



Admission Policy 2026/2027

Learning holistically through God's unconditional love

Vision: We radiate God's unconditional love by being accepting, inclusive and supportive. Everyone is nurtured, enabling them to reach their full potential as caring, confident members of both the school family and global community. All are educated holistically through a variety of enjoyable academic, creative, physical and spiritual experiences.

Date: February 2025 (amended)

Signed:... *C Jacobs*, Headteacher

Prospective parents are advised to read this section very carefully as the school is heavily oversubscribed and the Governing Body regrets that it is often unable to offer places to all applicants.

We aim to create a Christian environment in which each child is valued and special and in which respect for the rights and needs of others is nurtured.

The school serves principally the town centre area of Folkestone, but because of changes in legislation, which rightly give parents a wider choice and because of our voluntary aided status, St Eanswythe's admits children from a wider geographical area.

By law children are required to attend school from the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday but in order to provide a full year of the foundation curriculum, we are able to offer places for children during the academic year following their fourth birthday. All children in this age group are offered full time schooling from October. The starting dates for entry to reception class are staggered according to age.

Induction Arrangements

St Eanswythe's published admission number (PAN) for Reception is 30.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PLACE

All parents who wish their children to attend St Eanswythe's School during the academic year 2026/27 should contact the school office, arrange to visit the school and register their child as soon as possible and by the dates required by the local authority to comply with the county wide admissions policy procedure. We work closely with KCC and other schools to provide smooth and co-ordinated admission arrangements across the area.

The number of applications usually exceeds the places available and the Directors' admissions committee, when it meets (usually at the end of the Spring Term) will use the admissions policy to decide which pupils will receive the available places.

Criteria for Admission

The admissions policy does not take account of how long a child has been registered; it provides the following list of criteria to enable applications received by the date published by the Local Authority, which will be in early 2026 to be placed in an order of priority.

Children with a statement of special educational need or Education (SEN), Health Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school will be admitted. As a result of this, the published admission number will be reduced accordingly.

- 1. Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care** – 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. **Vulnerable Children** - Children of families with confirmed refugee status II. Children from families associated with Military Services and eligible for the Service Premium. Evidence of eligibility may be requested.
3. **Children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances** - We may give priority in our oversubscription criteria to children of staff where the member of staff has been employed for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made.
- 3 **Children with brothers or sisters in the school** - brother or sister means children who live as brother and sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters.
- 4 **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 particular school.
- 5 **Nearness of children's homes to school** - 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 the Head of Service.

Requests for admission to Reception outside of the normal age group

Requests for admission to Reception outside of the normal age group should be made to the Headteacher of each preferred school 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 a 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 must be made via paper Reception Common Application Form (RCAF) to the LA, with written confirmation from each named school attached. 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.

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The Directors agreed upon the following definitions and interpretations:

- Reference to parents includes either or both parents or a sole parent where only one of two parents satisfied the criterion the application will be treated equally with applications where the criterion is satisfied by both parents.
- The definition of brothers and sisters will include children living together as one family unit.
- Nearness of children's homes to school
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 the Head of Service.
- Child's Home Address
A child's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence (not an address at which the child may sometimes stay or sleep) and which is either owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian or leased or rented to them under a lease or written rental agreement. Where partners live apart 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 week days.
- Parents/Family Members
A parent is any person who has parental responsibility or care of the child.
'Family members' include only parents and siblings.
- Folkestone area will be defined as the Shepway District Council Wards, which are included within the Folkestone Charter Trustees, the Shepway District Council Ward of Hawkinge and the Dover District Council Wards of Capel-le-Ferne, which for some purposes is included within Folkestone.
- Tiebreaker
If any category is oversubscribed it is recommended that applicants will be ranked by straight line distance [as defined above] and those closest given priority. 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.

Summer Born Children

Reception children are usually admitted for full-time education in September although this can be reviewed on an individual basis, taking into consideration each child's needs. Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the School/Academy is deferred until later in the academic year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age. Parents can request that their child attends part-time until their child reaches compulsory school age. Discussions with the School/Academy are strongly recommended prior to making a decision.

Successful Applicants

Successful applicants are informed early in the Summer Term and sent details of pre-school visits and other activities to help prepare each child for school.

Appeals Arrangements

In accordance with the requirements of the 1980 Education Act parents have the right of appeal if their application is not successful. Parents have the right to appeal against any refusal by the Directors to admit their child.

Details of the appeals procedure can be obtained from the Clerk to the Directors at the school.

Paul Barton

Clerk to the Board of Directors

C/O St Eanswythe's C of E Primary School

Church Street

Folkestone

CT20 1SE

Any applications received by the Directors after the places have been allocated are put on a waiting list. The school's waiting list will be re-ranked, in line with the published oversubscription criteria, every time a child is added – not when a place becomes available.