

HIGH FIRS PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2025

The number of registered pupils at the beginning of the school year was 210. The following arrangements with respect to the admission of pupils to the school will be adopted.

Boys and girls will be admitted without reference to ability or aptitude in the school year during which they become five. The number of admissions for the year commencing September will be 30. Admission to the Reception Class occurs at the beginning of Term 1. Applications for admission must be received in line with deadlines set by Kent County Council; and children will be 4 plus years of age on entry.

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.

Before the application of oversubscription criteria, children with an Education, Health and Care Plan which names the school will be admitted. As a result of this, the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

If the number of preferences for the school is more than the number of spaces available, places will be allocated in the following priority order:

- **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.
- **Current Family Association** - a brother or sister in the same school at the time of entry where the family continue to live at the same address as when the sibling was admitted – or – if they have moved – live within 2 miles of the school, or have moved to a property that is nearer to the school than the previous property as defined by the 'Nearness' criterion' (below).
If sibling priority is lost, it will not be reinstated for any reason.
In this context 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.
- **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.

- **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. 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 an oversubscribed Community or Voluntary Controlled school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school.

Where applications are received after the deadline set by Kent County Council an Enquiry List will be maintained. Priority of admission will be determined by the above criteria.

GENERAL

The school will agree any changes in its admission arrangements with the Secretary of State for Education. It will establish arrangements for appeals against non-admission which will include an independent element. Details of the arrangements for admissions and appeals will be published each year.

Admissions to the school will be based on the above criteria. Any appeals will be dealt with by an independent Appeals Committee.

Agreed by staff & Governors: September 2025

Review Date: September 2026