



VALLEY PARK SCHOOL

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

1. The school will act in accordance with, and will ensure that the Independent Appeal Panel acts in accordance with, all relevant provisions of the statutory codes of practice as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with the law on admissions as it applies to maintained schools. Reference in the codes to admission authorities shall be deemed to be references to the governing body of the school. In particular, the school will take part in the Admissions Forum set up by Kent CC and have regard to its advice and will participate in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by the Kent Local Authority.
2. Valley Park School has a published admission number (PAN) of 240 students, to be admitted into Year 7 each year.
3. Applications for places will be made in accordance with Kent local authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements and will be made on the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF), provided and administered by the Kent Local Authority.
4. Prior to the application of oversubscription criteria, students with a statement of special educational need which names the school will be admitted and the published admission number reduced accordingly.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

1. If the school is oversubscribed, places will be offered in priority order of the oversubscription criteria as set out below. Late applications and applications received outside of the normal admissions round will be prioritised in the same order.

(A) Children in Local Authority Care – a child under the age of 18 years for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act. This applies equally to children who immediately after being looked after by the local authority became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. (As defined by Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or Section 8 or 14A of the Children Act 1989)

(B) 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 school.

(C) Children who can demonstrate a special aptitude in either Music, Art or Performing Arts. Up to 24 places (10%) per year will be awarded on the basis. Prior to application students will be invited into the school to have their aptitude assessed by a panel composed of teachers at the school and external advisors. Aptitude in the three areas of specialism will be determined as follows.

Music

Aptitude in Music will be determined by performance to the panel and any one or combination of:

- I. That he/she has tuition in a musical instrument
- II. That he/she has no formal training but is musical and would like to pursue the subject
- III. Success in any music examination

Art

Aptitude in Art will be on the basis of a portfolio of artwork to be examined by the panel.

Performing Arts

Aptitude in performing Arts will be determined by performance to the panel and any one or combination of:

- I. That he/she is a member of a dance/drama organisation
- II. That he/she has no formal training but is a talented performer and would like to pursue the subject

Up to 8 places per year will be awarded in each of the 3 subjects. If there are more than 8 applicants who meet the criteria in any one subject, then applicants will be ranked and places offered in rank order. If there are fewer than 8 applicants meeting the criteria in any one subject, then more places will be distributed to the other subjects.

(D) Children who at the time of application have a sibling on the roll of the school and who will still be on roll at the time of the sibling's admission. Sibling is defined in these arrangements as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

(E) Children of staff who work at the school full time with at least two years 'continuous employment by the school or where the school reasonably considers a member of staff has been recruited for a position for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

(F) Children who live nearer to Valley Park School than to the nearest alternative secondary school as measured in a straight line from a designated point at their home address to a designated point in Valley Park's grounds, compared with the straight-line distance from a designated point at their home address to a designated point in the nearest alternative secondary school's grounds:

If more children apply who meet this criterion than there are places available; places will be offered to those meeting this criterion who live closest to the school.

(G) Nearness of children's homes to school - we use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using Ordnance Survey address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by Ordnance Survey. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody.

[Note: The nearest alternative secondary school is defined as the school closest to the applicant's home address, where the school is maintained/ state-funded, non-denominational, co-educational and not wholly selective. This excludes independent schools (other than Academies), church and other faith schools, single-sex schools and grammar schools.]

2. If the last pupil to be offered a place within the school's published admission number (PAN) is a multiple birth or same cohort sibling, any further sibling will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the intake number above the school's PAN. The PAN will remain unchanged so that no other pupil will be admitted until a place becomes available within the PAN.
3. These criteria apply for Year 7 entry and for any admission at any other time up to Year 11. Admissions to the 6th form are covered by different criteria.