

## **ADMISSIONS POLICY 2021-2022**

**Version No:** 1.0

**Date to be reviewed:** November 2020

**Policy status:** Approved

**Last updated:** February 2020

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Type of School: Secondary, Wide Ability, Mixed  
Age Range: 11-19

### **1. INFORMATION TO PARENTS**

Folkestone Academy is a comprehensive school which caters for boys and girls of all abilities from ages 11-19. Folkestone Academy is structured as follows:

- A secondary school
- A sixth form

To access general information about the Academy, please contact the Academy or visit the Academy's website: [www.folkestoneacademy.com](http://www.folkestoneacademy.com)

### **2. APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applications for admission to Year 7 at Folkestone Academy for September 2021 will need to be made on the "Common Application Form" provided and administered by Kent County Council. More information and detail can be found in the Primary/ Secondary Admissions Booklet available from Kent County Council. Use the contact link on the <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places> website.

The Academy will follow the Local Education Authority's timetable for applications.

For applications to other year groups, or if you are applying after the beginning of the school year, this is classed as an 'In year admission' and you will need to complete an In year application form available on Kent County Council's website. The Academy cannot guarantee a place will be available for your child.

### **3. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS (YEAR 7)**

The Published Admission Number is 210 for pupils in Year 7 being admitted from outside the Academy. The total Year 7 group size will be 270 including children who transfer automatically from Folkestone Primary's Year 6. If fewer than 60 pupils transfer from Folkestone Primary's Year 6, the Academy may admit over the admission number of 210 so that the overall Year 7 group size shall be 270.

The Academy is included within the co-ordinated admissions arrangements operated by Kent County Council. This means that the transfer of pupils from primary schools into the Academy is managed by the County Council along with admissions into all other secondary schools.

#### **Oversubscription criteria**

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number,

applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of pupils with an Education Health and Social Care Plan (which will reduce the number of available places under the published admission number accordingly) where the Academy is named in the plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- a) 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.
- b) Children with a sibling of school age living at the same address, including step and foster siblings, for whom a place has been awarded.
- c) Children who attend other schools within the Trust.
- d) Children eligible for the service premium. Evidence of eligibility will need to be submitted with the application (see Appendix 2).
- e) Children whose parents work as permanent staff members at the School being applied to, in either or both of the following circumstances:
  - i) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
  - ii) the member of staff is recruited to the Trust to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- f) Proximity - the applicant living closest to school will have priority (in the event of one or more applicants tying after application of criteria (a-e) and measurement will be on the same basis as set out in the tie-break information below.

#### **Tie-break**

If we reach our admission number in any of the above criteria, we will apply the following tie-break to determine who is admitted:

- (a) Nearness of children's homes to school

The distance between the child's permanent home address and the school is measured in a straight line using 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. When we apply the distance criterion, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school.

Where Children live in blocks of flats: a block of flats will be deemed a single place of residence for the purpose of distance measurement using NLPG address point data. All children within the same block will be considered as living the same distance from the Academy.

- (b) Where it is not possible to determine priority due to children living the same distance from the Academy as measured using the NLPG address point data, a process of random allocation will then be used as a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission. This process will be overseen by someone who is independent of the Academy and the Academy Trust. However, if children of multiple birth (e.g. twins and triplets) are tied for the final place, those siblings will be admitted over PAN.

Please see notes in Appendix 1 for more details about the oversubscription criteria.

#### **4. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR POST 16 PLACES**

Folkestone Academy operates a Sixth Form for up to 400 students across Years 12 and 13 with 200 places available overall in Year 12. The published admission number for external applicants is 40 which is the minimum number of places which will be offered to external applicants meeting the minimum academic criteria.

200 spaces are open to Folkestone Academy Year 11 students for a place in Year 12 and who meet the

criterion set out below. If fewer than 200 of the Academy's own Year 11 students successfully transfer into Year 12, additional external students will be admitted until Year 12 meets its capacity of 200.

There are academic minimum academic entry requirements for each course available based upon GCSE grades or other measures of prior attainment which will be published on the Academy website or in the Sixth Form Prospectus. Students are expected to obtain a strong pass (5) in subjects they wish to study at A Level (standard pass – 4 – may also be considered, at the discretion of the Academy). Requirements for admission are the same for both internal and external pupils.

### **Post 16 Form Offers and Appeals**

An offer of admission to the Sixth Form generally is not a guarantee of a particular course of study. Offers will be made on the basis of predicted performance at GCSE, with the requirement that the above grades are achieved in the final examinations prior to entry to the Sixth Form and the pupil's three chosen subjects being accommodated on the timetable, in feasible group sizes.

All offers made during Year 11 are conditional on pupils 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 2021. Offers will be confirmed once the school has been notified of GCSE results in August 2021.

Where learners have achieved better results than the predicted grades they will be considered based on the grades achieved and ranked accordingly for any places that become available as a result of other learners failing to meet the required entry levels. Pupils failing to meet the grades for their preferred course option will be offered alternative courses if available and they meet the minimum academic course requirements.

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

### **Oversubscription**

Following the admission of internal students transferring from Year 11 students at the Academy, all remaining places will be allocated to learners who have met the entry requirements for the particular course of study. Where there are more students seeking places than the number of places available, a waiting list will be held ranked according to the above oversubscription above for those eligible students.

Please see notes in Appendix 1 for more details about the oversubscription criteria.

### **Application for Post 16**

Applications to the Folkestone Academy Sixth Form should be made via the online Kent Area Prospectus available on the following website [www.kentchoices4u.com](http://www.kentchoices4u.com)

If you are unsure about how to apply via the online prospectus, please call Folkestone Academy directly for advice on how to apply.

## **5. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO OTHER YEAR GROUPS (EXCEPT YEAR 12)**

For applications to other year groups, or if you are applying after the beginning of the school year, this is classed as an 'in year admission' and you will need to complete an [In Year Application](#) form available via this link on Kent County Council's website. The application form should be sent directly to Folkestone Academy. The Academy cannot guarantee a place will be available for your child.

The Academy will consider all applications and if the year group applied for has a place available will admit

the child (unless one of the permitted reliefs apply). If more applications are received than there are places, the relevant oversubscription will apply. Parents whose application is turned down shall be entitled to appeal.

## **6. RIGHT TO APPEAL**

There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for external applicants refused admission to Folkestone Academy. For Sixth Form appeals, both the parent and student have a right to appeal but for all other appeals, only the parent can appeal. Please contact the Admissions Officer for further details.

## **7. ACADEMY'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW A PLACE**

The Academy reserves the right to withdraw a place offered to a pupil in the following circumstances:

- a) when a parent/student has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time; or
- b) when a parent/student has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
- c) where an offer has been made in error.

## **8. WAITING LIST**

Where the Academy receives more applications for admission to a year group than there are places available, the Academy will operate a waiting list kept open until December 2021 for each year group. It will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application at any time in the year.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the relevant oversubscription criteria above. As and when a place becomes vacant, it will be allocated to the highest ranking child on the waiting list based on circumstances at the time the place becomes available. It is the sole responsibility of parents/carers to keep Folkestone Academy updated regarding any changes of circumstances, including those that may affect the current ranking position on the waiting list e.g. change of address.

Folkestone Academy reserves the right to contact parents at any time to confirm if they wish to remain on the waiting list operated by the school.

## **9. ADMISSIONS OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP**

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill-health. In secondary school age, there may be various reasons why a parent would seek to apply for admission out of age group.

The process for requesting admission outside of your child's normal age group is as follows:

- Complete the Common Application form or In-year Admission form as appropriate.
- Attach a letter outlining the reasons for the request and all supporting letters and/or documentary evidence in support of the application.

The Academy Admission Committee must make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for

being born prematurely. The Academy Admission Committee must also take into account the views of the Principal of the Academy.

## **10. DEFINITIONS**

### **10.1 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.

### **10.2 Children in receipt of the Service Pupil Premium**

A child:

- Who has one or both of their parents serving the regular armed forces
- Who has been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point in the last four years
- Whose parent(s) died (or in certain cases injured) while serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) or the War Pensions Scheme (WPS)
- Pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service (FTRS FC).

### **10.3 Parent**

By parent, we mean any individual:

- Who is a parent of the child, or
- Who is not a parent of the child but who has parental responsibility for the child, or
- Who has care of the child

### **10.4 Sibling**

By sibling, we mean:

- A full brother or full sister living at the same address or living at separate addresses
- A half-brother or half-sister living at the same address or living at separate addresses
- An adoptive brother or adoptive sister living at the same address or living at separate addresses
- A foster brother or foster sister living at the same address
- A step-brother or step-sister living at the same address
- The sibling priority will also be applied to children who, at the time of application, have a sibling (as defined in the bullet points above) who has been offered and accepted a place at the school, even if the sibling has not yet started attending

## **10.5 Permanent Home Address**

Where a child lives part of the week with one parent/carers and part with another member of the family, the permanent home address will be considered to be the residence where the child spends at least three school nights of the week during term-time, i.e. Sunday to Thursday.

## APPENDIX 1

- i) 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.

- ii) Current Family Association – this refers to a brother or sister attending the school when the child starts where the family continues to live at the same address as when the older sibling was admitted. If the family has moved to an address outside the catchment area since the sibling was admitted, the sibling link is broken.

In this context brother or sister means children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half-brother or half-sister, adopted siblings, step-brothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

## APPENDIX 2

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

This form should be completed if you have stated a preference for Folkestone Academy and you wish your application to be considered under the criteria - eligible for the service pupil premium. In order to understand the application process and by what date forms must be completed, please read the School Admissions Policy and your Local Authority booklet before completing this form.

Only complete this form if the pupil is eligible for the service premium. Please provide proof in the form of your Military ID card.

You must complete the Local Authority's application form **in addition to the Supplementary Information Form.**

#### Pupil details:

<b>Forename:</b> _____	<b>Home address:</b> _____
<b>Middle name:</b> _____	_____
<b>Surname:</b> _____	_____
<b>Pupil's date of birth:</b> _____	<b>Postcode:</b> _____

#### Details of person with legal parental responsibility submitting application:

<b>Name:</b> _____
<b>Address:</b> _____
_____
<b>Postcode:</b> _____
<b>Home No:</b> _____
<b>Mobile No:</b> _____
<b>Email address:</b> _____

#### Please read the following declaration carefully and then sign and return the form to:

The Admissions Officer  
Folkestone Academy  
Academy Lane  
Folkestone  
Kent CT19 5FP



Forms must be returned to Folkestone Academy as soon as possible. Any delay in returning this form could affect the processing of your application.

I confirm that the information I have supplied is true and accurate and I attach appropriate evidence.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_