

Dear Stakeholder

Re: Veritas MAT proposal to update admissions policy.

The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team at Veritas Multi Academy Trust wish to amend the admissions policy over-subscription criteria to allow the children of staff to be given priority effective September 2023 onwards for children starting in September 2024. The proposed change will help our schools retain and recruit staff and is in response to staff requests.

There will be no other changes to the admission arrangements.

All current and future parents, guardians and carers and any other interested stakeholders can make comments on this proposal. Information on how you can do this is detailed at the end of this letter, under the section titled "How to make your views known". Changing the admissions policy over-subscription criteria will assist the schools within the Trust to provide stability in its long term planning and allow the school to secure high quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on our roll, due to improved staff retention.

It is important to the Trust Board to consider the views of our parents, guardians and carers and the wider community. If you would like to contribute to the consultation, the information on how to do so is listed below:

How to make your views known

The consultation will run for 6 weeks, from Friday 25th November 2022 to Friday 6th January 2023 (midday) and all stakeholders are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal to: office@veritasmat.co.uk

For the duration of the consultation our website (www.veritasmat.co.uk) will display the following documents:

- Proposed new Admissions Policy (September 2023 for admissions September 2024)
- Current Admissions Policy (September 2022)
- Stakeholder Letter

Stakeholders are deemed to be:

- Parents, Guardians and Carers of children currently attending Mundella Primary School, Pilgrim's Way or Warden House Primary School
- 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 in the local area who may have an interest in the proposed new arrangements, as set out in the [Schools Admission Code](#) we are entering into a 6 week statutory consultation.

Following the consultation, the MAT's Trust Board will review the feedback and make a final decision.



For and on behalf of Veritas MAT Board of Trustees

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

Explain how to apply for a place at the school

Set out the school's arrangements for allocating places to the pupils who apply

Explain how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place

2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

School Admissions Code 2021

School Admission Appeals Code

The school is required to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

In our trust, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. This policy complies with the trust funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions

The normal admissions round is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded school places at the school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

In the care of a local authority, or

Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services functions

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or

Became subject to a child arrangements order, or

Became subject to a special guardianship order

This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted.

A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday (or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

4. How to apply

For applications in the normal admissions round you should use the application form provided by your home local authority (regardless of which local authority the schools are in). You can use this form to express your preference for a minimum of 3 state-funded schools, in rank order.

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from your local authority.

Please note, pupils already attending a trust nursery will not transfer automatically into the main school. A separate application must be made for a place in reception.

5. Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group. If you would like to request a place for your child outside their normal age group, please book an appointment with the headteacher to discuss your request.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, this will include taking account of:

Parents' 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

Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely

The headteacher's views

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child's normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered based on the admission arrangements laid out in this policy, including the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6. Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school, but it is not in their preferred age group.

6. Allocation of places

6.1 Admission number

Each school within the trust has an agreed admission number.

- Mundella Primary School 30 pupils
- Pilgrims' Way Primary School 45 pupils (60 September 2024 pending completion of new school rebuild)
- Warden House Primary School 60 pupils

6.2 Selection

As an inclusive trust, our schools do not have any selective requirements or entrance tests.

6.3 Oversubscription criteria

Proposed Change

The Trust is proposing to add a new item to the list of over-subscription criteria to support the employment of our staff – specifically that the children of the VERITAS MAT staff will be given priority.

All children whose education, health and care (EHC) plans name the school will be admitted before any other places are allocated.

If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be offered a place.

If the school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be given to those children who meet any of the criteria set out below, to ensure all places are filled.

Highest priority will be given to looked-after children and all previously looked after children who apply for a place at the school.

1. Children in Local Authority Care – a child under the age of 18 years for whom the Local Authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act. This applies equally to children who immediately after being looked after by the local authority became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order (as defined by Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or Section 8 or 14A of the Children Act 1989.)
2. A brother or sister attending the school when the child starts. In this context, ‘brother or sister’, means a child who lives as a brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers and sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers and sisters and foster brothers and sisters.
3. 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 the 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 this 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 school.
4. Children of staff employees of Veritas MAT.
5. Nearness of children's homes to school - The school uses the measurements provided by the Local Authority who use the distance between the child’s permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight-line using Ordnance Survey address point data. Distances are calculated from a point defined as within the child’s home to a point defined as within the school as specified by Ordnance Survey. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. A child’s home 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 weekdays.

6.4 Tie break

In a tie breaker situation, the proximity of an applicant's home to the school will be the decider. If in the event that more than one applicant lives the same distance from home to the academy (as measured by the local authority), then a random selection will be applied and independently supervised.

Applications for entrance into any school within Veritas Multi Academy Trust should be made through Kent Primary Admissions Scheme. You will be required to complete the Reception Common Application Form (RCAF) either online through the KCC website or by completing a paper form available from October 2020 at Kent primary schools or the Local Authority Admissions Office. The application process will open in early November 2020.

Late applications will be placed on a waiting list and places allocated based on the above criteria. After a place has been offered, the school reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

1. When a parent has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time.
2. When a parent has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information.
3. The admission authority offered the place based on a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent.

If you have not been offered a place you can request to be placed on the school's waiting list. The school's waiting list will be re-ranked, in line with the published oversubscription criteria, every time a child is added.

6.5 Children below compulsory school age

Where children below compulsory school age are offered a place at the school, they will be entitled to attend the school full-time in September following their fourth birthday.

Parents may defer their child's entry to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age, and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year the offer was made for.

Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

6.6 Challenging behaviour

We will not refuse to admit a child on behavioural grounds in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (paragraph 3.8) apply, i.e., where section 87 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 is engaged.

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will

refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked after children, previously looked after children and children with EHC plans listing the school.

6.7 Fair Access Protocol

We participate in Kent LA's Fair Access Protocol. This helps ensure that all children, including those who are unplaced and vulnerable, or having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, get access to a school place as quickly as possible.

7. In-year admissions

Parents can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the normal admissions round. As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose EHC plans name the school will be admitted.

Likewise, if there are spaces available in the year group you are applying for, your child will be offered a place.

If there are no spaces available at the time of your application, your child's name will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. When a space becomes available, it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6.3 of this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.

Applications for in-year admissions should be sent to the following address:

Mundella Primary School, Black Bull Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5QX e.

office@mundella.kent.sch.uk

Pilgrims' Way Primary School, Pilgrims' Way, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1XU e. [office@pilgrims-](mailto:office@pilgrims-way.kent.sch.uk)

[way.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@pilgrims-way.kent.sch.uk)

Warden House Primary School, Birdwood Avenue, Deal, Kent CT14 9SF e. [office@warden-](mailto:office@warden-house.kent.sch.uk)

[house.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@warden-house.kent.sch.uk)

Parents will be notified of the outcome of your in-year application in writing within 15 school days.

8. Appeals

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. All appeals are managed according to Kent County Council agreed procedures and timelines as outlined in the link below.

Appeal a school offer - Kent County Council

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the Trust Board will publicly consult on these

changes. If nothing changes, it will publicly consult on the school's admission arrangements at least once every 7 years.