

St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

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Learning Growing and Living with Jesus

Sarah Forsyth

11 November 2013

Dear Sarah

There is a significant variation across schools as to the impact of the selective system and students at primary schools. In certain schools particularly where parental pressures are high, children attend extra tuition from as early as year 2 and this is seen to impact on:

- completion of homework in the primary schools
- attendance at After School Clubs

In schools where pressure to sit the 11+ is not as great, parents tend to be more responsive to completing school homework etc.

The focus for children has changed over the years. The 11+ is now sat right at the beginning of the academic year and has been known to interfere with the start of term, i.e. children leaving school to sit the exam on different days at different places.

At one time the primary schools administered the tests themselves on behalf of the Slough Consortium, but this was stopped because of the growing number of issues raised by parents. The primary school were finding that a disproportionate amount of time was being given over to the extra administration.

For some children once they have received their 11+ results there is a general switching off of "the need to work". However, this is not true in all students.

The primary schools have always maintained a good relationship with all secondary schools in Slough. Both primary and secondary schools work hard to ensure all children have the opportunity to excel and grow to be the "best they can be".

Students who do not attend tutoring are unlikely to achieve the level required to pass the test, but there are many students who achieve at a high level, but do not succeed in the 11+ as it is a test unsuited for example, to children newly arrived with English as a second language.

Buckinghamshire County Council administered a new form of test this year which theoretically cannot be tutored for. Slough Consortium intends to use a similar test next year. The primary schools hope that this may support those children for whom tutoring is not accessible therefore affording all equal opportunities to have free choice of secondary schools.

I hope these observations are of use to you and apologies for being so remiss in not sending them earlier. If I can clarify any of the points further please do not hesitate to ring.

Yours sincerely

Maggie

