



Edenbridge Primary School

Admissions Policy

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Statement of intent

At Edenbridge Primary School, we welcome all pupils, and places at the school are offered in an open, fair, clear and objective manner. We work to the principle that any parent accessing our admissions arrangements will be able to understand easily how places for that school will be allocated, and will not be alienated or discouraged from applying based on admissions criteria.

The table below sets out who the admission authority is and other responsible bodies in our school.

Type of school	Who is the admission authority?	Who deals with complaints about arrangements?	Who is responsible for arranging/providing for an appeal against refusal of a place at the school?
Academy	Academy trust	Schools Adjudicator	Academy trust

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2023) 'School Admission Appeals Code'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Equalities Objectives Statement
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- SEN Information Report

Roles and responsibilities

The trust board is responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance when carrying out the overall admission of pupils into the school.
- Overseeing, and determining annually, admissions arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applicants than places at the school.
- Ensuring that oversubscription criteria does not discriminate against any child.
- Ensuring that the practices and criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective.
- Publishing the admissions arrangements on the school website, including the oversubscription criteria.
- Publicly consulting on any proposed changes to the admissions arrangements.
- Clearly communicating any reasons for rejecting the admission of a pupil, as well as the parent's right to appeal and the appeal process.
- Implementing any advice or recommendations given by the Schools Adjudicator without undue delay.
- The Schools Adjudicator is responsible for:
 - Acting in line with the relevant legislation and guidance pertaining to admissions.
 - Receiving concerns and objections regarding the admission of pupils and making recommendations to the admission authority as a result of these concerns and objections.
 - Approving variations to determined admissions arrangements where there has been a major change in circumstances or law.

The appeals clerk is responsible for:

- Having an in-depth knowledge of the relevant appeals codes and other relevant law.
- Providing an independent and impartial service for admission appeals.
- Making the necessary administrative arrangements for hearings.
- Notifying all parties of the order of proceedings in advance of an appeals hearing.
- Responding to queries from appellants in advance of an appeals hearing or identifying who will be appropriate to respond.
- Being an independent source of advice on procedure and admissions law.
- Keeping accurate records of proceedings and providing written notification of the appeals panel's decisions

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Liaising with the trust board where relevant regarding admitting pupils to the school.
- Working with the trust board when determining the school's capacity.
- Ensuring that the trust board has all the information it needs to set admissions arrangements and participate in LA coordination schemes.
- Making arrangements for pupils admitted through in-year admissions to start as soon as possible.

Determining a PAN

The number of places available will be determined by the capacity of the school; the PAN for new Reception pupils is 60.

Oversubscription criteria

The trust board will aim to ensure that oversubscription criteria is reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and compliant with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. This means that the oversubscription criteria will not unfairly disadvantage, whether directly or indirectly, any child based on a protected characteristic or economic disadvantage.

In the event that there are more applicants than available places, the trust board will apply the following oversubscription criteria, in order of priority given:

- Looked After Children (LAC)* and Post Looked-After Children (PLAC) will be given priority over non-LAC or PLAC children.
- Children with siblings currently at the school will be given priority.
- Children of staff at the school will be given priority.
- Proximity to the school

All pupils who have named the school in their EHC plan will be admitted.

Where two applications cannot otherwise be separated, the trust will follow a fair, clear and effective 'tie-breaker' procedure by allocating the place to the pupil who lives closest to school.

When formulating the school's admission arrangements, the trust board will not:

- Place any conditions on the consideration of any application other than those in the oversubscription criteria published in their admission arrangements.
- Take into account any previous schools attended unless it is a named feeder school.
- Give priority to children whose parents rank preferred schools in their application.
- Introduce any new selection by ability.
- Give priority to children based on any practical or financial support their parents give to the school or associated parties, including any affiliated religious organisation.
- Give priority to children according to the occupational, marital, financial or educational status of parents applying – apart from where these factors determine a child's pupil premium eligibility, and for children whose parents work at school.
- Take account of reports from previous schools about children's past behaviour, attendance, attitude or achievement, or that of any other children in the family.
- Discriminate against any protected characteristic.
- Give priority based on a child's or their parents' past or present hobbies or activities.
- Name fee-paying independent schools as feeder schools.
- Interview children or parents.
- Request financial contributions as part of the admissions process.
- Request photographs of children – apart from for proof of identity when sitting selection tests.

Distance from the school

The point within the school grounds from which the school will measure any distance or radii is the door of the school reception. This point will be used to determine the distance from the child's primary address to the school.

Siblings of pupils and children of staff

For the purpose of this policy, "sibling" is defined as any brother or sister related by blood or marriage and any fostered or adopted siblings who are currently enrolled at the school.

Where oversubscribed, priority will be given to children for whom staff members have parental responsibility, where the staff member has been employed by the trust for two or more years at the time at which the application was made, and/or where the member of staff has been recruited to fill a vacant post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage. Trustees of the school are included in the staff criteria with regard to admissions for children.

Equal opportunities

The trust board will not establish admissions criteria that excludes individuals with a particular protected characteristic. The admissions criteria will not exclude a greater proportion of pupils with particular protected characteristics, unless the trust board can justify how this is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

The admissions criteria will not discriminate against disabled applicants, unless the trust board can justify how this is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

Admissions procedures

The school will offer open events and school visits to all potential applicants, irrespective of any protected characteristics. Where necessary, the school will make reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants or disabled parents.

The school may assess its ability to cater to the applicant's needs by:

- Inviting the applicant to attend the school for half a day.
- Visiting the applicant's home.
- Visiting the applicant's current education provision.

Consultation, determination and publication

Consultation

The trust board will consult on any proposed changes to the admissions arrangements. Consultation will last for a minimum of six weeks and will take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year. The trust board will consult on admissions arrangements at least once every seven years, even if no changes have been made in that time.

The trust board will consult with the following:

- Parents of children between the ages of two and 18
- Stakeholders
- Other admission authorities within the relevant area
- The LA
- Any LAs in which pupils have historically come from

Determination and publication of admissions arrangements

The trust board will publish a copy of the full proposed admission arrangements and the contact details of the individual responsible for admissions liaison on the school website. A copy of the proposed admission arrangements will be made available upon request.

Admission arrangements will be determined by 28 February in the determination year on an annual basis, even when no changes to the arrangements have been made.

The trust board will notify all appropriate bodies of the finalised admissions arrangements when they have been determined. A copy of the finalised admission arrangements will be sent to the LA for entry by 15 March in the determination year. Finalised admission arrangements will also be published on the school website by 15 March in the determination year, and will continue to display them for the whole offer year.

Any objections to the admission arrangements will be directed to the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May in the determination year.

trust board will provide the LA with all of the information it needs to compile the composite prospectus by 8 August in the determination year.

Variations

The trust board will not revise the admissions arrangements for a school year once they have been determined, unless this would be necessary to give effect to a mandatory requirement, a determination of the Schools Adjudicator, or any misprint in the admission arrangements.

The trust board may, in exceptional circumstances, propose variations where there have been major changes in circumstances that necessitate a change.

Any proposals to vary the admissions arrangements will be referred to the Secretary of State.

Applications and offers

Applications

Parents will need to make a Reception Common Application (RCAF) either using the online process available at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola> or by contacting kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk. Parents should complete the application by naming up to three schools, putting them in order of preference – the schools do not have to be located in the LA area where the parents live. Parents will provide LAs with the following information:

- Their name and their child's name and date of birth
- Their and their child's address and proof of residence

KCC collects admissions applications and related data items from parents in order to fulfil the legal obligations laid out in the School Standards and Framework Act (1998) and the current School Admission Code (2021). In order for Local Authorities (LA) to fulfil these duties, the Department for Education (DfE) defines what data each LA must collect, how it must be referred to and limitations (if any) are placed on its collection.

Even if you already have an older child at the school, you MUST apply for a place for your younger child. You will not automatically receive a place because you already have a sibling there.

Parents are not guaranteed to have their preferences met.

Once a place has been offered, the trust board may ask for the child's short birth certificate as proof of birth date.

For previously LAC (PLAC) and LAC, the school's admissions authority will request a copy of the adoption order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order, and a letter from the LA confirming that the child was looked after immediately prior to the order being made.

The school may request evidence that demonstrates a child was in state care outside of England prior to being adopted.

Allocating places

Kent County Council will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission

authorities in response to RCAFs completed online or on paper. Kent County Council will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the RCAF where:

- (a) it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority;
- (b) an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school;
- (c) an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has named.

The LA will match each ranked list against the ranked lists of every other school named and:

- (a) where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the named schools, will allocate a place at that school to the child;
- (b) where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the named schools, will allocate a place to the child at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference;
- (c) where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the named schools, will allocate a place to the child at an alternative school.

Pupils not of usual school age will not be given less of a priority where the school is oversubscribed. In the event that parents of a child wish for their child to be admitted outside their normal age group, the school's Head Teacher will assist the trust board in deciding on which year group the child will enter. Once a decision has been reached, the child's parents will be informed in writing along with an explanation of how the decision was reached and any reasons why.

For children of UK service professionals and crown servants, the following procedure will be adhered to:

- A place will be allocated to the child in advance of the family arriving in the area named in the application form, where one is available.
- The application must be accompanied with an official letter confirming the relocation date.
- The address at which the child will live will be used when considering the application against the oversubscription criteria – a Unit or quartering address must be used where this is requested by the child's parent.
- The application will not be refused on the grounds of the child not currently living in the area or not currently having an intended address, nor will places be uniquely reserved.
- The arrangements for service children will be in line with the government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children.

The school must admit all children who have an EHC plan where the school is named. Children with SEND who do not have an EHC plan will be treated equally to all other applicants in the admissions process. This includes children who may need extra support or reasonable adjustments to be made. The details of the school's SEND provision can be found in our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy and SEN Information Report.

Offers

All offers will be made on National Offer Day, i.e. 16 April or the next working day where this date falls on a weekend or bank holiday.

Where the school is oversubscribed, the school will rank applications in accordance with the

determined arrangements, and will ensure that only one offer will be made per child by the LA.

Withdrawing an offer

An offer will only be withdrawn if it has been made in error, a parent has not responded within 20 working days, or if the offer was made via a fraudulent or misleading application. Where an offer has not been responded to within the designated time frame, the trust board will give the parent a further opportunity to respond and will explain that the offer will be withdrawn if they do not. If any application is found to be fraudulent after a child has started at the school in the first term of the new academic year, the school may withdraw the place. If the fraudulent application is found after this time, the pupil will not be removed.

Coordination scheme

The LA will publish a scheme to coordinate admissions arrangements for the normal admissions round and late applications by 1 January in the determination year. The LA will consult with Edenbridge Primary School in the event that the scheme is changed substantially from the previous year. The LA will also consult with the school and other admissions authorities in the area at least every seven years, even if no changes have been made in that period.

The trust board is under a legal obligation, as the school's trust board, to participate in coordination for the normal admissions round, and will provide the LA with all information it needs to coordinate admissions.

In-year admissions

The school will follow the same process for in-year admissions as for admissions at the start of the academic year.

The trust board will publish in-year arrangements on the school website by 31 August each year, detailing how applications will be dealt with between 1 September until the following 31 August. These arrangements will set out how parents can apply for a school place, including whether the trust board will handle applications or whether the LA will accept these applications on its behalf.

Where the school has places available in-year, it will offer a place to every child who has applied for one without condition or use of oversubscription criteria, unless to do so would be to prejudice the efficient provision of education or use of resources.

The published in-year admissions arrangements will also provide a suitable application form for parents to complete, including a supplementary information form, where necessary, and set out when parents will be notified of the outcome of their application and details about the right to appeal.

The school will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has space available, then a place will be offered. If a place is not available, then the child's parent can ask for their child's name to be added to the appropriate waiting list. As with admissions at the start of the academic year, parents whose applications are turned down are entitled to appeal through the process outlined below.

The trust board will notify all parents within 15 school days of receipt of an in-year application of the outcome of this application. The school will notify the LA of every application and its outcome within two school days or as soon as is reasonably practicable beyond this.

Where an offer is accepted, the school will make arrangements for the pupil to start as soon as possible.

LA in-year coordination scheme

The school will inform the LA by 1 August of whether it will participate in the LA's in-year co-ordination scheme and will send any relevant information for the LA to publish on its website.

Where the school is participating in the LA coordination scheme, the school will provide the LA with details of the number of places available no later than two school days following the request of such information from the LA. The school will also provide information to parents about how they can find details on the relevant scheme.

Waiting list

For admissions at the start of the academic year, the school will operate a waiting list which is maintained until 31 December on year of entry. The list will set out the priority for places in the same order set out in the oversubscription criteria. When additional children are placed on the waiting list, the list will be re-ordered in line with the oversubscription criteria – no pupil will be prioritised based on when their name was added to the list.

The trust board will make clear in the admissions arrangements the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group for the admissions round.

Parents may request that their child is placed on the waiting list if they are not successful in receiving a place. Where a place becomes available, it will be offered to the parents of the child at the top of the list.

For in-year admissions, if there is a waiting list for that year, the child will be placed on a waiting list until a space becomes available, or the child finds a new school setting. The list will set out the priority for places in the same order as admissions at the start of the year – when a place becomes available, it will be offered to the parents of the child at the top of the list.

If a child on the waiting list is offered a position at the school, the parents will be notified by letter and will have the option of accepting or rejecting the place within 28 days.

Admissions appeals

In circumstances where a school place is refused, parents, and in some circumstances children, will have the right to appeal against the admission authorities decision to refuse admission, more information can be found here <https://edenbridge.kent.sch.uk/admissions/>.