

Tonbridge Grammar School

Deakin Leas, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JR
Tel: 01732 365125 office@tgs.kent.sch.uk

2 November 2023

Admissions Consultation – September 2025 Admissions

Dear Stakeholder,

Tonbridge Grammar School is consulting on its Admissions Policy for September 2025. The purpose of this consultation is so that we, as a school, comply with the DfE School Admissions Code and consult with our local and wider community when there are proposed changes and/or every seven years.

The consultation has been set at a seven week period to ensure a minimum of six school working weeks and is timed to allow for the Board of Trustees time to consider all comments made during the consultation window.

Period of consultation: 3 November to 22 December 2023

Year 7: There is a proposed increase to the number of Pupil Premium Places from 10 to 15 (within our existing PAN of 180). Places will be available to children with a selective 11+ assessment regardless of where they live, with oversubscription in this category decided by proximity to the school not score. These additional Pupil Premium places reduce the Trustee places from 35 to 30.

Year 12: Oversubscription Criteria has any sibling association removed.

The proposed new arrangements can be viewed on the school website:
<https://www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/admissions-policy-consultations>

A copy of our proposed Admission Policy is also attached to this letter.

How to Respond to the Consultation:

The Board of Trustees would welcome comments and questions during this period of consultation on any aspect of the proposed changes to arrangements, not on any other aspect of our policy; responses can be sent:

- via email to: admissions@tgs.kent.sch.uk
- or sent by post to:

The Clerk to the Trustees
Tonbridge Grammar School
Deakin Leas
Tonbridge
Kent
TN9 2JR

We invite responses from all those within The Tonbridge Grammar School community, as well as prospective parents, key stakeholders and the local community. All responses will be considered prior to the Board of Trustees' Determination of the Admission Criteria. The final admissions arrangements will be published on the school's website by 15th March 2024, in line with statutory guidelines.



www.tgs.kent.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Rebecca Crean BA, MA

Tonbridge Grammar School a grammar school with Academy status
A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales number 7465728
Registered office: Deakin Leas, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JR





TONBRIDGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Admission to Year 7 September 2025

Tonbridge Grammar School is a selective school, and places will be offered only where a girl has been given a *selective* assessment through the Kent Procedure for Entry to Secondary Education (PESE) 11+ Test, details of which are available from the Kent County Council (KCC) booklet 'Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2025'.

Tonbridge Grammar School sets no tests of its own for applicants at this stage of entry. Applicants must register for and sit the Kent Test, organised and administered by KCC, in order to be considered.

Detailed information about the School is available in the prospectus which can be found on the School website www.tgs.kent.sch.uk

The Published Admission Number (PAN) is 180.

The Trustees offer 180 places to the parents of girls who will typically be enrolled in Year 6 at the time of the test and be age 11 at the time of admission (see note 4 in relation to requests for admission outside of this age group).

Girls whose **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** names the School, and who have been awarded a *selective* assessment via the Kent Test will be admitted and the number of available Area places will be reduced accordingly.

Where there are more qualified applicants than places available, the places will be allocated according to the over-subscription criteria set out below, and following the Coordinated Admissions Scheme for secondary schools in Kent.

Oversubscription Criteria

- 1. Looked after children (LAC) and all previously looked after children (IAPLAC)** who nominate Tonbridge Grammar School on the preference SCAF form and who have been awarded a *selective* assessment via the Kent Test, will be given priority over all other applicants and the number of available Area places will be reduced accordingly.

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. We will follow Department for Education guidance on confirming eligibility.

Admission Policy 2025-26

Consultation Period 3 November – 22 December 2023

2. Rank score as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Area places (up to 135 places) Girls with a <i>selective</i> assessment through the Kent PESE 11+ Test resident in any of the following three local council areas for Council Tax purposes - Tonbridge & Malling Borough, Tunbridge Wells Borough and Sevenoaks District – will be considered according to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 a girl’s ability as indicated by her combined score in the age-eleven assessment 2 Tie-breaker 1 - proximity (<i>notes 1& 2</i>) of the pupil’s home address to the School 3 Tie-breaker 2 - in the case of the above not determining a place, then a random selection will determine the place by drawing lots supervised by an independent person <p><i>If there are insufficient candidates for the Area places by the published date that the Local Authority sends offer letters to parents on behalf of all admissions authorities, surplus places will be offered to those on the Trustee list.</i></p> | <p>Trustee places (30 places) Girls with a <i>selective</i> assessment through the Kent PESE 11+ Test resident outside any of the following three local council areas for Council Tax purposes - Tonbridge & Malling Borough, Tunbridge Wells Borough and Sevenoaks District – will be considered according to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 a girl’s ability as indicated by her combined score in the age-eleven assessment 2 Tie-breaker 1 - proximity (<i>notes 1& 2</i>) of the pupil’s home address to the School 3 Tie-breaker 2 - in the case of the above not determining a place, then a random selection will determine the place by drawing lots supervised by an independent person <p><i>If there are insufficient candidates for the Trustee places by the published date that the Local Authority sends offer letters to parents on behalf of all admissions authorities, surplus places will be offered to those on the Area list.</i></p> |
|---|--|

3. **Pupil Premium places (15 places)** - girls eligible for Pupil Premium with a *selective* assessment through the Kent PESE 11+ Test. We will allocate 15 places to eligible students. Places are allocated where eligible student scores are below the automatic qualifying score for the Area places, according to the following:

1. **Proximity** (*notes 1& 2*) of the pupil’s home address to the School
2. **Tie-breaker 1** - in the case of the above not determining a place, then a random selection will determine the place by drawing lots supervised by an independent person

A child is eligible for Pupil Premium where they have been registered for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years. This does not include children who have only been eligible to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. Pupil Premium is also afforded to Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care, however these children will be prioritised in the relevant criteria above.

Parents wishing to apply under this category must ensure they complete the attached Supplementary Information Form (appendix 1) and return it to the school by 31st October in the year of application. Parents must also complete an application (via online or paper Secondary Common Application Form) naming the school, otherwise their child cannot be considered for a place.

If there are insufficient applicants for these places by the published date that the Local Authority sends offer letters to parents on behalf of all admissions authorities, surplus places will be offered to those on the Area list as appropriate.

A **waiting list** will be maintained in the order of the oversubscription criteria, and re-ranked each time an applicant is added, until 31st December 2025.

Parents have a statutory right of **appeal** and full details are available from the School website.

After a place has been offered the School reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

1. When a parent or guardian has failed to respond to an offer within the deadlines stated on the offer letter; or
2. When a parent or guardian has failed to notify the School of relevant changes to the application information; or
3. The admission authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

Notes:

1. **Proximity** – the School uses measurements provided by the LA and further information on how distances are calculated is available in the Admissions Booklet provided by the Local Authority: KCC uses the distance between the child’s permanent home address 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 KCC applies the distance criterion for the school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant’s address is to the school.
2. **Home** - a pupil’s home address is considered to be a residential property that is their only or main residence and not an address at which they might sometimes sleep due to domestic or special arrangements. The address must be the pupil’s home address as submitted to the Local Authority in accordance with the Co-ordinated Scheme and which is either owned by the applicant’s parent, parents or guardian, OR leased to or rented by the applicant’s parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement. If the parents or guardians live separately from their spouse or partner but share responsibility for the child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of weekdays.
3. **Distance in relation to a block of flats** – A block of flats has a single address point reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from the School. In the unlikely event that two or more applicants live in the same block and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the School, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.
4. **Requests for admission outside of the normal age group** should be made in writing to the Head Teacher as early as possible to allow the Trustees sufficient time to make a decision, in full consultation with the Head Teacher, before the relevant closing date. Where evidence is provided to support a request to defer an application it must be specific to the girl in question. Where the School agrees to consider an application outside of the normal age group, the

applicant will be ranked alongside all others in accordance with the School's oversubscription criteria. Where an application for admission outside the normal age group has been made the School will not accept arguments related to a child's age at appeal.

In Year Admission Main School 202-26

Applicants for admission to the school outside of the usual admission age should apply to the School using the In-Year Common Application Form (IYCAF) available from the School's website and from KCC.

All applicants will be tested by the School to establish suitability for selective education and to ensure that they are capable of keeping pace with peers.

Priority will be given to any eligible student up to our Pupil Premium intake for that cohort year, if not already full, and who is also in receipt of Pupil Premium and where evidence of this has been provided.

Eligible students are determined by achieving a score of at least 118 in each of their CAT4 assessments.

In the event of a place being offered, applicants are expected to be in a position to prove residential eligibility and take up the place within a reasonable length of time. This would normally be 10 school days from acceptance or the start of the next term in the case of an overseas application.

Parents have a statutory right to appeal to an independent panel and appeal information is available on the School's website.

A **waiting list** for each year group will be maintained if required in the order of attainment in the CAT assessment, and re-ranked each time an applicant is added, until 31st December 2026.



**TONBRIDGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
SUPPLEMENTARY FORM for PUPIL PREMIUM INFORMATION**

Please complete this form if you wish to apply for one of the 15 Pupil Premium places available.

Parents must also complete an application (via online or paper Secondary Common Application Form) naming the school, otherwise their child cannot be considered for a place.

| PUPIL DETAILS: | | | |
|---|----------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| FORENAME: | SURNAME: | DATE OF BIRTH: | |
| HOME ADDRESS: | | POSTCODE: | |
| CURRENT SCHOOL: | | | |
| <p>I confirm that my child currently receives or has received in the last 6 years means-tested Free School Meals and I have attached confirmation of this from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the current school; or the Local Authority; or I consent to Tonbridge Grammar School obtaining information from either of the above for the purpose of confirming eligibility | | | |
| SIGNED: | | DATE: | |
| PARENT/CARER DETAILS: | | | |
| TITLE: | FORENAME | SURNAME | RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER 1: | | TELEPHONE NUMBER 2: | |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | | | |

Please complete and return this form BY 31ST OCTOBER to: The Admissions Office, Tonbridge Grammar School, Deakin Leas, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JR admissions@tgs.kent.sch.uk



TONBRIDGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Admission to the Sixth Form September 2025

Tonbridge Grammar School offers an International Baccalaureate curriculum in the Sixth Form. Places will be offered to students who will typically be enrolled in Year 11 at the time of application and be age 16 at the time of admission.

Requests for admission outside of the normal age group should be made in writing to the Head Teacher as early as possible to allow the Trustees sufficient time to make a decision, in full consultation with the Head Teacher, before the relevant closing date. Where evidence is provided to support a request to defer an application it must be specific to the child in question. Where the School agrees to consider an application outside of the normal age group, the applicant will be ranked alongside all others in accordance with the School's oversubscription criteria.

Applications are open from 1st November annually. Applications received before 7th December will be processed in time for information meetings early in the new year.

In addition to transferring students from TGS Year 11, applications are welcome from students of all gender identities currently attending other schools. A minimum of 40 places will be offered annually to external applicants but this may be exceeded where this and the number of transferring TGS students is less than the maximum capacity of the year group which is 180.

All Sixth Form courses last for two years and applicants are expected to commit themselves to completing the IB Diploma Programme.

Every applicant will be invited to an information and guidance meeting to review the suitability of their course choice selection. The meeting will not form part of offer-making decisions.

Entry requirements

All students joining the Sixth Form must meet the general entry requirements below and the specific entry requirements for the subjects they wish to study. These must combine to fulfil the requirements of the IB for the completion of a full Diploma Programme. Details are available from the School's website www.tgs.kent.sch.uk along with course and other Admissions information. Gaining a place in the Sixth Form does not guarantee that a particular range of courses may be followed.

All applicants should have GCSE Grade 6 or above (or its equivalent) in English, Mathematics, at least one Science and one language where studied.

Where equivalence cannot be established the School will set appropriate GCSE papers to confirm that the applicant is capable of satisfying the academic profile required for the subjects to be studied and the IB Diploma Programme as a whole.

Applicants whose Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) names the School, and who have met the general entry requirements above, will be admitted. The number of other available places will be reduced accordingly.

Oversubscription Criteria

Following the transfer of TGS Year 11 students who have met the general entry requirements above, in the event of oversubscription applicants will be admitted in the following order:

- 1. Looked after children (LAC) and all previously looked after children (IAPLAC),** who have met the general entry requirements above will be given priority over all other applicants.

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. Proximity** - Offer-holding external applicants in order of proximity of the student's home address to the School (Notes 2-4).
- 3.** Applicants whose predicted grades did not justify an offer but who went on to achieve qualifying grades. Where a student is unable to provide GCSE predicted grades or equivalent and test results at the time of application do not enable us to make an offer, a student will be offered the opportunity to test again prior to the start of the academic year if they wish to continue to pursue the place.
- 4.** Applicants making a new application to the School after 1st June 2025 including post GCSE results.

In the event of the above not determining a place, a random selection will determine the place by drawing lots.

A waiting list of qualified applicants will be maintained in the order of the oversubscription criteria, and re-ranked each time an applicant is added, until 31st December 2025.

Notes:

- 1. Proximity** – the School uses measurements provided by the LA and further information on how distances are calculated is available in the Admissions Booklet provided by the Local Authority: KCC uses the distance between the child's permanent home address 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 KCC applies the distance criterion for the school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school.

2. **Home** - a pupil's home address is considered to be a residential property that is their only or main residence and not an address at which they might sometimes sleep due to domestic or special arrangements. The address must be the pupil's home address as submitted to the Local Authority in accordance with the Co-ordinated Scheme and which is either owned by the applicant's parent, parents or guardian, OR leased to or rented by the applicant's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement. If the parents or guardians live separately from their spouse or partner but share responsibility for the child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of weekdays.
3. **Distance in relation to a block of flats** – A block of flats has a single address point reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from the School. In the unlikely event that two or more applicants live in the same block and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the School, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.

Parents and applicants have a statutory right of appeal, both in the event that a conditional offer is not made and in the event that a conditional offer is not confirmed. All appeals should be lodged as soon as possible and not after 20 school days have passed from the date of the refusal letter. Appeals lodged under both circumstances will be heard within 30 school days of the GCSE results. Details are available from the School website.

In the event that an offer is not made to an applicant who is not waiting for GCSE results, appeals should be lodged as soon as possible and not after 20 school days have passed from the date of the refusal letter. Appeals lodged in this circumstance will be heard within 40 school days of the appeal being lodged. Details are available from the School website.

After a place has been offered the School reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

1. When an applicant has failed to respond to an offer within the deadlines stated on the offer letter; or
2. When an applicant has failed to notify the School of relevant changes to the application information; or
3. The admission authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.