



## **Brenchley and Matfield Primary School**

### **Admissions Arrangements 2026-2027**

#### **Introduction**

Brenchley and Matfield Primary School is a one entry school for children aged 4 -11 in the Diocese of Rochester, and an academy within the Tenax Schools Trust, which is the Admissions Authority for the school.

At Brenchley and Matfield Primary School we know how important it is for you to choose the right school for your child. We welcome visits and we look forward to welcoming you at any time to enable you to see lessons and learning - and experience the atmosphere of our school on a normal day. To book a visit to the school, please contact the school office on 01892-722929 or email [office@bmprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@bmprimary.org.uk) and an appointment for a tour with our Headteacher will be booked for you.

#### **School places other than in Reception (Years 1 to 6)**

If you are looking for a place other than in the Reception class, please contact the school office on 01892-722929 or email [office@bmprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@bmprimary.org.uk) as there are occasionally spaces available in other classes. Where places are not available we will maintain a waiting list which will be rank ordered using the oversubscription criteria below and places offered as they become available.

#### **Admissions number (Years R to 6)**

The school has a published admissions number (PAN) of 30. This means that up to 30 children may be admitted into Reception (Year R) each September. There are two classes in each year group. Class size for year R will be no more than 30, other than in the specific circumstances set out in the School Admissions Code.

#### **The Local Authority Application**

In September in the year before a child starts school, information is available from the Local Authority about admissions procedures and timescales. Our Local Authority is Kent County Council. Information for parents is available at [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola)

To apply for a place at Brenchley and Matfield Primary School, all applicants must complete an application form. This can be done online at [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola) or on a paper form. Parents must name three schools in order of preference on the online application form which is then returned to the Local Authority (LA). This should be done by mid-January for starting in Year R the following September.

For more information, including deadlines for applications, please visit Kent County Council's Admissions Website at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places>

Please ensure that you return your application and appropriate forms by the mid-January deadline as all applications received after this date are considered late and ranked below other applications.

Families find out which school their child has been successful in securing a place in during April.

If you have any questions or would like support completing the application form, please do not hesitate to contact the school office on 01892-722929 or email [office@bmprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@bmprimary.org.uk)

### **The Supplementary Form – IF APPLICABLE**

In addition to the LA's Application Form, applicants for places at Brenchley and Matfield Primary School should complete a Supplementary Form. This is available from the School and should be returned to the school office. In the event that there are more than 30 first preference applications for places in Reception at Brenchley and Matfield Primary School, the applications will be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria set out below using the information given in the Supplementary Form.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

These will be used to rank order applications if more than 30 are received, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school. As a result of this the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

#### **1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children:**

A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. A previously looked after child means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

#### **2. Children who live in the civil or ecclesiastical parishes of Brenchley and Matfield**

3. **Siblings.** Children who, when they start school, have siblings attending the school at the time of admission. A sibling is a full, half or step brother or sister living permanently in the same household, including an adoptive or foster brother or sister. This applies where the family continue to live at the same address as when the sibling was admitted. It must be noted that if they move house before an application for a place for a younger sibling is made, must still be in the Civil or ecclesiastical parish, or nearer to the school than the previous property as defined by the distance measurement criterion, (within E. Permanent Residence and Tie Break), in order for this link to be maintained. In this context siblings are defined as children who permanently live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers and sisters, adopted siblings, step brothers or sisters and foster brothers or sisters.

4. Children who have a parent or guardian who has worshipped at least twice a month on average at All Saints, Brenchley or St Luke's, Matfield in the last 12 months.
5. Children who have a parent or guardian who has worshipped twice a month on average, in another C of E Parish church
6. Children of practising members of other Christian denominations affiliated to "churches Together in England" with the same pattern of worship as above.
7. Other children

Additional notes:

Category 2 Proof of address (eg copy of utility or Council Tax bill addressed to the parent showing the full postal address) will be required by the school.

Category 3 A sibling is defined as children who live in the same house as a brother or sister including natural, adopted, step or foster. All sibling links should be current pupils that will also be here when the new pupil starts.

Category 4 Signed letter from incumbent of either All Saints' or St Luke's confirming the stated attendance.

Category 5 Signed letter from relevant clergy confirming the stated attendance at other churches

### **Tiebreaker**

When deciding between applicants who have equal entitlement under any of the above criteria, priority will be given to those in order of distance from their home to the school measured by a straight line, the nearest being accepted first. We use the distance between the child's permanent home address (defined in KCC's annual admissions prospectus) and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for the school, these straight-line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school. Where applications are made from properties or abodes that are not registered to the NLPG, including new build properties, KCC may be required to use planning sites or other relevant co-ordinates. In exceptional circumstances where alternative co-ordinates are not available, measurements will be determined by a Senior Admissions Officer and confirmed by Head of Service

### **Deferred entry**

Parents of Reception age children have a right to defer entry, or to take the place up part-time, until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age. Compulsory school age is set out in section 8 of the Education Act 1996 and the Education (Start of Compulsory School Age) Order 1998.

A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday (or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

### **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. Requests for admission outside of the normal age group should be made in writing to the Headteacher as early as possible in the admissions round associated with that child's date of birth. This will allow the school and admissions authority sufficient time to make a decision before the closing date.

Parents are not expected to provide evidence to support their request to defer their application, however where provided it must be specific to the child in question. This might include medical or Educational Psychologist reports. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional, however, failure to provide this may impede the school's ability to agree to deferral.

Parents are required to complete an application for the normal point of entry at the same time, in case their request is declined. This application can be cancelled if the school agrees to accept a deferred application for entry into Year R the following year. Deferred applications will be processed in the same way as all applications for the cohort in the following admissions round, and offers will be made in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria. Parents can contact [primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk) for advice on how to apply for out of year group admission.

Parents must not assume that the decision of one school will transfer with the child to a different school as the decision rests with the individual admission authority.

### **Waiting lists**

Brenchley and Matfield Primary School operates a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate. Applications will be removed from the waiting list at the end of the academic year. The waiting list will be maintained by the Tenax Schools Trust 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. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

### **Appeals**

If you have not been offered a place at Brenchley and Matfield Primary School, the law entitles you to appeal against the decision to an Independent Appeal Panel. This panel is completely independent of the school and Local Authority. Appeals are now being held remotely via video link. The school will make suitable arrangements for any appellants without access to the necessary technology.

If you wish to appeal, please notify the Tenax Schools Trust (which is the Admissions Authority for the school) via [enquiries@tenaxschoolstrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tenaxschoolstrust.co.uk) and further details will be provided.