

The Whitstable School Admissions Policy 2020



**Reviewed and agreed by Governors at the Challenge Committee
meeting on 21 May 2019**

NHO



Mrs Nicki Hodges, Chair of Governors

Date: 21 May 2019

AGI



Mrs Ana Gibson, Headteacher

Date: 21 May 2019

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Next review due: February 2020

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ADMISSIONS POLICY

September 2020 Admissions

Admission to the September 2020 Year 7 entry

Numbers Admitted

The Planned Admissions Number for the school is 210.

Applications for Admission

- a) Applications for admission to The Whitstable School should be made on the Local Education Authority's "Common Application Form." The "Common Application Form" should be returned to the Local Authority by the agreed published date.
- b) Parents who wish to request their child to be taught outside of their normal age group, must apply in writing to the Headteacher stating their reasons for the request.
- c) The Governors will follow the Local Authority's timetable for applications.
- d) In the event of the school being over-subscribed, all applications for admission will be considered according to the criteria set out below.
- e) The Local Authority will contact parents on the agreed published date advising them whether or not they have been allocated a place for their child at The Whitstable School. Parents have to accept the offer of a place by the agreed published date.

Late Applications

- a) The deadline for the return of the "Common Application Form" is the agreed published date.
- b) Late "Common Application Forms" received by the Local Authority after the published return date, but before the published end of scheme date will be dealt with.

Criteria for Admissions

On behalf of the Governing Body, this is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Admissions Leader, in consultation with the KCC.

In line with KCC's policy, the Governing Body supports the following criteria when determining admissions:

- Children in Care
- Current Family Association
- Health & Special Access Reasons
- Nearness of children's homes to school

Casual Admissions

"Common application Forms" received by The Whitstable School after the agreed published date, and also applications for places in year groups other than the normal year of entry, will be treated as "casual admissions". The Governors will send the form to the Local Authority along with their decision on the application. The Governors will also notify the parent of their decision at the same time. If the parent is refused a place they will be advised of their right of appeal.

Oversubscription

Before the application of oversubscription criteria, children with a statement of special educational need which names the school will be admitted. As a result of this, the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where applications for admission exceed 210, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit:

- a) Children in Local Authority Care – a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. 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).
- b) 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 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 or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and the particular school.
- c) Places will then be offered in the following order, using the criteria below
 - i. Current Family Association - A brother or sister attending the school when the child starts. In this context brother or sister means 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.
 - ii. 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 the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) 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 NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. A pupil's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's **only or main residence** and not an address at which your child might sometimes stay or sleep due to your own domestic or special arrangements.

The address must be the pupil's home address on the day you completed your application form and which is either;

- Owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian, OR
 - Leased to or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement.
- 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 weekdays.

Waiting List

Parents may ask to be kept on a waiting list, this list will be re-ranked in accordance with the schools oversubscription criteria each time a child is added.

Appeals against the Decision not to Offer a Place at the School

On the agreed published date parents will be notified by the Local Education Authority that they are being offered a place at the allocated school. This letter will give information about their statutory right of appeal.

Sixth Form Admission Arrangements

The Whitstable School has a mixed Sixth Form. All students in Year 11 are eligible to apply for a place in the Sixth Form, subject to entry requirements of the courses. Applications from external students are welcomed.

Admission criteria to Sixth Form are as follows:

1. Availability of a suitable course
2. For admission to Level 3 courses (AS, A2, BTEC, International Baccalaureate Career related Programme) five 9 to 4 GCSE grades are normally required
3. For admission to Level 2 courses, five 9 to 1 grades are normally required
4. Some courses of study have particular subject requirements (see Prospectus)
5. All external students, are interviewed and references sought

Offers will be made on the basis of predicted performance at GCSE, with the requirement that the grades are achieved in the final examinations prior to entry to the Sixth Form to study the IBCP and the student's chosen subjects being accommodated on the timetable, in feasible group sizes.

All offers made during Year 11 are conditional on students meeting the grade criteria specified and will only become firm offers upon confirmation of actual GCSE results. Offer letters will be made before the end of May 2019. Offers will be confirmed once the school has been notified of GCSE results in August 2019.

Parents have a statutory right of appeal, should an application for a place be refused, by writing to the Chair of Governors, care of the school.

Places will firstly be offered to children in Local Authority care. i.e. A child under the age of 18 years for whom the Local Authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/careers (Section 22 of the children Act 1989) or who is subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act.

Pupils are admitted to the Sixth Form subject to the following:

- a formal application by pupil and parent and a pupil interview to determine the courses to be studied;
- availability of a specific course or combination of courses;
- minimum entry requirements for specific courses, as published on the school's website.

Please note that the Governors reserve the right to withdraw courses if there is insufficient student demand.

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

- a) When a parent has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time; or
- b) When a parent has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
- c) The admission authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent.

Late applications will be considered if places in appropriate subjects are still available after all other applicants have been considered.

A waiting list will be held, ranked according to the oversubscription criteria.