



Dated: 1st January 2016

Kent County Council
Determined Co-ordinated Scheme for
Secondary Admissions
Academic Year 2017/18

Incorporating Transfer to Year 7
and
Determined Secondary In-Year Admissions
Process for Schools

Produced by:
Fair Access - Admissions

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Introduction / Background

Each year, the Local Authority is required to draw up, consult on and determine:

- Co-ordinated admission arrangements (schemes) for all schools in the Local Authority area for entry at the normal time of admission (Year 7 for secondary schools, Year R for infant and primary schools and Year 3 for junior schools).
 - There is a duty on the LA to secure agreement from all admission authorities including academies in Kent. If the LA does not secure agreement from all the admission authorities and academies in Kent it must inform the Secretary of State who will impose a scheme to which all schools and academies must adhere.
 - This consultation ran from 9.00 am on 6 November 2015 until 18 December 2015. Every Kent School, Academy and Co-ordinating Free School or UTC is required to agree to the admissions scheme and adhere to it. **Kent County Council made it clear in its consultation that it would constitute full acceptance to the proposed scheme if schools chose not to respond.**
 - Cranbrook School is the only school in Kent where the normal point of entry is at Year 9. For Kent residents application forms are available from the school or the KCC website and will be processed broadly in line with the Year 7 transfer arrangements set out in this scheme. (Non-Kent parents must apply through their home authority's In Year admissions process.)
 - Leigh UTC is the only school in Kent where the normal point of entry is at Year 10. For Kent residents application forms are available from the school or the KCC website and will be processed broadly in line with the Year 7 transfer arrangements set out in this scheme. (Non-Kent parents must apply through their home authority's In Year admissions process.)
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Section 1 – Details of the Co-ordinated Scheme for Transfer to Year 7

This section details the Co-ordinated Scheme for Transfer to Year 7 in Secondary Schools in September 2017.

Year 7 applications are normally for children born between 1 September 2005 and 31 August 2006.

The Key Scheme dates are:

Key Action	Scheme Date
Registration for testing opens	Wednesday 1 June 2016
Closing date for registration	Friday 1 July 2016
Test date for pupils in Kent primary schools	Thursday 8 September 2016
Test date for pupils not in Kent primary schools	Saturday 10 September 2016
Assessment decision sent to parents	Thursday 13 October 2016
National closing date for application forms	Monday 31 October 2016
Summary of applicant numbers sent to secondary schools (plus info for those needing to arrange additional testing)	By Friday 9 December 2016
Full applicant details sent to all Kent secondary schools for ranking against their over-subscription criteria	By Friday 6 January 2017
Ranked lists returned to Kent County Council by all schools. Deadline for school to inform Kent County Council of wish to offer in excess of PAN	No later than Wednesday 18 January 2017
Secondary schools sent list of allocated pupils - primary schools informed of destination of pupils	Thursday 23 February 2017
National Offer Day: e-mails sent after 4pm and letters sent 1st class	Wednesday 1 March 2017
Schools send out welcome letters no earlier than	Monday 6 March 2017
Deadline for late applications and waiting list requests to be included in the Kent County Council reallocation stage. Also the date by which places should be accepted or declined to schools.	Thursday 16 March 2017
Date Kent County Council will send schools reallocation waiting lists for ranking against their over-subscription criteria	Monday 20 March 2017
Deadline for lodging appeals	Wednesday 29 March 2017
Schools to send their ranked reallocation waiting list and acceptance and refusals to KCC	Friday 31 March 2017
Kent County Council to reallocate places that have become available from the schools' waiting lists. After this point, schools will take back ownership of their waiting lists.	Friday 28 April 2017

In addition this scheme:

- (a) allows for Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs) to be returned directly to schools to assist in the ranking of applicants against their over-subscription criteria.
- (b) confirms that on **28 April 2017** Kent County Council will run one reallocation process offering places to late applicants and original applicants that have joined a school's waiting list after offer day. Kent County Council will consider late applicants through the process described in paragraphs 41 to 50. After **28 April 2017**, Kent County Council will enable schools to accept applications directly and offer vacancies as they arise, to children on their waiting lists. Copies of applications will be forwarded by parents to Kent County Council who will support and advise parents where this is needed. Schools must notify Kent County Council of any offers or refusals that are made at the same time these are made to parents.

Kent County Council expects that all schools and Admission Authorities including academies and co-ordinating Free schools and UTCs engaged in the sharing of admissions data will manage personal information in accordance with Data Protection principles.

1.

For the normal point of entry to schools, Kent resident parents will be able to apply for their child's school place either online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or by using a standard paper form known as the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF). Kent County Council cannot accept multiple applications for the same child: a parent may use either of the above methods, but not both. Kent County Council will take all reasonable steps to ensure that every parent resident in the Kent County Council area who has a child in their last year of primary education knows how to apply for a school place by completing a SCAF online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or on paper, and has access to a written explanation of the co-ordinated admissions scheme.

2.

The SCAF and online application will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils to the first year of secondary education.

3.

The SCAF or online application must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents resident in the Kent County Council area wishing to express a preference for their child:

- (a) to be admitted to a school within the Kent County Council area (including VA and Foundation schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools and UTCs).
- (b) to be admitted to a school located in another Local Authority's area (including VA, Foundation schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools and UTCs).

4.

Details of this scheme will apply to every application made by a Kent resident applying to Kent schools. Where a Kent resident applies to schools located in another Local Authority, variations may apply to take into account differences present in that Local Authority's scheme.

5.

Online applications, SCAF and supporting publications will:

- (a) invite parents to express **up to four** preferences including, where relevant, any schools outside the Kent County Council area, and to rank each school according to their order of preference. Kent residents **must** complete a Kent SCAF. Residents outside Kent **must** complete their home Local Authority's SCAF (e.g. Medway residents complete a Medway SCAF etc).
- (b) allow parents to give reasons for each preference including details of any siblings that will still be on roll at the preferred school at the time of the applicant child's admission.
- (c) explain that the parent will receive no more than one offer of a school place and that:
 - (i) a place will be offered at the highest available ranked preference for which they are eligible for a place; and
 - (ii) if a place cannot be offered at a school named on the form, a place will be offered at an alternative school.
- (d) specify the closing date for applications and where paper SCAFs must be returned to, in accordance with paragraph 7.

6.

The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:

- (a) the online admissions website is readily accessible to all who wish to apply using this method.
- (b) the paper SCAF is readily available on request from Kent County Council, all Kent maintained primary and junior schools and is also available on the Kent County Council website to print, complete and return.
- (c) a composite prospectus of all Kent secondary schools and a written explanation of the co-ordinated admissions scheme is readily available on request from Kent County Council, all Kent maintained primary and junior schools and is also available on the Kent County Council website to read or print.

7.

Completed applications must be submitted online and paper SCAFs returned to Kent County Council or any Kent Secondary School by **31 October 2016**.

8.

To help Kent County Council ensure that everyone who needs to make an application has done so, primary and junior schools may ask parents for a note of their online application reference. They may also ask the online admissions team to check that an online application has been submitted by parents of children attending their school. These schools will also be sent a list of children that have applied online close to the closing date to allow schools to check that every child has applied. These are important safeguarding measures schools are encouraged to support.

9. Applications made on the SCAF and returned direct to any school before **16 March 2017** must be forwarded to Kent County Council immediately to ensure inclusion in the appropriate allocation stage.

Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs)

10. Only applications submitted on a SCAF (online or paper) are valid. Completion of a school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) alone does not constitute a valid application. Where schools use a SIF they must confirm with the parent on receipt of their completed form that they have also made a formal application to Kent County Council.

11. A school can ask parents who wish to name it, or have named it, on their SCAF, to provide additional information on a SIF only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply its oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a SIF is required it must be requested from the school or Kent County Council and returned to the school. All schools that use SIFs must include the proposed form in their consultation document and in their published admission arrangements.

12. Children with Statements of Special Educational Need (SSEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan do not apply to schools for a place through the main round admissions process.

Any application received for a child with an SSEN or EHCP will be referred directly to Kent County Council's Special Educational Needs Services (SEN), who must have regard to Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 " the LA must name the maintained school that is preferred by parents providing that:

- the school is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude and the special educational needs set out in part 2 of the statement
- the child's attendance is not incompatible with the efficient education of other children in the school, and
- the placement is an efficient use of the LA's resources"

Where a pupil is resident in another Local Authority, the home Authority must again comply with Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 which states:

"A local education authority shall, before specifying the name of any maintained school in a statement, consult the governing body of the school, and if the school is maintained by another local education authority, that authority."

Other Authorities looking for Kent school places for statemented pupils will need to contact Kent County Council's SEN team in addition to the relevant school.

Testing

13. In line with Kent County Council's ongoing decision to run a selective process, entry to grammar schools is restricted to children who have been assessed as suitable through the relevant test(s). Receiving a grammar assessment in the Kent Test does not guarantee a

grammar school place at offer day as they may be oversubscribed.

14.

The Kent schools that require children to sit the Kent grammar school tests are listed below. Schools which hold alternative tests will also be highlighted. It is not possible to include details of schools that added alternative tests during their 2017 consultation period as these consultations were still ongoing at the time of writing:

Barton Court Grammar School	Maidstone Grammar School for Girls
Borden Grammar School	***Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend
Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School	Norton Knatchbull
Dane Court Grammar School	Oakwood Park Grammar School
Dartford Grammar School	Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School
Dartford Grammar School for Girls	Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School
*Dover Grammar School for Boys	Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys
*Dover Grammar School for Girls	Sir Roger Manwood's School
**Folkestone School for Girls	Skinners' School
Gravesend Grammar School	Tonbridge Grammar School
**Harvey Grammar School	Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School
Highsted Grammar School	Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys
Highworth Grammar School for Girls	Weald of Kent Grammar School
Invicta Grammar School	Wilmington Grammar School for Boys
Judd School	Wilmington Grammar School for Girls
Maidstone Grammar School	

* Dover Grammar School for Boys and Dover Grammar School for Girls also accept pupils who have reached the required standard of the "Dover Test".

** Folkestone School for Girls and Harvey Grammar School also accept pupils who have reached the required standard of the "Shepway Test".

*** Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend also accepts pupils who have reached the required standard of the "Mayfield Test".

15.

Registration for the Kent grammar school tests will open on **1 June 2016**. Parents wishing their children to sit the Kent grammar school tests are required to register with the Kent Admissions Team (either online or using a paper registration form) no later than **1 July 2016**.

16.

Details regarding the administration of the Kent test for grammar school will be made available to parents in time for the registration.

17.

Kent test will take place:

for pupils attending a Kent school on **Thursday 8 September 2016**

for pupils not attending a Kent school on **Saturday 10 September 2016**

18.

Registration is open to parents of children resident in the UK, and the children of UK service personnel and other Crown Servants returning to the UK, who will transfer to secondary school in **September 2017**.

19.

A child's country of residence is where the child normally lives, not a temporary address (such as for holiday or educational purposes) before returning overseas. For UK service personnel and other Crown Servants, if the fixed UK residence is not known at the time of registration, then a unit postal address or a "quartering area" address may be used on production of appropriate evidence.

20.

By **6 July 2016** Kent County Council will send all Kent primary and junior schools, including academies and co-ordinating free schools, a list of their pupils that have applied to sit the Kent grammar school tests. Schools will have until **13 July 2016** to contact parents of children who are interested in grammar school and who have not yet applied.

21.

Late registrations cannot be accepted online. As far as reasonably practicable, registrations for the Kent test for grammar school that are received late will be accepted, provided a completed paper registration form is received by Kent County Council before **13 July 2016**.

22.

If the parent chooses to name a Kent grammar school on the SCAF for a child who has not taken the appropriate test, this preference will be treated as invalid because the child will not have met the entry criteria.

23.

In the following exceptional circumstances, where a child is unable to sit the Kent grammar school tests on the specified dates, arrangements will be made for testing to take place by the end of **January 2017**:

- (a) illness on one or both test dates, confirmed by a doctor's certificate;
- (b) a move into the Kent County Council area after the closing date for test registration. (NB: This can only be arranged if parents have provided proof of residency and return the late paper SCAF before **9 December 2016**.)

24.

Outside these specific circumstances, children who have not registered for testing but want a grammar school place will not have an opportunity to sit the test until after **28 April 2017** when parents can submit a further application through the post reallocation process (detailed in paragraph 50) or the in year admissions process (detailed in Section 2) or, if they have been refused admission, make an appeal to the Independent Appeal Panel.

25.

Following the conclusion of the assessment process Kent County Council will write to parents of all registered children advising them of the assessment decision. Letters will be sent by 1st class post on **13 October 2016**. Where a parent has registered for the Kent Test online, and provided a valid e-mail address, assessment decision e-mails will be sent after 4pm on **13 October 2016**. In line with Kent County Council's ongoing desire to reduce the environmental and financial impact of large volume post runs, work will continue to produce email processes which will allow for the reduction of printed letters.

26.

There is no right of appeal against the assessment decision, but after **1 March 2017** parents may make an admission appeal to an independent appeal panel if their child is refused admission to any school, including a grammar school.

Determining Offers in Response to the SCAF

27.

Kent County Council will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to SCAFs 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 SCAF 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 nominated school.

Kent County Council will allocate places in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 32.

28.

By 9 December 2016 Kent County Council will:

- (a) notify all schools of the number of applications received for their school;
- (b) send parent and pupil details to those schools which have not made arrangements to test earlier and which require details to arrange testing by the same date (data may be subject to further validation at this stage);
- (c) notify and forward details of applications to the relevant authority/authorities where parents have nominated a school outside the Kent County Council area.

29.

By 6 January 2017 Kent County Council will advise all Kent secondary schools of the full details of all valid applications for their schools via rank lists, to enable them to apply their over-subscription criteria. Only children who appear on Kent County Council's list can be considered for places on the relevant offer day.

30.

By 18 January 2017 All Kent secondary schools, including academies and co-ordinating free schools and UTCs, **must** return completed lists, ranked in priority order in accordance with their over-subscription criteria, to Kent County Council for consideration in the allocation process. Where a school fails clearly to define its oversubscription criteria in its

determined arrangements, the definitions laid out by Kent County Council must be adopted.

31.

18 January 2017 will also be the final deadline by which any school may notify Kent County Council of their intention to admit above PAN. Changes cannot be made after this date because Kent County Council will not have sufficient time to administer its co-ordination responsibilities.

32.

By 16 February 2017 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.

33.

By 16 February 2017 Kent County Council will have completed any data exchange with other Local Authorities to cover situations where a resident in Kent County Council's Local Authority area has named a school outside Kent, or a parent living outside the Kent County Council's Local Authority area has named a Kent school.

34.

By 23 February 2017 Kent County Council will inform its secondary schools of the pupils to be offered places at their establishments, and will inform other Local Authorities of places to be offered to their residents in its schools and Academies. Kent County Council will also inform all Kent primary and junior schools of offers made to their pupils. Schools must not share this information with parents before **1 March 2017**.

35.

On Offer Day - 1 March 2017 Kent County Council will

- (a) send an offer email after 4pm to those parents who have applied online and provided a valid email address. The email will include:
 1. The name of the school at which a place is offered.
 2. Information about the right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places at other named schools.
 3. Information on how to request a place on a waiting list for schools originally named as a preference, if they want their child to be considered for any places that might become available. *Parents cannot ask for their child to go on the waiting list for a grammar school unless the child has been assessed suitable for grammar school*
- (b) Send decision letters to ALL paper SCAF applicants and, as a minimum, all online applicants that did not receive an offer of their first preference. In line with Kent County Council's ongoing desire to reduce the environmental and financial impact

of large volume post runs, work will continue to produce email processes which will allow for the reduction of paper letters. The letter will include:

1. the name of the school at which a place is offered;
2. the reasons why the child is not being offered a place at each of the other schools named on the SCAF;
3. information about the statutory right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places at the other nominated schools;
4. Information on how to request a place on a waiting list for schools originally named as a preference on their SCAF, if they want their child to be considered for any places that might become available. *Parents cannot ask for their child to go on the waiting list for a grammar school unless the child has been assessed suitable for grammar school;*
5. advice on how to find contact details for the school and Local Authority and for the admission authorities of Foundation, VA schools, Academies and co-ordinating Free schools and UTCs where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal with the governing body.

36.

The letter and/or email will notify parents that they need to respond to the offered school to accept or refuse the offer. It will inform parents to send waiting list requests to Kent County Council. It will also inform them of their right to appeal against the refusal of a place at any school on their application and where and when to lodge the appeal.

37.

Parents who reside in other Local Authorities, but who have applied for a Kent school or schools, will be notified of whether or not they are being offered a place at a Kent school by their own Local Authority on **1 March 2017**.

38.

Kent pupils who have not been offered a place at any of the schools nominated on their SCAF will be allocated a place by Kent County Council at an alternative school in the Kent County Council area. This place will be offered on **1 March 2017**.

39.

Schools will send their welcome letters **no earlier than 6 March 2017**.

Acceptance/Refusal of Places - 16 March 2017

40.

By 16 March 2017 parents must inform the school whether they wish to accept or refuse the place offered on offer day. Refusals should be made in writing or via e-mail to provide an appropriate audit trail. If a response has not been received by **16 March 2017**, the school **must** remind the parent in writing of the need to respond within a further seven days and point out that the place may be withdrawn if no response is received. Only after taking reasonable measures to secure a response from parents will a school be able to retract the offer of a place.

Determining Offers in Reallocation Process

41.

Kent County Council will collect a reallocation list for all schools up to **16 March 2017**. This will include details of the following:

- (a) all applicants who named the school on the SCAF and were not offered a place on **1 March 2017** and who have asked to be included on the school's waiting list;
- (b) late applicants who named the school on their applications which were sent to Kent County Council by **16 March 2017**.

(A grammar school can only put children on its waiting list if they have been assessed as suitable for a grammar school.)

42.

By 20 March 2017 Kent County Council will advise all Kent secondary schools of the full details of all waiting list requests and late applications (reallocation list) for their schools to enable them to apply their over-subscription criteria. Only children who appear on the Kent County Council list can be considered for places on Kent County Council's reallocation day. The full reallocation list must be put into the school's over-subscription criteria order. No distinction should be made on the basis of the child being a waiting list request or a late applicant.

43.

By 31 March 2017 The schools must return their ranked waiting lists to Kent County Council. Schools should also return all acceptance and refusal information collected to ensure Kent County Council can calculate places available for its reallocation day.

44.

On 28 April 2017 Kent County Council will re-allocate any places that have become available since offer day using the same process described in paragraph 32. Applicants will be sent a letter by 1st Class post that day, informing them of offers. In line with Kent County Council's ongoing desire to reduce the environmental and financial impact of large volume post runs, work will continue to produce email processes which will allow for the reduction of paper letters. Schools will be sent a list of all new offers and the remainder of their waiting lists. Late applicants will be added to the waiting list of each school that they have not been offered.

Determining Offers after Waiting Lists returned to Schools

45.

After **28 April 2017** waiting lists will be managed by schools and can include:

- (a) all applicants who were not offered a place on **1 March 2017** and who have asked to be included on the school's waiting list and who subsequently were not offered a place on **28 April 2017** (children on the waiting list described in paragraph 44);
- (b) applicants who did not name the school on their SCAF and who have approached the school to be considered via Post Reallocation Secondary Common Application Form (PRSCAF).
- (c) Late applicants who have not previously been considered for a place at any Secondary school and who have approached the school to be considered via

PRSCAF. These applicants should also provide a copy of their application to Kent County Council who will support and advise parents where this is needed.

46.

After 28 April 2017 Schools will make offers from their waiting lists for any spaces available. Kent advises schools to wait until **1 May 2017** before making offers to allow all parents an opportunity to receive their letters detailing the outcome of Reallocation. Schools must inform Kent County Council whenever an offer or refusal is made so that Kent County Council can record all activity. If a school has reached its Published Admission Number an applicant cannot be admitted other than through the Independent Appeal process, the In Year Fair Access Protocol or where special arrangements relating to children in Local Authority Care or who ceased to be so because they were adopted, or with SEN apply.

Handling of Late Applications:

Applications received after the SCAF closing date but before 9 December 2016

47.

The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round (as above) is **31 October 2016**. As far as reasonably practicable, applications for places in the normal admissions round that are received late for a good reason will be accepted and considered 'on time', provided they are received by Kent County Council before **9 December 2016**. Late applications cannot be made online, so applicants must complete a paper SCAF and return it direct to Kent County Council. On time applicants can also request to amend preferences up to this point for a good reason. These requests must be made in writing to the admissions team. Amendments made to the online system after **31 October 2016** will not be accepted. Online applicants who amend preferences after **31 October 2016** will not be sent an email and their offer will not be available online. They will be sent an offer letter by 1st class post.

48.

Exceptional provision is made for the families of UK Service Personnel and Crown Servants as required by the School Admissions Code. Applications will be accepted up until **9 December 2016**, where it is confirmed in writing by the appropriate authority that the family will be resident in Kent by **1 September 2017**. A confirmed address, or, in the absence of this, a Unit or "quartering area" address, will be accepted as the home address from which home-school distance will be calculated. Children who are not successful in gaining any place they want will be allocated an available place at an alternative school, and will have the same access to a waiting list / right to appeal as other applicants.

Applications received on or after 9 December 2016 but before 16 March 2017

49.

Applications received after **9 December 2016** but before **16 March 2017** (the deadline for inclusion in any reallocation made on **28 April 2017**) will not be considered for places on **1 March 2017**, but will be included in the re-allocation of places on **28 April 2017** as defined above.

Applications received after 16 March 2017

50.

Late applications received after **16 March 2017** (the deadline for inclusion in any reallocation made on **28 April 2017**) must be made directly to the schools. Post

Reallocation Secondary Common Application Form (PRSCAF). These applicants should also provide a copy of their application to Kent County Council who will support and advise parents where this is needed. These will be considered by each school after **28 April 2017**, in accordance with a process similar to the in year admissions process (detailed in Section 2).

Cancelling applications

51.

Applications considered as 'on time' detailed in paragraph 7 and 47 can be cancelled or individual preferences can be removed by the applicant up to **18 January 2017** (the deadline for schools returning ranked lists). Requests must be made to the admissions team in writing. New preferences cannot be added to an application at this point. After this date, it is not possible to cancel applications or remove preferences as the offer allocation process will have started.

52.

Parents that have cancelled an 'on time' application may submit a late application, for consideration under the reallocation process. The deadline for these late applications is **16 March 2017**.

53.

Where an application is cancelled, parents cannot join a school's waiting list or appeal for a school that was on their original application unless they submit a new application for the school after **28 April 2017**.

Appeals

54.

All parents have the statutory right to appeal against any decision refusing them a school place and must lodge their appeal by **29 March 2017** for it to be considered as on time.

55.

Where parents have lodged an appeal against the refusal of a place and a place becomes available at the school, the place can then be offered without an appeal being heard, provided there are no other applicants at that time ranked higher on the school's waiting list, which is held in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria. *(Where the school is a grammar school, a place may only be offered if the child has been assessed as being suitable for a grammar school place and there are no other applicants at that time ranked higher on the school's waiting list.)*

Section 2 – Details of the Secondary In-Year Admissions Process for Schools

In-Year Casual Admission Form.

1

The scheme shall apply to every maintained school and Academy in the LA area (except special schools), which are required to comply with its terms, and it shall take effect from the point of formal Kent County Council Cabinet Determination.

2.

Kent County Council will produce a standard form, known as the **In-Year Casual Admission Form (IYCAF)**, which Kent schools must use to allow applicants to apply for school places in any year group outside the normal admissions round. Applicants must use one form for each school they wish to apply for.

3.

As Kent is no longer co-ordinating In-Year admissions, applications to out of county schools and from out of county residents will not have a standard process and will instead depend on the process of the county in question. Kent residents who wish to apply for a place at an out of county school will need to either approach the school or local authority directly. This will vary between authorities.

4.

Out of county residents of authorities that co-ordinate In-Year admissions should complete their authority's Common Application Form and return it to their authority. Kent County Council has given permission to each authority to liaise directly with Kent schools. Out of county residents of authorities that do not co-ordinate are free to contact Kent schools directly to request a place. It is the responsibility of the out of county resident to ensure they apply by the appropriate method.

5.

Parents will be able to obtain information about the process, other authority processes and IYCAFs from Kent County Council's Admissions and Transport Office or from any local Kent school. Enquiries can also be made via e-mail (kentinyearadmissions@kent.gov.uk). Information and IYCAFs will also be available on the Kent County Council's website to read and print.

6.

Kent County Council will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all relevant information is available upon request to any parents who require it.

7.

The IYCAF will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils to a school in the year group applied for.

8.

The IYCAF must be used by parents resident in the Kent County Council area as a means of expressing one preference for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, for their child to be admitted to a school within the Kent County Council area (including VA and Foundation schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools and UTCs)

9.

Parents wishing to apply for more than one school must complete a separate form for each school. Completed forms must be returned directly to the school. Applications by Kent residents to out of county schools should be made to either the other local authority or school, depending on that county's In-Year process.

10.

The IYCAF will:

- (a) invite the parent to express a school preference.
- (b) invite parents to give their reasons for the preference and give details of any siblings that may be attending the preferred school.
- (c) explain that the parent must complete a form for each school they wish to apply for and return each form to the corresponding school.
- (d) explain that Kent County Council will be informed of any application and will monitor any subsequent offers that are made.
- (e) direct the parent to contact Kent County Council where they are unable to secure a school place.
- (f) explain where they can find information about applying to non-Kent schools.

11.

The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:

- (a) that the IYCAF are available in paper form on request from Kent County Council and from all maintained secondary schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools and UTCs in the Kent County Council area; and
- (b) that the IYCAF is accompanied by a written explanation of the In-Year admissions process in an easy to follow format.

12.

IYCAFs for Kent schools must be returned to the school. Schools must process them no later than 5 school days from receipt.

Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs)

13.

All completed IYCAFs are valid applications. A school can ask parents who wish to nominate it, or have nominated it, on the IYCAF, to provide additional information on a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply its oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a SIF is required it must be requested from the school or Kent County Council (where supplied) and returned to the school. All schools that use SIFs must include the proposed form in

their published admission arrangements.

14.

A SIF is not a valid application by itself: this can only be made on the IYCAF (or corresponding form if out of county applicants live in a county which co-ordinates In-Year admissions). When SIFs are received the school must ensure that the IYCAF or neighbouring LA's Common Application Form has been completed by the parent and, if not, contact the parent and ask them to complete one. Parents will not be under any obligation to complete any part of an individual school's supplementary information form where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply its oversubscription criteria.

Schools which have entrance tests

15.

Parents wishing to apply for a Kent maintained school that tests pupils before admission are required to name the school on their IYCAF and contact the school regarding testing arrangements. In most circumstances schools will set their own entry tests other than for normal points of entry. Applications will be held as pending until results of these tests are available.

16.

a)

Children with Statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan do not apply to schools for a place through the main round admissions process.

Any application received for a child with an SEN or EHCP will be referred directly to Kent County Council's Special Educational Needs Services (SEN), who must have regard to Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 " the LA must name the maintained school that is preferred by parents providing that:

- the school is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude and the special educational needs set out in part 2 of the statement
- the child's attendance is not incompatible with the efficient education of other children in the school, and
- the placement is an efficient use of the LA's resources"

Where a pupil is resident in another Local Authority, the home Authority must again comply with Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 which states:

"A local education authority shall, before specifying the name of any maintained school in a statement, consult the governing body of the school, and if the school is maintained by another local education authority, that authority."

Other Authorities looking for Kent school places for statemented pupils will need to contact Kent County Council's SEN team in addition to the relevant school.

b)

Children in Local Authority Care (CiC) and Children Adopted from Care

When applications are made for young people in the care of other Local Authorities or who ceased to be so because they were adopted, Kent (as receiving authority) will confirm an offer of a school place with the placing authority. Where an in-year application is received from the corporate parent of a child in Local Authority Care, Kent Admissions team will expect that in line with Statutory Guidance *, arrangements for appropriate education will have been made as part of the overall care planning, unless the placement has been made in an emergency.

Where the placement has been made in an emergency, and this is not the case, Kent, as the receiving authority, will refer the matter to a school identified by the placing authority, to establish if an offer of a place can be provided. If the school is full and such a provision is not considered appropriate, Kent County Council will advise the home authority of alternative education provision that may be in the better interest of the child.

Where Kent is the corporate parent of the child in question, an appropriately appointed social worker will liaise in the first instance with Admission Placement Officers and other professionals as necessary, in order to agree the school or setting that would best meet the individual needs of the child (most appropriate provision for the child). Kent County Council will then allocate a place (where it is the admission authority for the school) or contact the school directly and seek a place where it is not. Where a school refuses to admit the child Kent County Council as corporate parent will decide whether to initiate proceedings required to direct the school in question or consider if other education provision may be in the better interest of the child.

** Statutory Guidance on the duty of local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children under section 52 of the Children Act 2004 (S35.1-37)*

c)

Exceptional provision is made for the families of UK Service Personnel, Crown Servants and British Council employees, as required by the School Admissions Code. A confirmed address, or, in the absence of this, a Unit or “quartering area” address, will be accepted as the home address from which home-school distance will be calculated. This must be confirmed by a letter from the Commanding Officer or the Foreign Office. However, this does not guarantee a place at the parent’s preferred school for their child. Places cannot be held for an extended period of time, as this could create disadvantage other applications.

Determining Offers in Response to the IYCAF

17.

The school will notify applicants resident in Kent County Council area by letter the outcome of their application. Where appropriate, the letter will detail:

- (a) the starting date if a place is available;
- (b) the reasons why the child is not being offered a place, if a place is unavailable;
- (c) information about the statutory right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places.
- (d) information on how to apply for a place on the waiting list. (Parents cannot ask for their child to go on the waiting list for a grammar school unless the child has been

assessed suitable for grammar school);

- (e) contact details for the school and Kent County Council and for the admission authorities of Foundation, VA schools, Academies and co-ordinating Free schools and UTCs where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal with the governing body.

The letter will notify parents that they need to respond to accept or refuse the offer of a place within 10 school days.

18.

Kent residents who wish to apply for a place at an out of county school will need to either approach the school or local authority directly. This will vary between authorities. Depending on the other LA's determined process, the parent will confirm the acceptance or refusal of the place to the school or that school's LA.

19.

Kent pupils who have applied to schools and have not been offered a place can contact Kent County Council who will inform them where there is an available place at an alternative school. If no school in the local area has places available, the application may be referred to a local panel under the In Year Fair Access Protocol. If the child is already attending a school in the local area, no alternative place will be offered.

20.

Schools must inform Kent County Council of every offer that is made via the In Year Casual process to allow the necessary safeguarding checks to take place.

21.

Applicants who are not successful in gaining any place can contact Kent County Council and will be informed where there is an available place at an alternative school. Parents can then approach these schools to secure a place. These applicants will have the same access to a waiting list and right to appeal as other applicants.

Acceptance/Refusal of Places

22.

Parents will be advised in their offer letter that they must accept/refuse the school place offer in writing to the school within 10 school days of the date of the offer letter. If the school has not obtained a response within the specified time, it will remind the parent in writing of the need to respond within a further seven days and point out that the place may be withdrawn if no response is received. Only after having exhausted all reasonable enquiries will it be assumed that a place is not required.

23.

The school will notify Kent County Council of places accepted/refused as soon as possible after receipt of the acceptance/refusal. A mechanism for this transfer will be specified by Kent County Council.

24.

Once a place has been accepted, a child must start at the school within a reasonable length of time. This would normally be 10 school days from receipt of acceptance, but schools may extend if they feel there are justifiable reasons to do so.

Waiting Lists

25.

Each oversubscribed school will keep a waiting list at least until the end of the first term. This will include details of all applicants who have named the school on the IYCAF but could not be offered a place and have asked to be placed on a waiting list. *(A grammar school can only put children on its waiting list if they have been assessed as suitable for a grammar school.)*

26.

Waiting lists will be maintained in order of priority, in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria. If a school has reached its Published Admission Number it may not admit applicants other than through the Independent Appeal process, via the process detailed in the In Year Fair Access Protocol or where special arrangements relating to children in Local Authority Care or who ceased to be so because they were adopted or children with Statements of Special Education Needs apply. To maintain the database, schools will advise Kent County Council when a place has been offered to a pupil on a waiting list. Parents whose children are refused admission will be offered a right of appeal (even if their child's name has been put on the waiting list).

Appeals

27.

All parents have the statutory right to appeal against any decision refusing them a school place.

28.

Where parents have lodged an appeal against the refusal of a place and a place becomes available at the school, the place can then be offered without an appeal being heard, provided there are no other applicants at that time ranked higher on the school's waiting list. *(Where the school is a grammar school, a place may only be offered if the child has been assessed as being suitable for a grammar school place and there are no other applicants at that time on the school's waiting list who rank higher through the application of the school's over-subscription criteria.)*

Section 3 – Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
LA	A Local Authority
The LA	Kent County Council
The LA area	The area in respect of which Kent County Council is the Local Authority
Primary education	Has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Education Act 1996
Secondary education	Has the same meaning as in section 2(2) of the Education Act 1996
Primary school	Has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Education Act 1996
Secondary school	Has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996
School	A Community, Foundation, Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled school and Academy (but not a special school) which is maintained.
Foundation schools	Such of the schools as are Foundation schools. The governing body is the admissions authority for these schools.
VA schools	Such of the schools as are Voluntary Aided schools, the governing body of these schools is the admission authority. These schools are church schools, and governors must have regard to the relevant diocesan board when setting admissions arrangements.
VC schools	Such of the schools as are Voluntary Controlled schools
Academies	Such schools which have been established under section 482 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by section 65 of the Education Act 2002) and/or those established under the Academies Act 2010.
Free Schools	Such of the schools as are Free Schools. All-ability, state-funded school set up in response to what local people say they want and need in order to improve education for their children.
UTC	University Technical Colleges - technical academies for 14- to 19-year-olds. They have university and employer sponsors and combine practical and academic studies. UTCs specialise in subjects that need modern, technical, industry-standard equipment – such as engineering and construction – which are taught alongside business skills and the use of ICT.
Admission authority	In relation to a community or voluntary controlled school means the LA and, in relation to a trust, foundation or VA school and Academy, means the governing body of that school
Admission arrangements	Means the arrangements for a particular school or schools which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to the school
Eligible for a place	Means that a child has been placed on a school's ranked list at such a point as falls within the school's published admission number.

SCAF	Secondary Common Application Form, completed online or on paper
IYCAF	In Year Casual Admission Form – this is the form used by parents to apply for a school place outside of a school’s normal point of entry.
SIF	Supplementary Information Form – This is a form used by some Academies, Foundation and Voluntary Aided and Free schools which may use them to collect additional information at the time of application in order for them to apply their over subscription criteria. They are most commonly used by Faith Schools to collect details in relation to a level of commitment to Faith which can be a factor in the priority given to applicants. A supplementary information form can only collect information which is directly related to the oversubscription criteria published for a school.
PAN	Published Admission Number – this is the number of pupils a school is able to admit before it reaches capacity. School admissions authorities must consult on and determine a school’s PAN and must not admit pupils above this number other than where 1.4 of the School Admissions Code 2014 applies.
Late Application	an application sent to the LA after the closing date where the child has not been considered for a place at any school through the Secondary Transfer Scheme, or where applicants have moved house and their original preferences are no longer suitable.
Reallocation Process	the process by which vacant places are allocated
The Kent grammar school tests	Tests in English, Mathematics and Reasoning devised by an external body (GL Assessment) for admission to Kent grammar schools
The Kent Procedure for Entrance to Secondary Education (PESE)	the system for determining entry to Kent Grammar Schools