	Staying in education or entering employment. This shows the number of pupils who either stayed in education or went into employment after finishing key stage 4 (after year 11, usually aged 16).																
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- **Admissions:** non-selective; distance-based tie-break.
- **Open Days:** Open Mornings 22nd/23rd/24th/25th/26th September booking available from 18th Sep; Open Evening – 17th Sep, booking open now
<https://sites.google.com/aetinet.org/bexleyheath-academy/academy-life/year-06-transitions>

Blackfen School for Girls (Sidcup)

- **Ofsted:** Good (2025)
- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**average**' because the confidence interval for the progress score includes 0.

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- **Open Day:** Open Mornings- 29th Sep/30th Sep/8th Oct/9th Oct/16th Oct (9am); Open Evenings 25th Sep (5:30pm – 8.00pm) No booking required

Cleeve Park School (Sidcup, mixed)

- **Ofsted:** Good (28–29 Feb 2024) across all areas.
- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**average**' because the confidence interval for the progress score includes 0.

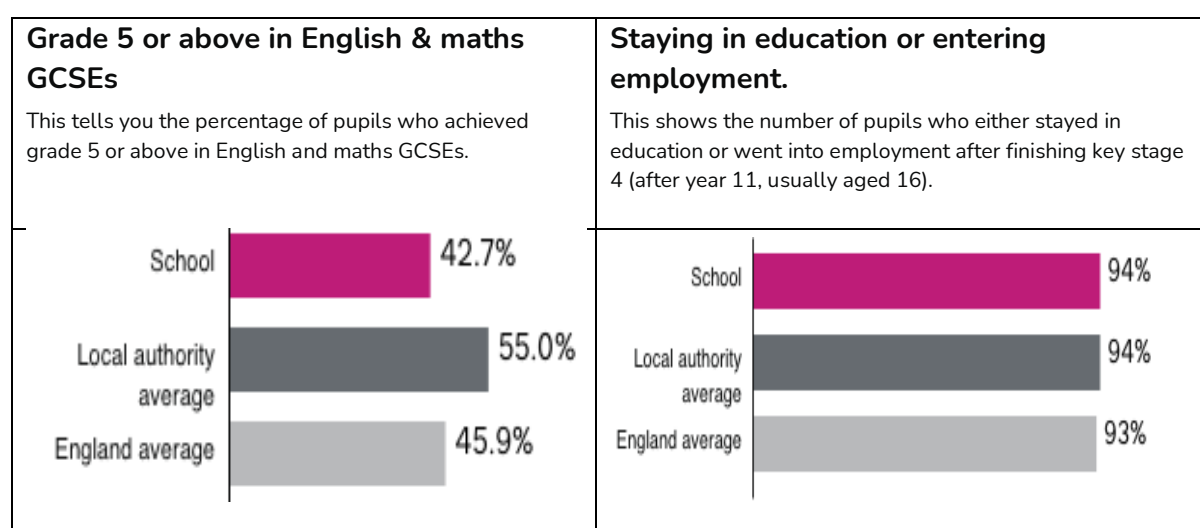
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- **Open Day:** 20th September (9:30am – 12:30pm) No booking required

Haberdashers' Crayford Academy (Crayford, mixed)

- **Ofsted: Good** (Nov 30–Dec 1, 2022).
- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**average**' because the confidence interval for the progress score includes 0.



- **Open Day:** Open Mornings 22nd Sep/ 24th Sep/ 26th Sep/ 30th Sep/ 2nd Oct
<https://www.habscrayford.org.uk/Admissions/Year-7-Admissions-Intake-2026/>;
 Open Evening 24th Sep (4pm -7pm) No booking required

Harris Academy Falconwood (Welling, mixed)

- Harris Academy schools require every child who applies to sit a banding test; this isn't a pass-or-fail exam, but a way of placing pupils into ability bands so that the school admits a fair mix of students across the full range.
- **Ofsted: Good** (Oct 2019) with positive safeguarding/pastoral comments in the report.
- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is 'average' because the confidence interval for the progress score includes 0.

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- **Open Days: 23rd Sep/ 24th Sep/ 2nd Oct/ 3rd Oct (9:00am and 10:00am) Booking Open** <https://buytickets.at/harrisacademyfalconwood/1817703>

Harris Garrard Academy (Thamesmead/Erith, mixed)

- Harris Academy schools require every child who applies to sit a banding test; this isn't a pass-or-fail exam, but a way of placing pupils into ability bands so that the school admits a fair mix of students across the full range.
- **Ofsted: Good** (Nov 2021)
- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

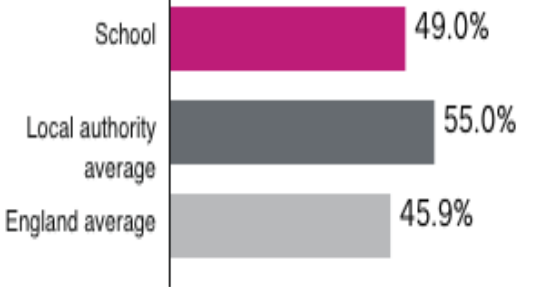
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- **Open day:** Open Morning 7th/8th/9th October (booking link not yet available, check school website); Open Evening: 2nd October (5:00-7:00pm) No booking required

Hurstmere School (Sidcup, boys)

- **Ofsted:** Requires Improvement (2022).
- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is 'average' because the confidence interval for the progress score includes 0.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs This tells you the percentage of pupils who achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs.	Staying in education or entering employment. This shows the number of pupils who either stayed in education or went into employment after finishing key stage 4 (after year 11, usually aged 16).																
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- Open Day: 29th Sep/ 30th Sep/ 1st oct / 2nd Oct / 3rd Oct (telephone **020 8300 5665** to reserve a place on a tour); Open Evening 24th October
<https://hurstmere.applicaa.com/events/019818b5-2a00-7028-8c57-7975f8d792b6>

Leigh Academy Bexley (mixed, Erith)

- **Status:** renamed from **King Henry School/Erith School** in 2023
- **Ofsted:** the academy notes **no full Ofsted** yet under the new name. King Henry School was rated **Inadequate** during 2022 inspection.
- **Progress 8 score:** The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well below average**' because the score is lower than -0.5 and the entire confidence interval is below 0.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs This tells you the percentage of pupils who achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs.	Staying in education or entering employment. This shows the number of pupils who either stayed in education or went into employment after finishing key stage 4 (after year 11, usually aged 16).								
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- **Open Days:** Open Days have concluded.

St Catherine's Catholic School for Girls (Bexleyheath)

- **Ofsted:** Good (14 Jun 2022).
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs This tells you the percentage of pupils who achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs.	Staying in education or entering employment. This shows the number of pupils who either stayed in education or went into employment after finishing key stage 4 (after year 11, usually aged 16).																
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- **Open Day:** Not yet announced

St Columba's Catholic Boys' School (Bexleyheath)

- **Ofsted:** Good (26 Nov 2024)

- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**average**' because the confidence interval for the progress score includes 0.

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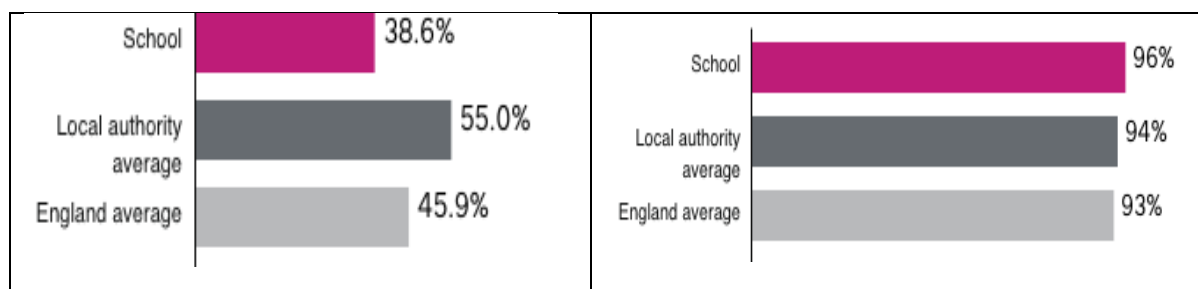
- **Open Days:** Open Mornings 7th/8th/9th/14th/15th/16th October To book Open Morning tours email admissions@st-columbas.co.uk with your preferred date ; Open Day Sat 4th oct 9:30am Book here <https://forms.office.com/e/1AQGVCIJZEU>

Trinity Church of England School, Belvedere (mixed)

- **Ofsted: Good** (continues to be good, 2021 inspection letter).
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well below average**' because the score is lower than -0.5 and the entire confidence interval is below 0.

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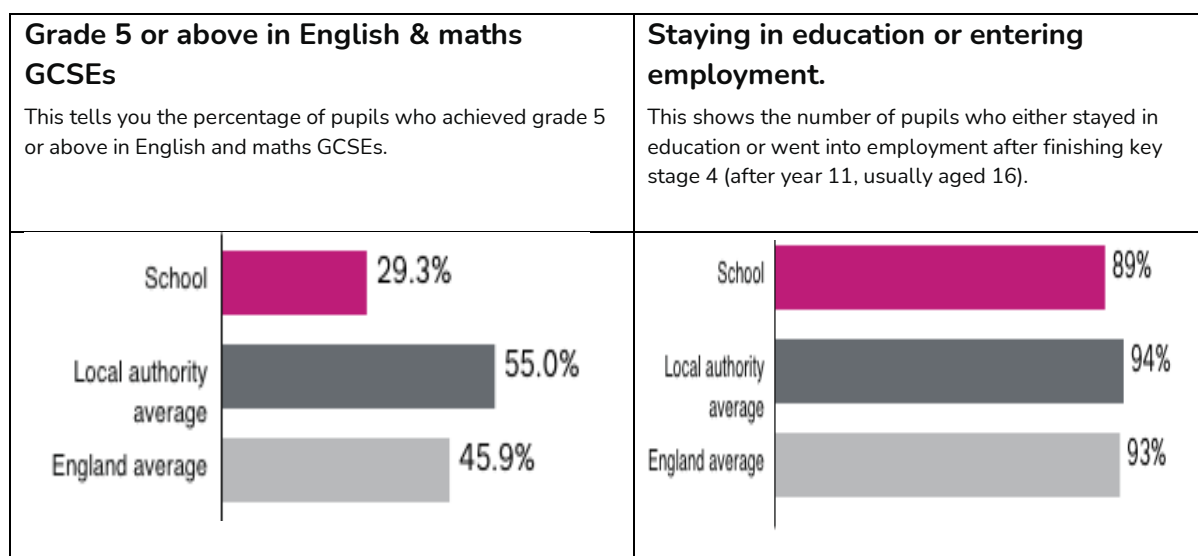


- Open Days: Open Mornings 8th/9th October (9:00am – 10:30am); Open Day 4th October (9:45am-1:45pm)

Welling School (mixed)

- **Ofsted: Requires Improvement** (Oct 2023). Earlier report in 2022 was **Inadequate**; progress monitored in 2023.
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well below average**' because the score is lower than -0.5 and the entire confidence interval is below 0.



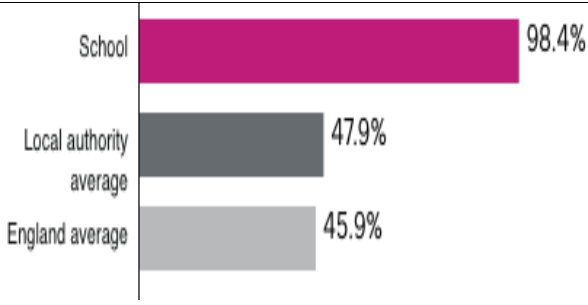
- Open Days: Open Evening 11th Sep (4:00pm – 7:00pm) Booking Open <https://forms.gle/8YgcZjGskS3irksn8>

Nearby Kent schools (often chosen by Bexley families)

Dartford Grammar School (boys)

- **Ofsted: Outstanding** (Dec 2022).
- **GCSE flavour: A8 ~80**; high proportions of 9–7 grades.
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs	Staying in education or entering employment.																
This tells you the percentage of pupils who achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs.	This shows the number of pupils who either stayed in education or went into employment after finishing key stage 4 (after year 11, usually aged 16).																
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- **Open evening: Thu 25 Sept 2025** (tickets released 15 Sept on school site).
dartfordgrammarschool.org.uk

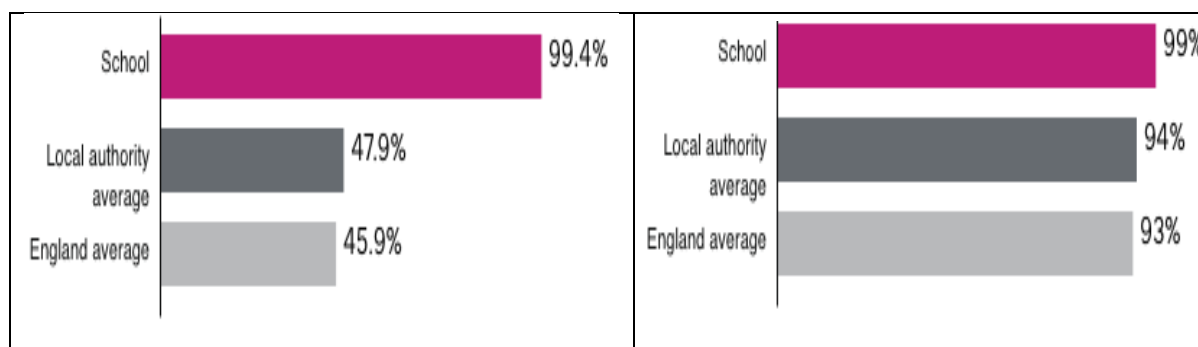
Dartford Grammar School for Girls

- **Ofsted: Outstanding** (Oct 2021).

Progress 8 score: This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs	Staying in education or entering employment.
This tells you the percentage of pupils who achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs.	This shows the number of pupils who either stayed in education or went into employment after finishing key stage 4 (after year 11, usually aged 16).

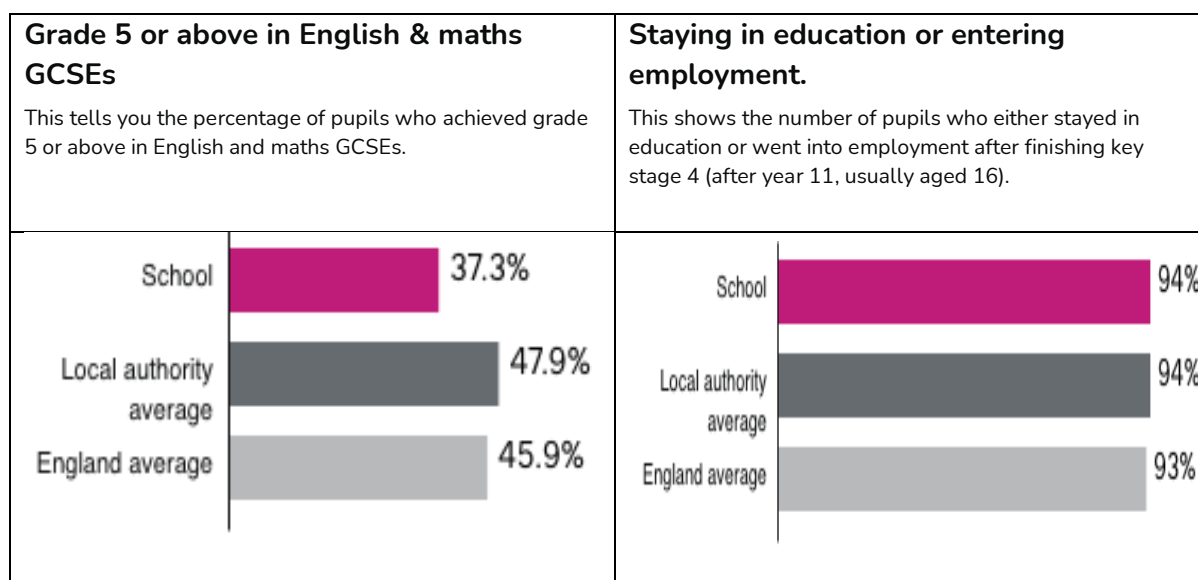


- **Open Day:** Open Morning 7th/8th Oct; Open Evening 2nd Oct. Booking not yet Open, keep checking website.

Dartford Science & Technology College

- **Ofsted:** Good (Mar 2022).
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**average**' because the confidence interval for the progress score includes 0.

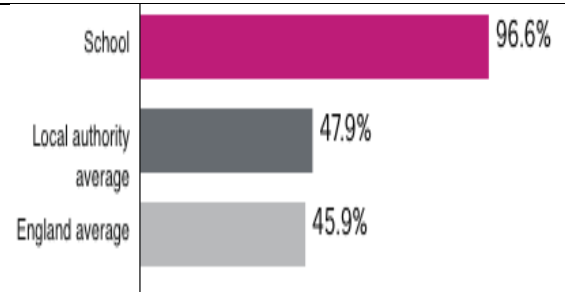


- **Open Days:** Open Morning 30th Sep/1st Oct (9:15 am and 10:15am); Open Evening 23rd Sep/9th Oct (6:00pm – 8:00pm)
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLKiUGqSozrcn-eTlhilMTNDlj74DNEWCDRP-Vb6z7-RgJ_A/viewform?pli=1

Wilmington Grammar School for Girls

- **Ofsted:** Good (Nov 2022).
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs	Staying in education or entering employment.																
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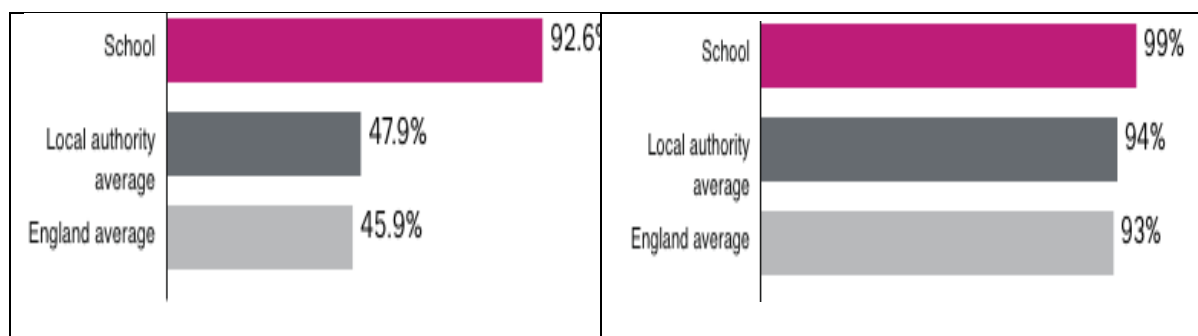
- **Open Day:** Not available but typically in October, after Kent Test results have been sent.

Wilmington Grammar School for Boys

- **Ofsted:** Good (Mar 2023)
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs	Staying in education or entering employment.
This tells you the percentage of pupils who achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs.	This shows the number of pupils who either stayed in education or went into employment after finishing key stage 4 (after year 11, usually aged 16).

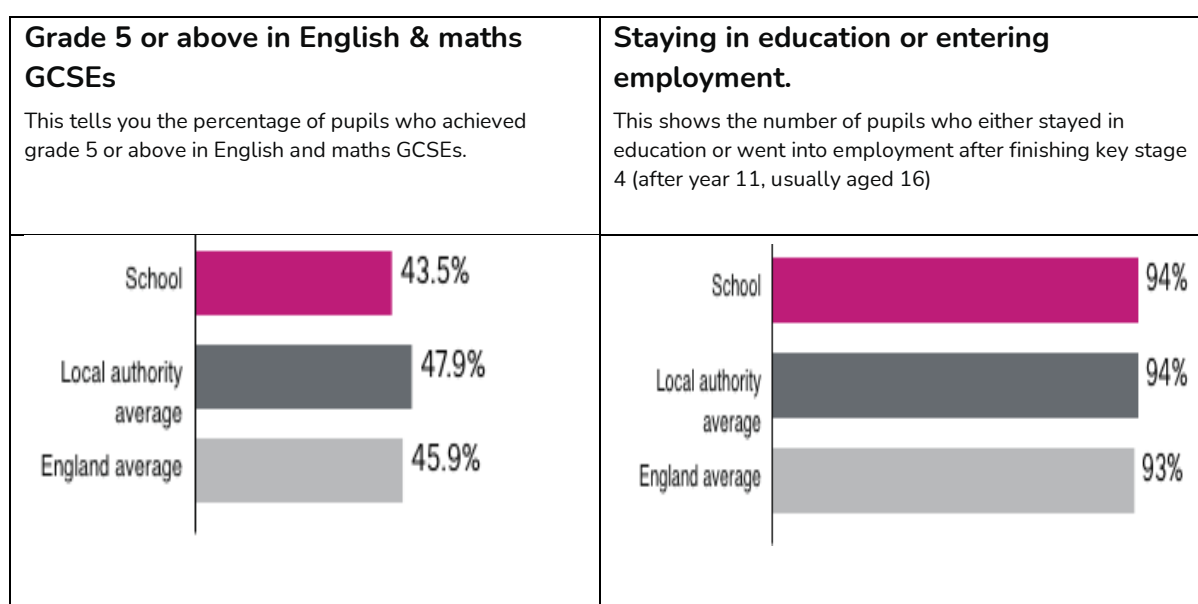


- **Open evening:** Not yet available

Wilmington Academy (mixed, Leigh Academies Trust)

- **Ofsted: Outstanding in all areas** (May 2023).
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.



Open Day:

Open Morning- 29th Sep/30th Sep, 6th Oct/ 7th Oct 2025 (Booking required check website for booking link);

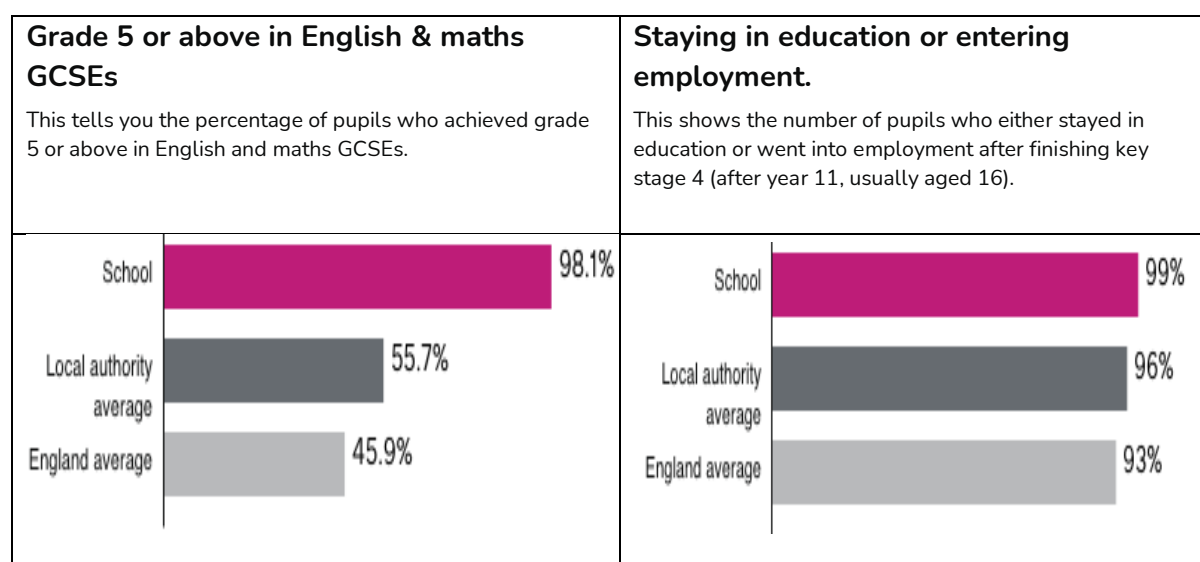
Open Evening- Sep 24th (5:00pm – 7:30pm) No booking necessary , Booking required for Principal's speech, check website for booking link

Bromley Selectives

Newstead Wood School (girls, Orpington)

- **Ofsted: Outstanding** (Feb 2022)
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

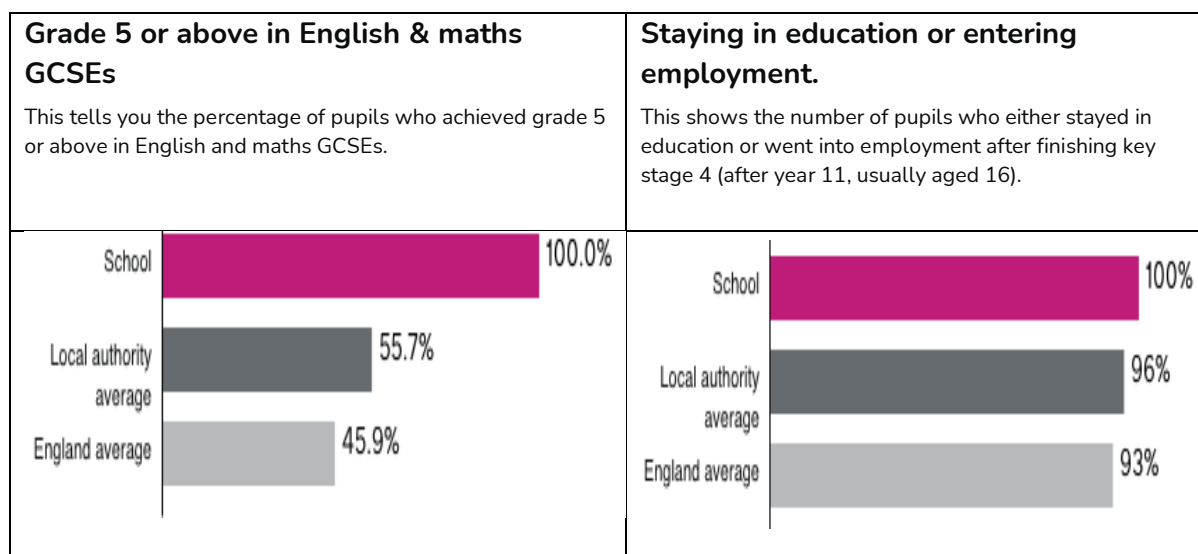


- **Open Day:** Tours for 2025 have already taken place but you can email school for availability of school tours.

St Olave's & St Saviour's Grammar (boys, Orpington)

- **Ofsted: Outstanding** (Nov 2024).
- **Progress 8 score:** This is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications.

The banding for this school or college is '**well above average**' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.



- **Open Day:** Tours for 2025 have already taken place but you can email school for availability of school tours.

Oversubscription & what to check (by type)

- **Bexley grammars:** ranking by **standardised Bexley 11+** scores; distance used as a tie-break. Townley has **20 PP places** (see policy). Beths adds **Kent Test** as a lower priority route (Criteria 8) once Bexley-selective applicants are placed. Always read the current policy year.
- **Faith schools** (St Catherine's, St Columba's): require **SIF** + evidence of religious practice; then sibling/distance. See school admissions pages.
- **Comprehensives:** typically, priority for EHCP (naming the school), looked-after/previously LAC, siblings, then **distance**. See each academy policy.
- **Bilateral (Leigh Academy Bexley):** operates grammar & non-selective pathways; check the academy's admissions page and DfE profile for stream detail.

SEN & pastoral signposts (what to look for at open events)

- **Meet the SENCO** and ask about assessments, reasonable adjustments, and transition support. Most Ofsted reports summarise behaviour, bullying, safeguarding culture (see examples above).
- For **faith schools**, ask how pastoral support integrates with faith life and inclusivity policies

Open-event pointers (verify before you go)

- Grammar open events are typically **Sept–Oct** (e.g., **Bexley Grammar 14–16 Oct 2025, Dartford Grammar 25 Sept 2025**). Many comprehensives publish evenings and tour mornings on their sites; some require booking. Always re-check the school page week-of.

One-glance comparison (selected, with where to check GCSE dashboards)

School	Ofsted (latest)	GCSE / DfE pointer
Bexley Grammar	Outstanding (2022)	School GCSE 2024 PDF; DfE page. Ofsted ReportsBexley Grammar School
Beths Grammar (B)	Good (2022)	Admissions 2026 + Criteria 8; DfE. Beths Grammar School
Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar	Good (latest)	DfE Compare page. Ofsted ReportsCompare School Performance
Townley Grammar (G)	Outstanding(2023)	PP 20 places (policy); DfE. townleygrammar.org.uk
Leigh Academy Bexley	(No Ofsted yet under current name)	DfE KS4 page. Leigh Academy BexleyCompare School Performance
Lift Bexleyheath	(see Ofsted portal)	School results page. Google Sites
Blackfen (G)	Good (2025)	DfE KS4 2024 figures. Blackfen School for Girls
Cleeve Park	Good (2024)	Ofsted report. Ofsted
Haberdashers' Crayford	Good (2022)	Ofsted page. Ofsted Reports
Harris Falconwood	Good (2019)	Ofsted PDF. Ofsted ReportsOfsted
Harris Garrard	Good (2021)	Ofsted PDF. Ofsted ReportsOfsted
Hurstmere (B)	School says Nov 2022	School Ofsted page. Hurstmere School
St Catherine's (G)	Good (2022)	Ofsted + school page. Ofsted ReportsSt Catherine's Catholic School
St Columba's (B)	Good (2024)	Ofsted + school site. Ofsted ReportsSt Columba's Catholic Boys' School
Trinity CE Belvedere	Good (2021)	Ofsted letter. trinity.bexley.sch.uk

School	Ofsted (latest)	GCSE / DfE pointer
Welling School	Requires Improvement (2023)	Ofsted PDF(s). Ofsted ReportsOfsted
Kent grammars & Wilmington Acad.	DGS Outstanding (2022); WGSG strong; WGSB Good (2023); Wilmington Academy Outstanding (2023)	DfE/Ofsted pages. Ofsted Reports+2Ofsted Reports+2Compare School Performance
Bromley selective	Newstead Outstanding (2022); St Olave's Outstanding (2024)	School/Ofsted pages. Ofsted Reports+1

Disclaimer

This guide reflects information verified on **7 September 2025** from school websites, Ofsted reports, and the Department for Education's **Compare School Performance** service. Admissions criteria, Ofsted outcomes, performance data, names/branding and open-event dates **can change**; please **re-check** the school's own website and the relevant **Bexley/Kent admissions** pages before applying or travelling. [Bexley Council+1GOV.UK](#)