



West Kirby Grammar School

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is WKGS a girls' school?

Yes. WKGS is a selective girls' grammar school, with a co-educational Sixth Form.

2. Do you charge any school fees?

No. West Kirby Grammar School is a state-funded grammar school — there are no tuition fees.

3. Is WKGS a faith school?

No, WKGS is a non-denominational school where children of all faiths or none are welcomed and celebrated.

4. How does WKGS compare academically with other schools?

WKGS is the second highest performing secondary school in the Liverpool City Region and Cheshire. This comparison includes both state-funded and independent schools.

5. Is WKGS realistic for families living in Liverpool?

Yes. Each year we already welcome a growing number of students from Liverpool who travel independently via existing public transport arrangements. From September 2027, our planned dedicated Liverpool service will make WKGS an even more realistic and accessible option for families across South Liverpool.

6. Will living further away affect my child's experience at WKGS?

No. Many of our students travel significant distances and are fully involved in school life. We plan enrichment activities carefully and the vast majority of these take place at lunchtime, meaning that all of our students have the opportunity to take part, irrespective of their home to school transport choices.

7. Is the Liverpool transport service guaranteed?

The service is planned for September 2027 and subject to sufficient demand. Final details will be confirmed in Summer 2027.

8. What happens if the Liverpool transport service does not go ahead?

The service is subject to sufficient demand and the tender process has been completed with a number of bus operators, so the school has a number of options available. If the service does not proceed, families will still be able to apply to WKGS and make their own independent travel arrangements, as many Liverpool families already do successfully.

9. Where will the Liverpool route start from?

Route details will be published once demand is confirmed and the tender process is complete. The route is likely to cover a large part of South Liverpool. All stops along the route will use standard named bus stops in well-lit and safe locations.



10. How long would the journey from Liverpool typically take?

Journey times will depend on the final route and traffic conditions, but we expect travel times to be comparable to journeys many pupils already make to independent schools across Wirral and Sefton. *We are aiming for journey times of c. 40 to 50 minutes each way.*

11. How much will the transport cost?

The planned cost is £2,700 per year, payable in 10 monthly instalments of £270. These amount will be confirmed in Summer 2027, once the student numbers for the service are known. This estimate is based on a vehicle carrying approximately 20 passengers. If demand is higher, we would expect the cost per passenger to reduce accordingly. *This cost is comparable to transport arrangements already used by many families travelling to independent schools.*

12. Is there any financial support available to assist with the transport cost?

We already offer financial support with travel on school operated bus services from areas across Wirral, Chester, Ellesmere Port and North Wales. This scheme applies to students who meet the eligibility criteria for Deprivation Pupil Premium and is funded by Pupil Premium funding received from Central Government. Eligibility is assessed each academic year. ***This scheme will be extended to the Liverpool service from September 2027.***

The discount offered to eligible parents will be at least £750 per annum from September 2027 onwards.

13. Does transport affect my chances of getting a place?

No. Transport arrangements are completely separate from admissions decisions.

14. What experience does WKGS have of operating home to school transport services – can I trust the service offered?

WKGS already runs multiple daily coach services and has extensive experience managing safe, reliable school transport.

We already operate a daily double-decker service from Wallasey and jointly contract several established coach services serving Chester, Ellesmere Port, North Wales and the Neston/Parkgate area. The proposed Liverpool service will be procured through a formal tender process and operated by a fully vetted, compliant provider. The school will retain oversight of the service and act as the main point of contact for parents. Any issues will be addressed promptly, working directly with the operator to resolve concerns quickly and maintain a safe, reliable service.

15. If my child is the only one from their primary school, how will they settle in?

This is a very common situation at WKGS. Each year we welcome students from over 60 different primary schools, with many arriving as the only child from their school. Our transition programme is designed with this in mind. We visit pupils in their primary schools before they join us, offer a dedicated transition day in July, and run a two-day Summer Camp before the start of term in September. These opportunities allow students to meet new classmates, become familiar with the school, and build confidence ahead of their first day. As a result, students settle quickly, form friendships easily, and become part of the WKGS community very rapidly.



16. What is the admissions process?

Parents/carers register with Wirral Local Authority for the 11+ assessment in Year 5.

- Registration usually opens at the end of April/start of May
- The deadline to apply is normally at the end of May
- For your child to start at WKGS in September 2027 you will need to apply for them to take the test before 31st May 2026

The 11+ assessment will be taken at either West Kirby Grammar School or Wirral Grammar for Girls (Bebington) in mid-September of Y6; the local authority just split the applicants and it makes no difference to your application. The results are released towards the end of October, with preferences for school places made by the 31st October.

The information is here [Admissions | West Kirby Grammar School](#)

17. What if I already have a child in Year 7 or above – can they join WKGS now or in September 2026?

WKGS welcomes in-year applications for students in Years 7 to 11. While some year groups may be full, there are sometimes a small number of places available across the school. Students who join us mid-year are well supported and settle quickly, making friends and becoming part of our school community. Parents who are interested should contact the school office for further details and can find more information about in-year testing here:

<https://wkgs.org/joining-us/inyear-admissions>

18. When should we attend an Open Event?

Liverpool families are warmly welcomed at all of our events and we have a Year 7 Open Evening on Wednesday 16th September. Please book your visit here

<https://www.ticketsource.com/west-kirby-grammar-school/t-qmannxm>

We also run tours on weekday mornings every month, usually with either Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. These can be booked here <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/west-kirby-grammar-school>. We will always show you around at other times with a bit of notice to make sure someone is free. We recommend attending in Year 4 or Year 5 to allow time for informed decision-making.

19. How do we stay informed?

Sign up to our Liverpool 2027 mailing list for updates, reminders and event invitations.