

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Arrangements for admission to 11-16 Provision

The admission arrangements for Orchards Academy for the year 2017/2018 and, subject to any changes approved or required by the Secretary of State, for subsequent years are:

a. Orchards Academy has an agreed admission number of 120 students. The Academy will accordingly admit up to 120 students in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received.

b. Orchards Academy may set a higher admission number as its Published Admission Number for any specific year. Before setting an admission number higher than its agreed admission number, the Academy will consult those listed at paragraph 8 below. Students will not be admitted above the Published Admission Number unless exceptional circumstances apply and such circumstances shall be reported to the Secretary of State.

2. Process of application

Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with Kent County Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements and will be made on the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) provided and administered by the Kent County Council. Orchards Academy will use the following timetable for applications each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year) which, whenever possible, will fit in with the common timetable agreed by Kent County Council or its Admissions Forum.

a. By September – Orchards Academy will publish, in its prospectus, information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September (e.g. in September 2017 for admission in September 2018). This will include details of open evenings and other opportunities for prospective students and their parents to visit the school. The Academy will also provide information to the Local Authority for inclusion in the composite prospectus, as required;

b. September/October – Orchards Academy will provide opportunities for parents to visit the Academy;

c. October/November - SCAF to be completed and returned to the Local Authority to administer;

d. the Local Authority sends applications to the Academy;

e. the Academy sends list of students to be offered places to Local Authority;

f. February – the Local Authority applies agreed scheme for own schools, informing other Local Authorities of offers to be made to their residents;

g. March - offers made to parents.

3. Consideration of applications

Orchards Academy will consider all applications for places. Where fewer than the published admission number for any relevant age group are received, the Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

Procedures where Orchards Academy is oversubscribed

All students with statements of Special Educational Needs (when Orchards Academy is named on the statement) will be allocated places before the oversubscription is applied.

Where the total number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number, applications will be considered against the following criteria, and applied in the order in which they are set out below:

a. looked after children who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 will be given the highest priority. (A letter from the responsible local authority confirming the young person's status must be provided.);

b. admission of students whose siblings currently attend the school and who will continue to do so at the time of entry. (Note; the term 'sibling' includes full- half-, and step-siblings and those living as siblings in the same family unit on the role of Orchards Academy);

c. Health and Special Access Reasons – Medical, health, social and special access reasons will be applied in accordance with the school's legal obligations, in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents'/guardians' physical or mental health or social needs mean that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Such claims will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and the particular school.

d. admission of students on the basis of proximity to the school using a straight line measurement. Distances will be measured using Ordnance Survey address point data which takes a measurement from a defined point within the child's home to a defined point in the Academy. The same point of measurement in the Academy is used for all distance measurements.

4. Operation of waiting lists

Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in Kent County Council's co-ordinated admission scheme, Orchards Academy will operate a waiting list. Where in any year the Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until a month after the admission date. This will be maintained by Orchards Academy and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in paragraph 3a)-3d) above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

5. Arrangements for admission to post-16 provision

Orchards Academy will publish specific criteria in relation to minimum entrance requirements for the sixth form and for the range of courses available based upon GCSE grades or other measures of prior attainment. These criteria are the same for internal and external transfers and will be subject to consultation with those in paragraph 8 below. All internal applicants who meet the criteria will be admitted to the 6th form, even if this number is greater than the planned admissions number. The academic entry criteria will be published in the autumn immediately preceding the year of admissions (that is autumn 2017) for September 2018 admissions. The criteria will be included within the Academy's prospectus and within the local authority composite admission prospectus.

If 100 or more students from within Orchards Academy meet the admissions criteria and wish to enter Y12 of the 6th form, no external applicants will be considered.

Where there are more external applicants for any available 6th form places than places available, after the admission of students with special educational needs where the Academy is named on the statement, the oversubscription criteria in paragraph 3a)-3d) above will be applied to determine who is admitted.

There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for unsuccessful applicants, whether they are internal or external applicants.

6. Arrangements for admitting students to other year groups, including replacing any students who have left Orchards Academy

Subject to any provisions in Kent County Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, Orchards Academy will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child unless one of the permitted reliefs apply. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria in paragraph 3a)-3d) shall apply. Parents whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal.

Orchards Academy will participate in Kent County Council's In-Year Fair Access Protocol.

ANNUAL PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

7. Consultation

Orchards Academy will consult by 1 March each year on its proposed admission arrangements:

- a. Kent County Council;
- b. The admission forum for Kent County Council;
- c. Any other admission authorities for primary and secondary schools located within the relevant area for consultation set by the Local Authority;
- d. Any other governing body for primary and secondary schools (as far as not falling within paragraph c)) located within the relevant area for consultation;

- e. Affected admission authorities in neighbouring Local Authority areas.
- f. Locally based Diocesan Boards

8. Publication of admission arrangements

Orchards Academy will publish its admission arrangements each year once these have been determined, by:

- a. copies being sent to primary and secondary schools in the relevant scheme of education within Kent County Council Local Authority area;
- b. copies being sent to the offices of Kent County Council;
- c. copies being made available without charge on request from the Academy;
- d. copies being sent to public libraries in the appropriate areas of Kent for the purposes of being made available at such libraries for reference by parents and other persons.

The published arrangements will set out:

- a. the name and address of Orchards Academy and contact details;
- b. a summary of the admissions policy, including oversubscription criteria;
- c. a statement of any religious affiliation [none];
- d. numbers of places and applications for those places in the previous year; and
- e. arrangements for hearing appeals.