

## FAQs

### What is a Grading?

A grading is a karate exam where a panel of examiners (usually a Senior Instructor from Silwood Park Karate and your Instructor) will ask you to demonstrate your karate. If you perform to the high standards we expect you will earn your first belt.

### What is the first belt?

Our older members will attempt the 10th Kyu first which is the red belt with the white stripe. Because our youngest members take longer to learn certain aspects, particularly the kata, they start off attempting the 11th Kyu which is the white belt with a red stripe.

### Can parents watch?

This is a great opportunity for your child to show everyone, including mum, dad, brothers, sisters, grans, granddads, aunts, uncles and cousins how much progress they have made. Spectators must, however, respect the dojo rules and refrain from talking whilst keeping all mobile phones switched off. We respectfully ask that young children are not brought to the gradings - this is too long for them to sit quietly and it's unfair on the students who are grading to have children running around in the background.

### Will I fail?

Because we don't believe in allowing juniors to fail a grading, we will not allow a student to grade unless we are certain they have reached the high standards we expect. This means that not everyone will grade every time, particularly if you're younger or a higher grade. Please respect our decision. Being allowed to attempt a grading, however, does not guarantee a pass — students can fail for fidgeting or talking during the grading.

### What is a temporary belt?

There are two types of passes that can be awarded—a full or a temporary. Temporary grades are usually awarded to students who have worked hard in between gradings, but haven't mastered the kata or combination. Your Sensei will let you know in advance if you will be entered for a temporary grade.

Silwood Park Karate



# The First Grading



## The Grading Venue

Gradings usually take place at Wildridings Primary School approximately 3-4 times a year. The first few gradings at Our Lady's will take place at the School during lesson times on Monday evenings. A grading is a very formal and structured event and we have very high standards. Students will do a warm up together, and then will sit around the edge of the hall. They will be called up in small groups.

## Eligibility

Your Sensei will let you know if your child is eligible to grade. We do not believe in allowing students to fail and therefore will hold back any student we believe is not ready. Younger students and higher grades often don't grade every time because it takes them longer to learn the katas and combinations required for the next grade. We make our decision based on what is best for each individual student. Please respect our decision.



## The Grading Panel

The grading panel consists of Senior Instructors from Silwood Park Karate and your Sensei. We may invite instructors from other KSKC clubs to be part of our grading panel. The decision they make is based on their desire to maintain the high standards of our Association.

## Structure of a Grading

Students are called up in grade order, starting with the beginners and finishing with the brown belts. Small groups of students will get up together. Whilst other groups are called up for their grading, students and spectators are expected to sit quietly. Although we appreciate that younger children will find this difficult, we do not tolerate students talking during the grading.



## The Grading Result

After all students have completed their gradings, the panel will discuss the participants. During this time students are asked to collect their grading books. If this is your first grading, we will have a grading book for you. If you have lost your book, replacements are available for £4. The panel will then read out the results of each student. Younger students attempt the 11th Kyu and older students attempt 10th Kyu at the first grading.



## Spectators

The grading is a formal occasion, but we want it to be just another day for our youngest members. Therefore we do not currently allow parents to watch the earlier sessions. We know you are keen to see how they are doing and we record the event and you can order this on our online store. The third session has older children and those going for blackbelt and parents are welcome to watch this session.

## Please Respect the Dojo

The rules of the dojo apply to the grading hall. Students have worked hard for the chance to attempt their grading and must be shown the respect they deserve.

We ask that spectators refrain from talking during the grading, both to other parents and the children. It's important not to call out to your child, even if they are talking and you're trying to quieten them. Equally, if your child's belt falls off do not pick it up— one of the higher grade students will retrieve it. Mobile phones must be switched off. Please stay seated throughout the grading—moving around will distract the children. The outside door will be locked and spectators will not be permitted access until the grading has finished.



**If you have any concerns or questions about the grading please do not hesitate to contact us.**