



Lightyear Federation

Caring, Dreaming, Thinking Bigger



Greatstone Primary School Admissions Arrangement Consultation for Admission year 25-26

The above-mentioned school is part of the Lightyear Federation, which includes Greatstone Primary School and Repton Manor Primary School.

As our own admissions authority, we are required under the School Admission Code 2021 to review our Admissions Policies annually and to consult on our arrangements from time to time. 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.*

Greatstone Primary School Proposal to:

Reduce the Published Admission Number and Alter the Admissions Oversubscription Criteria

The Governors and the Leadership Team of Greatstone Primary School propose to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for all year groups from 52 to 30 and Greatstone School Nursery to reduce the PAN from 52 to 40 to take effect from September 2025.

The proposed change will help secure the long-term future of the school. The Governors and Staff are working hard to continue to improve the outcomes of all our pupils and feel strongly that the proposed reduction will benefit future outcomes for our children, whilst still enabling us to meet the demand of places.

We have engaged with the Local Area Education Officer to understand the future projected pupil numbers within the area and they have confirmed they will still meet their planned requirements once this proposed change has been made.

The school would also like to consult on altering the admissions oversubscription criteria to include the criterion which would place the children of staff as part of the school's admission policy. The wording is highlighted in section 3 Oversubscription Criteria.

The proposed change will not affect the current pupils or those who choose to accept an offer for a school place in September 2023. All current and future parents and any other interested stakeholders can make comments on this proposal.

Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for Greatstone Primary school is 52. Reducing the PAN will assist the school to provide stability in its long-term planning and allow the school to secure high-quality educational outcomes for our youngest pupils currently on our roll, while continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupil numbers in line with demand in the local area. Although the Regulations and Code of Practice relating to school admissions no longer require

an admissions authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a schools PAN, there remains a requirement to consult when the proposal is to reduce.

Further to this by including an oversubscription criterion for children of staff, the school will be able to retain and secure high-quality staff capable of providing high quality education for all children.

Greatstone Primary School are seeking comments on the proposed change.

Specific Proposal

Greatstone Primary School along with our Governors proposes to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 52 to 30 with effect from September 2025. For pupils who already have a place at Greatstone Primary school in other year groups, there will be no change. Greatstone School Nursery will reduce its PAN from 52 to 40 with effect from September 2025.

To include a further oversubscription criterion for children of staff, ensuring the school ability to employ high quality educators.

Please find the full policy and admissions arrangement attached. The proposal also includes updates to the wording of the policy and layout to ensure clarity of the process for parents/carers and better compliance with the admissions code.

It is important to consider the views of our parents and the wider community. If you would like to contribute to the consultation, please email bd@lightyear.kent.sch.uk

This consultation will open on the 16th October 2023 and any comments relating to the policy will need to be received by 4th December 2023.

For the duration of the consultation Greatstone Primary School will display the following documents on the website:

- Admissions Statement (Sept 2025)
- Current Admissions Statement (Sept 2024/2025)

School website: www.greatstone.co.uk

School email: office@greatstoneschool.co.uk

Stakeholders are deemed to be:

- Parents and carers of children aged between 2 and 11 years of age
- All other admission authorities within the relevant area
- Kent County Council
- Any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority
- Other persons or groups in the local area who may have an interest in the proposed new arrangements i.e. other local nursery settings

As set out in the Schools Admission Code, we are entering into a 6-week statutory consultation.

The Governing Body will meet soon after this 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 Governing Body.



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GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY

Introduction

The admissions process should be simple, fair and easy for parents to use in selecting the preferred school for their children. This policy aims to achieve this and complies with current admissions legislation.

Greatstone Primary School is a Foundation School and so the Governing Body is the admissions authority. However, the Greatstone Primary School will work in co-operation with Kent County Council in order to operate within the local authority's Co-ordinated Scheme for Primary Admissions.

Prospective parents are invited to view the school in the autumn before their child is due to start the following September. These visits are by appointment only and would usually take place between October and the end of December.

Applications for school admissions usually have to be submitted to the Local Authority in early January for entry in September. If you would like to visit the school please contact the school office on 01797 363916 for further details.

ADMISSIONS – GREATSTONE SCHOOL NURSERY

Greatstone School Nursery is a 40 place nursery.

In the event that the nursery is over-subscribed the following criteria will be applied in priority order as follows:

- 3-year old children.
- Current family association - where a brother or sister is already on roll at
- Greatstone Primary School and the family continues to live at the same address as when the sibling was admitted or has moved to a property within two miles.
- Health reasons - the evidence for this must be strong and the Governors will require written evidence from a qualified person. Parental health is not a criterion.
- Nearness of a child's home and ease of access to school as measured by a straight line from home to school.

Birth certificates must be shown prior to admission

On admission we will:

- Provide parents and carers with information: Regular newsletter and dates for their diary etc.
- Inform parents and carers where our Policies and Procedures are displayed and we advise all to refer to these documents regularly, as these are updated throughout the year.

- Ensure parents and carers are aware of the Equal Opportunities Policy in place.
- Consult with families about the opening times/session availability, to avoid excluding anyone.
- Ensure that only persons named on the child's registration document by parent/carer will be allowed to collect them, unless prior consent has been given.

ADMISSIONS – GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Admission Numbers and Intake Times

- For Reception aged children the school's published admission number (PAN) is 30.
- Greatstone Primary School has one intake per year in September.
- Although parents may wish to defer their child's school place until the start of the term following their fifth birthday we do have the facilities to admit these children at the beginning of the academic year in which their birthday falls.
- Applications for admission must be received in line with deadlines set by the LA and children will be 4 plus years of age on entry.

2. Application Procedure – for Year R places.

- a) The school will follow the procedures, timetable and deadlines applicable to KCC's Coordinated Scheme for Primary Admissions.
- b) If there are more applicants than places, the Governors' Admissions Committee will meet to agree on the allocation of places based on the Oversubscription Criteria below.
- c) Once the PAN for the year group has been reached no other children can be offered a place.
- d) Any remaining children will automatically be entered onto a waiting list.
- e) Any parent whose child has been refused admission has the right to appeal against this decision. In these circumstances the school administrative officer will give advice and an appeal form.
- f) For applications for September 2024 onwards parents can arrange to visit the school and/or receive advice on the admissions process by contacting the school office.

3. Oversubscription Criteria

Before the application of Oversubscription Criteria children with statements of Special Educational Needs which name the school will be admitted. As a result of this the PAN will be reduced accordingly.

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit.

- a) Children in, or previously in, the care of a Local Authority.
- b) Children with siblings in school at the time of entry.
- c) Health and special access reasons.
- d) Children of staff at the school;
 - a. 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
 - b. The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- e) Proximity of the child's home address to the school, with those living nearer having higher priority.

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 the place.

4. Withdrawal of an offer of a place

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

- when a parent/carer has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time; or
- when a parent/carer has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
- when the place was offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent/carer.

5. Admission for Year Groups Other than Reception

Parents seeking admission of children in years other than Reception should contact the school office for an in year casual application form.

Once the published PAN for the year group has been reached no other children can be offered a Place.

6. Appeals

Parents have a statutory right of appeal to an independent appeal panel if their child has been refused admission. Greatstone Primary School uses the services of KCC to set up the Appeal Panel Hearing. Parents should contact the school office in the first instance.

7. Notes

Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children

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.

Siblings

This includes:

- natural or adopted siblings;
- step or foster siblings;
- those who live as siblings in the same house.

The sibling link is maintained as long as the family lives at the same address as when the first child applied, or has moved closer to the school than when the first child was offered a place, or has moved to an address that is less than 2 miles from the school using distance measured by the method outlined in the distance criterion.

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 means 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 which can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and the particular school that parents feel is the only school that can accommodate their child's needs. This must be sent to the Primary Admissions Team with the application form.

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 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 guardians or leased or rented to them under a lease or written rental agreement. Where parents 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 should consult the most recent Admissions guidance, published by KCC, for further information about how home to school distances are measured and defined including details about how blocks of flats will be treated and what constitutes a permanent or main residence.

This policy is reviewed annually by the Governing Body.

Valid for 2025/26 Admissions