



Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Aptitude Test for entry into Ashlawn Non-Selective, 2020-2021

Terms and Conditions

Section 1 APPLYING FOR THE APTITUDE TEST

- 1.1 An application for the MFL Aptitude Test is **not** an application for a place at Ashlawn School (either selective or non-selective). Please visit <http://www.ashlawn.org.uk/Admissions-Policy> for full details on how to apply for a place at Ashlawn School.
- 1.2 The MFL Aptitude Test is used for the admission of students entering Year 7 non-selective only. Register using the on-line form for the MFL Aptitude Test on the Ashlawn School website <http://www.ashlawn.org.uk/MFL-Aptitude-Test>
- 1.3 The deadline for applying for the MFL Aptitude Test is midday on Friday 12th July 2019. 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 and a declaration sheet entitled Fit and Well. This declaration sheet must be completed and brought with you on the day of the test. Your child will not be able to sit the test without this Fit and Well declaration.
- 1.4 The test date will be the Saturday 14th September 2019.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 For identification purposes applicants must provide a passport-sized head and shoulders photograph of the child taking the test. This photograph must be signed and dated by your child's current Head teacher/ Year 6 teacher confirming their identity. Alternatively you may bring the child's current passport on the day. **Any applicant without a signed photograph or passport will not be able to take the test.**
- 1.7 Applications from those moving into the priority area after 12th July 2019 deadline will be accepted subject to proof of the moving date. All other terms and conditions for school admission and the MFL Aptitude Test will apply to these applications.
- 1.8 Any applications (except those from section 1.7) for the MFL Aptitude Test received after 12th July 2019 will be classed as late. We cannot guarantee a place on the test date.
- 1.9 Results will be communicated to parents by the 18th October 2019. You will receive the standardised score for each section of the test together with a total standardised score.



Section 2. ABOUT THE TEST

- 2.1 The MFL Aptitude Test is researched and produced by an external agency. Research is conducted by the agency into assessing for aptitude to learn Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) and how to assess aptitude in children. Research¹ suggests that cognitive talent assessed by the Aptitude Test plays a significant role in language development. This test therefore indicates the likelihood that a child will perform highly when learning a new language such as those taught by Ashlawn's MFL department.
- 2.2 The MFL Aptitude Test comprises four parts:
 - 2.2.1 *Sound-symbol association* measures an aptitude for associating words to their sounds and involves incorrect and alternative spellings of English words.
 - 2.2.2 *Grammatical structure* focuses on the function of a particular word within a sentence.
 - 2.2.3 *Finding rhymes* is the identification of rhyming words and measures an aptitude for 'hearing' words as they are written on the page.
 - 2.2.4 *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.
- 2.3 Due to the nature of testing *aptitude to learn* rather than *ability* or *knowledge*, practice questions will not be made available.
- 2.4 Students may only sit the MFL Aptitude Test once. This applies even if the student's test was not completed.

Section 3. RESULTS and ADMISSION

- 3.1 The MFL Aptitude Test forms part of the over-subscription criteria for Ashlawn Non-Selective. Please see the document *Admission Arrangements (non-selective) 2019-20* for full information on the admissions process into Ashlawn Non-Selective. This is available on the Ashlawn School website.
- 3.2 The MFL Aptitude Test does not form any part of the criteria for a place at Ashlawn Selective. Places for Ashlawn Selective are based on the 11+ examination only. Please see the document *Admission Arrangements (selective) 2020-21* for more information on this process. This is available on the Ashlawn School website.
- 3.3 Admission into Ashlawn School by aptitude for the study of a modern foreign language complies with section 1.24 of the School Admissions Code 2014.
- 3.4 Ashlawn will admit no more than 10% of the full Year 7 intake based on the results of the MFL Aptitude Test. This complies with the Schools Admissions Code 2014.

¹ In order to maintain security of the test, we cannot provide full details of the agency conducting the research. Please contact Ashlawn School directly for more information.



- 3.5 Parents will be informed of the outcome of the MFL Aptitude Test by 18th October 2019.
- 3.6 Scores for each section of the test will be standardised to account for possible variations according to age on the date of the test. The method by which this is done reflects that of the 11+ examination. Parents will receive the scores for each section and a total standardised score. For more information on standardisation please contact Ashlawn School.
- 3.7 Student admission will be based on rank according to the total standardised scores. Students with the highest ranking will be offered an Ashlawn Non-Selective place.
- 3.8 Those students who are not awarded a place at the school following results of the MFL Aptitude Test will automatically be assessed against the remaining over-subscription criteria for Ashlawn Non-Selective. Should a student not be successful in gaining a place at Ashlawn Non-Selective they will automatically be placed on the waiting list and given the opportunity to appeal.
- 3.9 Where parents have applied to both Ashlawn Selective and Non-Selective and are successful in both applications, the student will be admitted to the highest preference stated on the application form for a secondary place. This application is made through the home authority.

END OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS