

School of Science and Technology Maidstone

Sixth Form Admissions Arrangement Consultation for Admission Year 2025 – 2026

The above-mentioned school is within Valley Invicta Academies Trust.

As our own admissions authority, we are required under the School Admissions Code 2021 to review our admissions policies annually and to consult on our arrangements from time to time, and at least every 7 years.

The code requires consultation in the following circumstances.

- 1. When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year.*
- 2. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.*

The school is admitting students into its Sixth Form for the first time in September 2025 and is consulting on the Sixth Form admission section of the Admissions Policy.

Please find the full policy and admissions arrangements attached. If you wish to comment on the policy please email admissions@sst.viat.org.uk.

In accordance with statutory DfE guidance the consultation will run for 6 weeks. This consultation will open on 13 December 2023 and any comments relating to the policy will need to be received by 24 January 2024. The Local School Board will meet soon after the closure of the admissions consultation to consider any comments. If no comments are received, the policy will be considered at the next available meeting of the Local School Board and recommended for determination by the Trust Board at their meeting in January 2024.



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
& TECHNOLOGY
MAIDSTONE

Admissions Policy 2025-26

Key document details

Policy number:
SG1

Policy type
School

Colleague responsible:
Exec.Headteacher/
Headteacher/Head
of School

Date:
December 2023

Next review:
December 2024

Admissions Policy

Year 7 Admissions for September 2025

Admissions are made in accordance with Kent Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements. Applications are made using the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) which is available from the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk. The closing date for the SCAF is 31 October 2024.

SST Maidstone has a published admission number (PAN) of 180 students. If the school is oversubscribed, before the application of oversubscription criteria, children with a statement of special educational need (SEN), or an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school will be admitted. As a result of this, the PAN will be reduced accordingly.

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

1. When a parent/carer has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time; or
2. When a parent/carer has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application; or
3. When a parent/carer has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
4. The Admission Authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application for a parent/carer.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the number of preferences for the school is more than the number of places available, places will be allocated to eligible students in the following priority order:

- a) Before the application of oversubscription criteria children with an Education Health Care Plan which names the school will be admitted and the admission number reduced accordingly.
- b) Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services function.

The 2021 School Admissions Code (the code) requires 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 to be given equal first priority in admission arrangements, alongside looked after children (LAC) and children who were previously looked after by English local authorities (PLAC). This advice refers to these children as internationally adopted previously looked after children "IAPLAC". It is the responsibility of the adopting parents/carers to prove that the child has previously been in public care and immediately after been adopted.

- c) Medical, 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.

Admissions Policy

Priority will be given to those children whose mental health or physical and social needs means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school.

Equally, this priority will apply to children whose parents/carers/guardians, physical or mental health or social needs means 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, professional or other practitioner which can demonstrate that a particular school is the only school that can meet the child's needs.

The evidence must be specifically about your child's medical/social condition, the effects of the condition and why your child needs to attend a particular school. The evidence should also include detailed knowledge of the school in terms of resources and organisation which demonstrate that your child can only attend the specific school and why no other school is suitable. Your own medical needs cannot justify a place at a particular school but you can apply if you can demonstrate that your child has a social need arising from your medical needs.

- d) Current Family Association – a sibling attending School of Science and Technology Maidstone at the time the child starts and who live at the same address. This includes: natural or adopted siblings; half, step or foster brothers or sisters; those who live as brothers and sisters in the same house. This does not include cousins.
- e) Children of staff - Children of staff who work for the school full-time with at least two years' continuous employment 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) Nearness of children's home to school – we use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NPLG) 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 NPLG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. For consistency, this is measured by the Local Authority for everyone. We do not accept other methods such as Google Maps.

In the unlikely event that two or more children in all other ways have equal eligibility or the last available place at the school, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given a space.

The school uses measurements provided by the Local Authority and further information on how distances are calculated, including what is defined as permanent or main residence, is available in the 'Admission to Secondary School in Kent' booklet provided by the KCC. If, in the event, more than one applicant has the same distance from home to school (as measured by the local authority), then a random selection will be applied (in accordance with the KCC definition). In the event that the final place offered from the ranked list falls to a student of a multiple birth, the school will offer a place to each of these children who have met the over-subscription criteria.

With reference to the oversubscription criteria please refer to Appendix 1 of the Kent Admissions booklet regarding residency in Kent.

Admissions Policy

Home address:

We will accept as a student's address the residential property that is the child's only or main residence, not an address at which your child may sometimes stay or sleep due to your own domestic arrangements. It will be either:

- i owned by the child's parent/s or carer/s; or
- ii leased to or rented by the child's parent/s or carer/s under a lease or written rental agreement.

Evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required, plus proof of the child's permanent residency at the property concerned. The Trust reserves the right to check information given on the application form. If any information given on the form is found to be incorrect, or if you fail to notify us of important changes in the information, the offer of a school place can be withdrawn. We can only accept one current home address on the Secondary Common Application Form. If you live separately from your partner but share responsibility for your 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 nights in each week. The offer of a place may be withdrawn if proof of residency is not met.

Admission to Year 7 outside the normal age group

Requests for admission to Year 7 outside the normal age group should be made to the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher/Head of School as early as possible.

The school will take into account the year group the child has been taught in leading up to transition. Deferred applications must be made via paper SCAF to the LA, with written confirmation from the school attached. Early or 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 each school's oversubscription criteria. Further advice is available at www.kent.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

In-Year Transfer

Applicants at a time later than the normal admissions age should apply directly to School of Science and Technology. In addition to this, parents/carers must apply to the Local Authority via the 'In Year Common Application Form'. This can be done via the link below:

https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/3522/in-year-application-form.pdf

The Published Admissions Number and over-subscription criteria apply as above. In the event of the year group being over-subscribed, a waiting list will be held and ranked according to the over-subscription criteria.

Parents/carers have a statutory right of appeal should an application be refused and can do so by writing to the school.

Sixth Form Admissions

This admissions policy applies to students seeking admission to Year 12 at SST Maidstone. Students applying for a place in Year 12 will be invited to attend the Sixth Form Open Evening, an annual event at the school held at a specified date in the Autumn term.

Admissions Policy

Sixth Form admission arrangements

The PAN for our Year 12 is 150. The majority of our Year 11 students will continue with their studies into our Sixth Form and priority is given to existing students transferring from Year 11. The capacity for external candidates will be variable depending upon the number of existing students transferring into Year 12.

Admission to Year 12

All offers of a place in Year 12 will be made on condition of students meeting the school entry requirements which are detailed on the Sixth Form section of the school website. Offers regarding specific subjects will be dependent upon capacity within classes.

Entry Requirements

All students wishing to study in the Sixth Form at SST need to attain the standard entry requirements as well as subject specific entry requirements.

Students must meet **all** of the following requirements:

- a) A GCSE grade point score of **38** points across the best 8 subjects;
- b) Grade 9-4 in Mathematics **and** at least one English subject (English Language or English Literature);
- c) Meet subject specific entrance requirements.

Year 11 students will be offered a place and invited to make Sixth Form choices by the end of the academic year. External applicants should apply using the electronic application procedure choosing a minimum of three courses. Applications should be received by the date specified on the Sixth Form section of the school website. Applications received after this deadline, will be placed on a waiting list. Students who meet the entry criteria will be sent a conditional offer.

If the number of qualified applications is more than the number of places available, places will be allocated using the same oversubscription criteria for Year 7 admissions.

Withdrawal of an offer of a place

The school has the right to withdraw an offered place in the following circumstances:

- When a parent/carer has failed to respond to an offer within three weeks of the date of the offer letter.
- If an application has been made by a parent/carer in a fraudulent or intentionally misleading way.

Waiting list

The school will operate 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 until the end of (the first term after the beginning of the school year/the end of the academic year). This will be maintained by the school and it will be open to any parent/carer to ask for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Admissions Policy

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.

The waiting list for each year group is restarted at the beginning of each academic year. Parents/carers who wish for their child to be added to the list must contact the school. A student who is on the waiting list from one academic year will not be automatically transferred to the waiting list of the following academic year.

Appeals

If it has not been possible for you to be offered a place at the school, you have the right to appeal against this decision to an independent appeals panel in accordance with the School Admission Appeal Code.

Appellants should contact the Admissions Officer for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on our website: www.sstmaidstone.viat.org.uk

Tie-Breaking Method

In the unlikely event that two or more children 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 a place.



Admissions Policy

Supplementary information form to support an application for children previously in care outside England

Children who appear to have been on state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Current legal surname of child		
Any previous name(s) by which the child was known		
Forename(s)		
Current school (if applicable)		
Year group for which you are applying		
Parent(s)/Carer(s)		
Home address		
Telephone		
Email		
Date of adoption		
Name of Country and local authority where the child was in state care		
Please list documentary evidence provided to support above application (e.g. birth certificate, adoption certificate)		

Signed: _____ Name: _____

Date: _____

Please return the completed form and documentary evidence prior to admission.



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
& TECHNOLOGY
MAIDSTONE