



**Ashlawn School Admissions**  
***The Modern Foreign Language***  
***Aptitude Test***





# Aptitude Testing for Modern Foreign Languages



## What is the Aptitude Test?

The Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Aptitude Test is a one hour examination that helps predict your child's aptitude for learning modern foreign languages. The test results will help determine the suitability of your child to study two languages from a choice of French, Spanish and German.



## How is the test used in the admissions criteria?

The test forms part of Ashlawn's Non-Selective admission criteria. Up to 10% of the Year 7 intake will be admitted on the basis of achieving the required qualifying score. Students who do not achieve the qualifying score will be considered for a place against the other admission criteria. The full admission criteria is available in the document *Admissions Arrangements (Non-Selective) 2022/23*.

If your child does not qualify for a place under any of the criteria they will automatically be placed on the waiting list.



## Does the test qualify my child for Ashlawn Selective?

No. The only route into Ashlawn Selective is by achieving the qualifying score in the 11+ examination. However students who are admitted to Ashlawn as a result of the MFL Aptitude Test are likely to be in the same classes and studying the same curriculum as those admitted to Ashlawn Selective.



## When is the Aptitude Test?

The test date will be on **Saturday 18th September 2021**. An alternative test date will only be available to applicants who provide proof of illness on the day of the test in the form of a doctor's note, or who are able to provide evidence of special circumstances prior to the date of the test. Please contact the school for further information.



## Why has Ashlawn used the test?

Students at Ashlawn School who have passed the 11+ examination will study an academic curriculum, including two languages within the Selective Grammar Stream. By successfully achieving the qualifying score in the MFL Aptitude Test your child will have demonstrated an aptitude for learning languages and will therefore study a similar curriculum.



## How do I apply?

Application forms must be completed online at

<https://forms.gle/C8msjzHMuA8YDmbJ8>

Upon submission applicants will receive a receipt confirming the completed application form was received followed by an email detailing the date and time of the test with a declaration sheet entitled Fit and Well sheet. The declaration sheet must be completed: you should bring this with you on the day of the test. Your child will not be able to take the test without this Fit and Well declaration.

For identification purposes applicants must provide a passport-sized head and shoulders photograph of the child taking the test. Alternatively you may bring a **photocopy** of your child's current passport on the day. Any applicant without a photograph or photocopy of their passport will not be able to take the test.



## What will be in the test?

There are four main parts to the test, which together take one hour:

- 1) *Sound-symbol association* measures an aptitude for associating words to their sounds and involves incorrect and alternative spellings of English words.
- 2) *Grammatical structure* focuses on the function of a particular word within a sentence.
- 3) *Finding rhymes* is the identification of rhyming words and measures an aptitude for 'hearing' words as they are written on the page.
- 4) *Number learning* is about remembering the sounds of numbers in a fictitious language. The student will practise speaking and writing the words before the main test begins. Listening and memorising words forms a significant part of learning a modern foreign language at Key Stage 3.

The test will NOT be in any other language other than English plus a fictional language designed specifically for the test.



## **How do I know if my child should sit the test?**

We welcome applications from anyone wishing to apply to Ashlawn School. If you feel your child responds especially well to language, perhaps through a love of reading or an interest in foreign languages, they may be well suited to studying more than one language. However, the nature of the test is to assess a child's aptitude for learning foreign languages and therefore does not exclude any child.



## **Will you provide sample questions?**

Due to the nature of the test, it is not possible to provide sample questions. All instructions will be provided on the day.



## **How can my child prepare for the Aptitude Test?**

There are no specific preparations required and your child does not need to know any languages other than English in order to take the test.



## **What if my child is unwell or unavailable on the test date?**

An alternative test date will only be available to applicants who provide proof of illness on the day of the test in the form of a doctor's note, or who are able to provide evidence of special circumstances prior to the date of the test. Please contact the school for further information.



## **Will special consideration be given to children with certain learning or physical difficulties?**

Full details of any learning or physical conditions will need to be submitted to the school along with your application for the test. We will then contact you and your child's school to discuss any special considerations we may need to make.



## **Are the results standardised?**

Yes. In the same way that the 11+ raw marks are standardised based on the child's age at the time of the test.

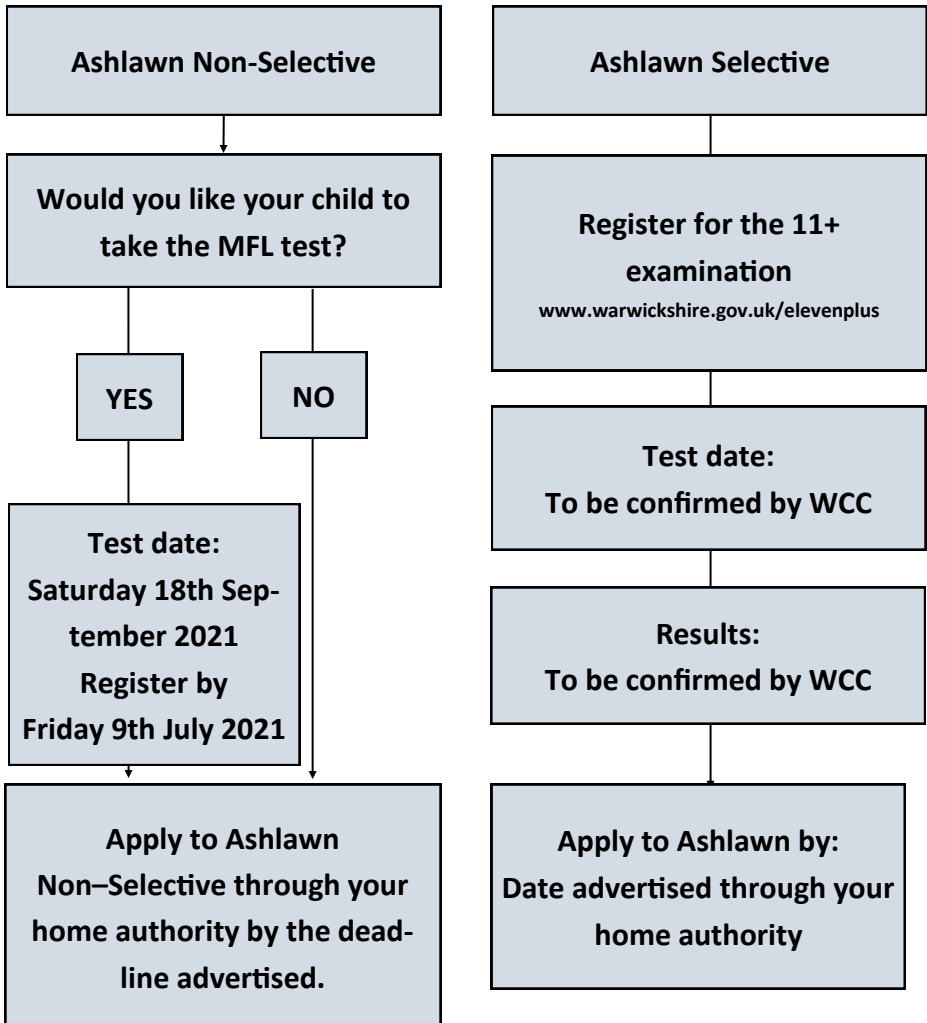


## **When will I be informed of the results?**


Results will be communicated by email to parents in due course. You will receive the standardised score for each section of the test together with a total standardised score.



## Routes into Ashlawn School



Applicants are welcome to apply for both Ashlawn Selective and Non-Selective. Please note that doing so will take up two preferences on your application for secondary school places.



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