



MR JAMES

MATHS TUTORITION

11+

INFORMATION

GUIDE

Lincolnshire 11+ Guide for Parents

Introduction

This guide is designed for parents of children applying to Lincolnshire grammar schools through the Lincolnshire Consortium of Grammar Schools (LCGS) 11+ examination. All grammar schools within the consortium use the same entrance test, created by GL Assessment.

The Lincolnshire 11+ is a highly selective, aptitude-based assessment that focuses exclusively on Verbal Reasoning (VR) and Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR). These papers assess how well a child can process information, recognise patterns, and apply logical thinking under strict time pressure. They do not test the National Curriculum directly and are very different from typical classroom assessments.

Overview of the Lincolnshire 11+

All 15 grammar schools in the Lincolnshire Consortium use the same 11+ test. Children usually sit the exam in September of Year 6, with registration taking place during Year 5. Parents must register their child with each grammar school individually.

The exam consists of two separate papers taken on different days: Paper 1 is Verbal Reasoning (usually sat first), and Paper 2 is Non-Verbal Reasoning (usually the following week). Dates are published annually but may change, so it is essential for parents to check school communications regularly.

Why the 11+ Is Particularly Demanding

The Lincolnshire 11+ is demanding because it tests unfamiliar skills at speed. Children must answer a large number of questions in a limited time and often face question types they have never encountered in primary school.

Most primary schools do not prepare pupils for the 11+ examination. Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning are not part of the National Curriculum, and teachers cannot dedicate lesson time to this form of preparation. As a result, children attempting the 11+ without additional support are often at a disadvantage.

Verbal Reasoning (VR)

The Verbal Reasoning paper assesses logical thinking using words, letters, and written information rather than taught English curriculum content. It tests how children manipulate language-based data efficiently.

The VR paper lasts approximately 50 minutes and contains around 80–85 multiple-choice questions, making speed and accuracy critical.

VR Question Types

Common VR question types include synonyms and antonyms, word analogies, letter and word sequences, codes and anagrams, sentence completion, hidden words, odd one out questions, and following complex written instructions.

Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR)

The Non-Verbal Reasoning paper assesses problem-solving and logical thinking using shapes, patterns, and diagrams, independent of language ability.

The paper typically lasts around 35 minutes and is divided into five timed sections of 14 questions, each lasting seven minutes. Children cannot return to previous sections.

NVR Question Types

Common NVR question styles include completing shape or pattern sequences, identifying missing shapes, recognising rotations and reflections, identifying symmetry, analysing patterns within grids, and finding relationships between shapes.

The Importance of Long-Term Preparation

The Lincolnshire 11+ cannot be prepared for successfully through last-minute revision. A handful of sessions shortly before the exam rarely leads to meaningful improvement as the skills assessed need time to develop.

Effective preparation is gradual and requires consistent practice over many months. Parents are strongly encouraged to begin preparation early, ideally in Year 4 or early Year 5.

How a Specialist Tutor Can Help

11+ Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning are specialist skill areas. An experienced 11+ tutor understands GL Assessment question styles, timings, and strategies.

A specialist tutor can systematically teach question types, develop exam technique, target individual weaknesses, and provide realistic practice under timed conditions. Because schools do not prepare children for these exams, tutoring is strongly recommended.

Scoring, Qualification and Results

Scores from both papers are age-standardised and combined. A standardised score of around 220 is usually required to qualify, representing performance within the top 25 percent of the cohort.

Qualification does not guarantee admission. Schools apply individual admissions criteria such as distance or catchment area.

If Your Child Does Not Pass

Appeals: Parents may submit an appeal supported by strong academic evidence such as school reports, Key Stage 2 predictions, and explanations of mitigating circumstances.

12+ Entry (CAT4): Some grammar schools offer entry at Year 8 using cognitive ability tests such as CAT4, which again assess reasoning skills and include 4 main topic areas.

Preparation Timeline

Year 4: Gentle exposure to reasoning skills and confidence building.

Year 5: Structured VR and NVR preparation and increased practice. Timed papers, mock exams, and exam technique refinement.

Emotional Wellbeing

The 11+ process can be stressful. Parents should maintain balance, avoid excessive pressure, and reassure children that the exam does not define their intelligence or future success.

Final Advice for Parents

Start preparation early, use GL-style resources, consider specialist tutoring, practise consistently, and ensure children are calm and confident on exam days.