



Tenterden Infant School

'Together, we learn, grow and flourish'

Tenterden Church of England Junior School

'With God as our companion, we learn, grow and flourish'



Tenterden Primary Federation

Admissions Policy

Academic Year 2020/21

Policy reviewed and approved by The Tenterden Schools Trust Board October 2019

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1. Introduction

Tenterden Infant School and Tenterden Church of England Junior School, follow the Kent Admissions arrangements for entry in to a school within the Tenterden Primary Federation.

This policy Incorporates entry to Year R, transfer from Tenterden Infant School to Tenterden Church of England Junior School (Year 2-3) and the determined Primary In-Year Kent Admissions Process for our Schools. As Tenterden Infant School and Tenterden Church of England Junior School are hard federated they are considered as link schools (they are not listed as link schools on The Kent County Council website).

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.

Tenterden Infant School and Tenterden Church of England Junior School are academy schools and are part of The Tenterden Schools Trust (a multi-academy trust).

2. Published Pupil Admission Numbers per year group

Tenterden Infant School: 60

Tenterden Church of England Junior School 60

3. Entry to Year R in Tenterden Infant School and Year 3 in Tenterden Church of England School.

This section details the Co-ordinated Scheme for Entry to Year R and Transfer from Infant School to Junior School (Year 2-3) in September 2020. Year R applications are normally for children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016. Year 3 applications are normally for children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013.

The Key Scheme dates are:

- Application for Primary Intake/Junior Transfer opens Tuesday 5 November 2019.
- National closing date for application forms Wednesday 15 January 2020.
- Summary of applicant numbers sent to all Kent Primary, Infant and Junior schools by Monday 10 February 2020.
- Full applicant details sent to all Kent Primary, Infant and Junior schools for ranking against their oversubscription criteria by Monday 17 February 2020 (In half term).
- Ranked lists returned to Kent County Council by all schools. Deadline for school to inform Kent County Council of wish to offer in excess of PAN by Friday 6 March 2020.
- Primary, Infant and Junior schools sent list of allocated pupils on Friday 27 March 2020.
- National Offer Day: e-mails sent after 4pm and letters sent 1st class post Thursday 16 April 2020.
- Schools send out welcome letters no earlier than Monday 20 April 2020.
- Deadline for late applications and waiting list requests to be included in Kent County Council's reallocation stage. Also date by which places should be accepted or declined to schools by Wednesday 6 May 2020.
- Kent County Council will send schools reallocation waiting lists for ranking against their oversubscription criteria Monday 11 May 2020.
- Deadline for lodging of appeals Thursday 14 May 2020.

- Schools to send their ranked reallocation waiting list and acceptance and refusals to KCC Monday 18 May 2020.
- Kent County Council to reallocate places that have become available from the schools' waiting lists. After this point, schools will take back ownership of their waiting lists. Wednesday 10 June 2020.

In addition the Kent scheme we follow:

(a) Allows for Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs) to be returned directly to schools to assist in the ranking of applicants against their over-subscription criteria.

(b) Confirms that on 10 June 2020 Kent County Council will run one reallocation process offering places to late applicants and original applicants that have joined a school's waiting list after offer day. Kent County Council will consider late applicants through the process described in paragraphs 26 to 35. After 10 June 2020, Kent County Council will enable schools to accept applications directly and offer vacancies as they arise, to children on their waiting lists. Copies of applications will be forwarded by parents to Kent County Council who will support and advise where this is needed. Schools must notify Kent County Council of any offers or refusals that are made at the same time these are made to parents.

Kent County Council expects that all schools and Admissions Authorities including Academies and co-ordinating Free schools engaged in the sharing of admissions data will manage personal information in accordance with the Data Protection principles.

For normal points of entry to school, Kent resident parents will have the opportunity to apply for their child's school place either online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or by using a standard paper form known as the Reception Common Application Form (RCAF) or Junior Common Application Form (JCAF). Kent County Council cannot accept multiple applications for the same child. A parent may use either of the above methods, but not both. Kent County Council will take all reasonable steps to ensure that every parent resident in the Kent knows how to apply for a school place by completing a RCAF/JCAF online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or on paper, and has access to a written explanation of the coordinated admissions scheme.

4. Application forms for entry in to the Reception Year and Year 3

The RCAF will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into Year R (the first year of Primary education) and the JCAF for Year 3 of Junior schools. Online applications cover both of the above.

The RCAF/JCAF or online application must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents resident in the Kent County Council area wishing to express a preference for their child:

- (a) to be admitted to a school within the Kent County Council area (including Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools).
- (b) to be admitted to a school located in another Local Authority's area (including Voluntary Aided, Foundation schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools).

Details of this scheme will apply to every application made by a Kent resident applying to Kent schools. Where a Kent resident applies to schools located in another Local Authority, variations may apply to take into account differences present in that Local Authority's scheme.

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

- Children in Local Authority Care or Previously 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).
- Attendance at a linked school – Tenterden Infant School is part of the Tenterden Primary Federation and links have been established between the infant and junior school, children attending the infant school are given priority for admission to the junior school.
- 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).

Linked infant and junior schools are considered to be the same school for this criterion. If sibling priority is lost (as above), it will not be reinstated when a child transfers from an infant school to the linked junior school.

Where a child is transferring from Year 2 and would not be attending the infant school from the start of the next academic year, but applied for the linked junior school, the sibling link would not be broken for a child applying for the infant school.

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.

The RCAF/JCAF or online application must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents resident in the Kent County Council area wishing to express a preference for their child:

(a) to be admitted to a school within the Kent County Council area (including Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools).

(b) to be admitted to a school located in another Local Authority's area (including Voluntary Aided, Foundation schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools).

Details of the Kent scheme will apply to every application made by a Kent resident applying to Kent schools. Where a Kent resident applies to schools located in another Local Authority, variations may apply to take into account differences present in that Local Authority's scheme.

5. Online applications, RCAFs /JCAFs and supporting publications will:

(a) Invite parents to express up to three preferences in priority order. Preferences can be expressed for Kent and non-Kent schools. Parents must complete the application for their home Local Authority (e.g. Kent residents complete Kent applications, Medway residents complete Medway applications, etc).

(b) Allow parents to give reasons for each preference, including details of any siblings that will still be on roll at the preferred school at the time of the applicant child's admission.

(c) Invite parents of looked after and previously looked after children to send Kent County Council evidence that supports the request for consideration under either criteria by 10 February 2020.

(d) Explain that parents will receive the offer of one school place only and that: (i) a place will be offered at the highest available ranked preference for which they are eligible; and (ii) if a place cannot be offered at any school named on the form, a place will be offered at an alternative school. (d) Specify the closing date for applications and where paper RCAFs/JCAFs must be returned to, in accordance with paragraph 7.

(e) Explain that parents cannot name Primary schools on the JCAF and that if they do, they will be deleted and the preference will be lost.

Kent County Council will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:

(a) The online admissions website is readily accessible to all who wish to apply using this method.

(b) The paper RCAFs/JCAFs are readily available on request from Kent County Council, Kent maintained Primary, Infant and Junior schools and are also available on the Kent County Council website to print, complete and return.

- (c) A composite prospectus of all Kent maintained Primary, Infant and Junior schools and written explanation of the co-ordinated admissions scheme is readily available on request from Kent County Council, Kent maintained Primary, Infant and Junior schools and is also available on the Kent County Council website to read or print.

Completed applications must be submitted online and paper RCAF/JCAF returned to Kent County Council or any Kent Primary School by 15 January 2020.

Applications made on the RCAF/JCAF and returned direct to any school before 6 May 2020 must be forwarded to Kent County Council immediately to ensure inclusion in the appropriate allocation stage.

6. Cancelling Applications

Applications considered as 'on time' (see appendix 1) can be cancelled or individual preferences can be removed by the applicant up to 6 May 2020 (the deadline for waiting list requests and late applications). Requests must be made to the admissions team in writing. New preferences cannot be added to an application at this point. After this date, it is not possible to cancel applications or remove preferences as the offer allocation process will have started.

Parents that have cancelled an 'on time' application may submit a late application, for consideration under the reallocation process, providing that they do not name any preferences that appeared on their original application. The deadline for these late applications is 6 May 2020.

Where an application is cancelled, parents cannot join a school's waiting list or appeal for a school that was on their original application unless they submit a new application for the school after 10 June 2020.

7. Appeals

All parents have the statutory right to appeal against any decision refusing them a school place.

Where parents have lodged an appeal against the refusal of a place and a place becomes available at the school, the place can then be offered without an appeal being heard, provided there are no other applicants at that time ranked higher on the school's waiting list.

In the event of any of the above criteria being oversubscribed, priority will be given based on distance as described above with those closest being given 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.

If siblings from multiple births (twins, triplets, etc) apply for a school and the school would reach its Published Admission Number (PAN) after admitting one or more, but before admitting all of those siblings, the LA will offer a place to each of the siblings, even if doing so takes the school above its PAN. If the admissions are to Year R, and so result in a breach of infant class size legislation, the additional pupil(s) will be treated as "excepted" for the time they are in an infant class or until the numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit, as defined in the School Admissions Code.

Where an offer has been made, the school will provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can choose to defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year, but not beyond the start of the term after their

child reaches compulsory school age (5 years) and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. Where parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year, they will have to discuss this with The Executive Headteacher, prior to starting school, but not beyond the start of the term after their child reaches compulsory school age. The Federation expects all children starting school to attend full time from the beginning of the academic year, as this helps the child settle in to school quickly, enable the child to engage in more early learning opportunities and therefore being more likely to achieve their early learning goals by the end of the academic year. However, the school considers the specific needs of individual children in this decision e.g. special educational and disability needs, working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the best start to school for individual children.

8. Summer Born Applications

Kent will process applications for Summer Born children outside the normal age taking account of the needs of the child. A decision as to whether an application will be accepted outside of the admissions round, the final decision lies with The Tenterden Primary Federation, which will normally be guided by the Executive Headteacher considering the needs of a child on an individual basis. Further Information will be made available to parents on how applications should be made at kent.gov.uk/primary admissions. Parents are advised to talk to our schools no later than 15 November 2019 to enable a decision to be made before the closing date of the round on 15 January 2020.

9. In-Year Casual Admission Form

This scheme applies to every maintained school and Academy in the LA area (except special schools), which are required to comply with its terms, and it shall take effect from the point of formal Kent County Council Cabinet Determination.

Kent County Council will produce a standard form, known as the In-Year Casual Admission Form (IYCAF), which Kent schools must use to allow applicants to apply for school places in any year group outside of the normal admissions round. Applicants must use one form for each school they wish to apply for.

As Kent does not co-ordinate In-Year admissions, applications to out of county schools and from out of county residents will not have a standard process and will instead depend on the process of the county in question. Kent residents who wish to apply for a place at an out of county school will need to either approach the school or local authority directly. This will vary between authorities.

Out of county residents of authorities that co-ordinate In-Year admissions should complete their authority's Common Application Form and return it to their authority. Kent County Council has given permission to each authority to liaise directly with Kent schools. Out of county residents of authorities that do not co-ordinate are free to contact Kent schools directly to request a place. It is the responsibility of the out of county resident to ensure they apply by the appropriate method.

Parents will be able to obtain information about the process, other authority processes and IYCAFs from Kent County Council's Admissions and Transport Office or from any local Kent school. Enquiries can also be made via e-mail (kentinyearadmissions@kent.gov.uk). Information and IYCAFs will also be available on the Kent County Council's website to read and print.

Kent County Council will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all relevant information is available upon request to any parents who require it.

The IYCAF will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils to a school in the year group applied for.

The IYCAF must be used by parents resident in the Kent County Council area as a means of expressing one preference for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, for their child to be admitted to a school within the Kent County Council area (including Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools, Academies and Coordinating Free Schools) 9. Parents wishing to apply for more than one school must complete a separate form for each school. Completed forms must be returned directly to the school. Applications by Kent residents to out of county schools should be made to either the other local authority or school, depending on that local authority's In-Year process.

The IYCAF will:

- (a) invite the parent to express a school preference.
- (b) invite parents to give their reasons for the preference and give details of any siblings that may be attending the preferred school.
- (c) explain that the parent must complete a form for each school they wish to apply for and return each form to the corresponding school.
- (d) explain that Kent County Council will be informed of any application and will monitor any subsequent offers that are made.
- (e) direct the parent to contact Kent County Council where they are unable to secure a school place.
- (f) explain where they can find information about applying to non-Kent schools.

Kent County Council will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:

- (a) that the IYCAF is available in paper form on request from Kent County Council and from all maintained Primary schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools in the Kent County Council area; and
- (b) that the IYCAF is accompanied by a written explanation of the In-Year admissions process in an easy to follow format.

IYCAFs for Kent schools must be returned to the school. Schools must process them, no later than 5 days from receipt.

Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs)

All completed IYCAFs are valid applications. A school can ask parents who wish to nominate it, or have nominated it, on the IYCAF, to provide additional information on a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply its oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a SIF is required it must be requested from the school or Kent County Council (where supplied) and returned to the school. All schools that use SIFs must include the form in their published admission arrangements.

A SIF is not a valid application by itself: a formal application can only be made on the IYCAF (or corresponding form if out of county applicants live in a county which co-ordinates In-Year admissions). When SIFs are received, the school must ensure that the IYCAF or neighbouring LA's Common Application Form has been completed by the parent and, if not, contact the parent and ask them to complete one. Parents will not be under any obligation to complete any part of an individual school's supplementary information form where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply its oversubscription criteria.

- (a) Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan do not apply to schools for a place through the main round admissions process. Any application received for a child with an EHCP will be referred directly to Kent County Council's Special Educational Needs Services (SEN), who must have regard to Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 " the LA must name the maintained school that is preferred by parents providing that:
- The school is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude and the special educational needs
 - The child's attendance is not incompatible with the efficient education of other children in the school, and
 - The placement is an efficient use of the LA's resources" Where a pupil is resident in another Local Authority, the home Authority must again comply with Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 which states: "A local education authority shall, before specifying the name of any maintained school in a statement, consult the governing body of the school, and if the school is maintained by another local education authority, that authority." Other Authorities looking for Kent school places for EHCP pupils will need to contact Kent County Council's SEN team in addition to the relevant school.

(b) Children in Local Authority Care (CiC) and Children Adopted from Care When applications are made for young people in the care of other Local Authorities or who ceased to be so because they were adopted, Kent County Council - as receiving authority - will confirm an offer of a school place with the placing authority. Where an in-year application is received from the corporate parent of a child in Local Authority Care or who ceased to be so because they were adopted, Kent Admissions team will expect that in line with Statutory Guidance *, arrangements for appropriate education will have been made as part of the overall care planning, unless the placement has been made in an emergency. Where the placement has been made in an emergency, and this is not the case, Kent, as the receiving authority, will refer the matter to a school identified by the placing authority, to establish if an offer of a place can be provided. If the school is at capacity or the school provision is not considered appropriate, Kent County Council will advise the home authority of the schools position and where possible identify alternative education provision that may be more suitable to meet the child's needs. It will be for the corporate parent to determine whether it wishes to challenge the school's or the LA's position or identify an alternative education setting more suited to meeting the child's needs. Where Kent County Council is the corporate parent of the child in question, an appropriately appointed social worker will liaise in the first instance with Admission Placement Officers and other professionals as necessary, in order to agree the school or setting that would best meet the individual needs of the child (most appropriate provision for the child). Kent County Council will then allocate a place (where it is the admission authority for the school) or contact the school directly and seek a place where it is not. Where a school refuses to admit the child Kent County Council as corporate parent will decide whether to initiate proceedings required to either direct or instruct the school in question or consider if other education provision may be in

the best interest of the child. * Statutory Guidance on the duty of local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children under section 52 of the Children Act 2004 (S35.1-37)

(c) Exceptional provision is made for the families of UK Service Personnel, Crown Servants and British Council employees, as required by the School Admissions Code. A confirmed address, or, in the absence of this, a Unit or “quartering area” address, will be accepted as the home address from which home-school distance will be calculated. This must be confirmed by a letter from the Commanding Officer or the Foreign Office. However, this does not guarantee a place at the parent’s preferred school for their child. Places cannot be held for an extended period of time, as this could create disadvantage with other applications.

10. Determining Offers in Response to the IYCAF

The school will notify applicants resident in the Kent County Council area by letter the outcome of their application. Where appropriate, the letter will detail:

- (a) the starting date if a place is available;
- (b) the reasons why the child is not being offered a place if a place is unavailable;
- (c) information about the statutory right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places;
- (d) information on how to apply for a place on the waiting list;
- (e) contact details for the school and Kent County Council and for the admission authorities of Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools, Academies and co-ordinating Free schools where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal with the governing body.

The letter will notify the applicant parent that they need to respond to accept or refuse the offer of a place within 10 school days

Kent residents who wish to apply for a place at an out of county school will need to either approach the school or local authority directly. This will vary between authorities. Depending on the other LA’s determined process, the parent will confirm the acceptance or refusal of the place to the school or that school’s LA.

Kent pupils who have applied to schools and have not been offered a place can contact Kent County Council who will inform them where there is an available place at an alternative school. If no school in the local area has places available, the application may be referred to a local panel under the In Year Fair Access Protocol. If the child is already attending a school in the local area, no alternative place will be offered.

Schools must inform Kent County Council of every offer that is made via the In Year Casual process to allow the necessary safeguarding checks to take place. Notification should be made at the same time as the offer being made to the parent.

Applicants who are not successful in gaining any place can contact Kent County Council and will be informed where there is an available place at an alternative school. Parents can then approach these schools to secure a place. These applicants will have the same access to a waiting list and right to appeal as other applicants.

11. Acceptance/Refusal of Places

The applicant parent will be advised in their offer letter that they must accept/refuse the school place offer in writing to the school within 10 school days of the date of the offer letter. If the school has not obtained a response within the specified time, it will remind the parent in writing of the need to respond within a further seven days and point out that the place may be withdrawn if no response is received. Only after having exhausted all reasonable enquiries will it be assumed that a place is not required.

The school will notify Kent County Council of places accepted/refused as soon as possible after receipt of the acceptance/refusal. A mechanism for this transfer will be specified by Kent County Council.

Once a place has been accepted, a child must start at the school within a reasonable length of time. This would normally be 10 school days from receipt of acceptance, but schools may extend if they feel there are justifiable reasons to do so.

12. Oversubscription

Waiting Lists;

Each oversubscribed school will keep a waiting list at least until the end of the first term. This will include details of all applicants who have named the school on the IYCAF but could not be offered a place and have asked to be placed on a waiting list.

Waiting lists will be maintained in order of priority, in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria. If a school has reached its Published Admission Number it may not admit applicants other than through the Independent Appeal process, via the process detailed in the In Year Fair Access Protocol or where special arrangements relating to children in Local Authority Care or who ceased to be so because they were adopted, or children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs apply. To maintain the database, schools will advise Kent County Council when a place has been offered to a pupil on a waiting list. Parents whose children are refused admission must be offered a right of appeal (even if their child's name has been put on the waiting list).

Waiting list will be held for at least the first term of the academic year in oversubscription criteria order.

13. Requests for admission to Reception outside of the normal age group

Requests for admission to Reception outside of the normal age group should be made to the Headteacher of each preferred school as early as possible in the admissions round associated with that child's date of birth. This will allow the school and admissions authority sufficient time to make a decision before the closing date. Parents are not expected to provide evidence to support their request to defer their application, however where provided it must be specific to the child in question. This might include medical or Educational Psychologist reports. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional, however, failure to provide this may impede a school's ability to agree to deferral. Parents are required to complete an application for the normal point of entry at the same time, in case their request is declined. This application can be cancelled if the school agrees to accept a deferred application for entry into Year R the following year. Deferred applications must be made via paper Reception Common Application Form (RCAF) to the LA, with written confirmation from each

named school attached. Deferred applications will be processed in the same way as all applications for the cohort in the following admissions round and offers will be made in accordance with each school's oversubscription criteria. Further advice is available at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Appendix 1

Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs)

- Only applications submitted on a RCAF/JCAF (online or paper) are valid. Completion of a school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) alone does not constitute a valid application. Where schools use SIF they must confirm with the parent on receipt of their completed form that they have also made a formal application to Kent County Council.
- A school can ask parents who wish to name it, or have named it, on their RCAF/JCAF, to provide additional information on a SIF only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply its oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a SIF is required it must be requested from the school or Kent County Council and returned to the school. All schools that use SIFs must include the proposed form in their consultation document and in their published admission arrangements.
- Children with and Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan do not apply to schools for a place through the main round admissions process. Any application received for a child with an EHCP will be referred directly to Kent County Council's Special Educational Needs Services (SEN), who must have regard to Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 " the LA must name the maintained school that is preferred by parents providing that:
 - The school is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude and the special educational needs
 - The child's attendance is not incompatible with the efficient education of other children in the school, and
 - The placement is an efficient use of the LA's resources" Where a pupil is resident in another Local Authority, the home Authority must again comply with Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 which states: "A local education authority shall, before specifying the name of any maintained school in a statement, consult the governing body of the school, and if the school is maintained by another local education authority, that authority." Other Authorities looking for Kent school places for EHCP pupils will need to contact Kent County Council's SEN team in addition to the relevant school.
- Determining Offers in Response to the RCAF/JCAF
Kent County Council will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to RCAF/JCAF completed online or on paper. Kent County Council will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the RCAF/JCAF where:
 - it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority;
 - an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school;

- an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has named. Kent County Council will allocate places in accordance with paragraph 17.
- By 10 February 2020 Kent County Council will:
 - notify all schools of the number of applications received for their school;
 - notify and forward details of applications to the relevant authority/authorities where parents have nominated a school outside the Kent County Council area.
- By 17 February 2020 Kent County Council will advise all Kent Primary, Infant and Junior schools of the full details of all valid applications for their schools via rank lists, to enable them to apply their over-subscription criteria. Only children who appear on Kent County Council's list can be considered for places on the relevant offer day.
- By 6 March 2020 All Kent Primary, Infant and Junior schools, including Academies and coordinating Free schools, must return completed lists, ranked in priority order in accordance with their over-subscription criteria, to Kent County Council for consideration in the allocation process. Where a school fails clearly to define its oversubscription criteria in its determined arrangements, the definitions laid out by Kent County Council must be adopted.
- 6 March 2020 will also be the final deadline by which any school may notify Kent County Council of their intention to admit above PAN. Changes cannot be made after this date because Kent County Council will not have sufficient time to administer its co-ordination responsibilities.
- By 26 March 2020 the LA will match each ranked list against the ranked lists of every other school named and:
 - (a) where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the named schools, will allocate a place at that school to the child;
 - (b) where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the named schools, will allocate a place to the child at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference;
 - (c) where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the named schools, will allocate a place to the child at an alternative school. Where the application is for Junior transfer, this alternative place may be in a Junior school or a Primary school.
- By 26 March 2020 Kent County Council will have completed any data exchange with other Local Authorities to cover situations where a resident in Kent County Council's Local Authority area has named a school outside Kent, or a parent living outside the Kent County Council's Local Authority area has named a Kent school.
- By 27 March 2020 Kent County Council will inform schools of the pupils to be offered places at their establishment, and will inform other Local Authorities of places to be offered to their residents in its schools and Academies. Schools must not share this information with parents before 16 April 2020.

On Offer day, 16 April 2020 Kent County Council will

(a) Send an offer email after 4pm to those parents who have applied online and provided a valid email address.

1. The name of the school at which a place is offered.
2. Information about the right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places at other named schools.
3. Information on how to request a place on a waiting list for schools originally named as a preference, if they want their child to be considered for any places that might become available.

(b) Send decision letters to ALL paper CAF applicants and online applicants that did not receive an offer of their first preference. In line with Kent County Council's ongoing desire to reduce the environmental and financial impact of large volume post runs, work will continue to produce email processes which will allow for the reduction of paper letters. The letter will give:

1. The name of the school at which a place is offered.
 2. The reasons why the child is not being offered a place at any school named on the RCAF/JCAF as a higher preference than the school offered.
 3. Information about the right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places at other named schools.
 4. Information on how to request a place on a waiting list for schools originally named as a preference on their RCAF/JCAF, if they want their child to be considered for any places that might become available.
 5. Advice on how to find contact details for the school and Local Authority and the admission authorities of Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools, Academies and coordinating Free schools where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal with the governing body.
 6. The letter and/or email will notify the applicant parent that they need to respond to the offered school to accept or refuse the offer. It will inform applicant parents to send waiting list requests to Kent County Council. It will also inform them of their right to appeal against the refusal of a place at any school on their application and where and when to lodge the appeal.
- Parents who reside in other Local Authorities, but who have applied for a Kent school or schools, will be notified of whether or not they are being offered a place at a Kent school by their own Local Authority on 16 April 2020.
 - Kent pupils who have not been offered a place at any of the schools nominated on their RCAF/JCAF will be allocated a place by Kent County Council at an alternative school in the Kent County Council area. This place will be offered on 16 April 2020.
 - Schools will send their welcome letters no earlier than 20 April 2020.
 - Acceptance/Refusal of Places - 6 May 2020

- By 6 May 2020 the applicant parent must inform the school whether they wish to accept or refuse the place offered on offer day.
- Refusals should be made in writing or via e-mail to provide an appropriate audit trail. If a response has not been received by 6 May 2020, the school must remind the parent in writing of the need to respond within a further seven days and point out that the place will be withdrawn if no response is received. If the parent fails to respond by this date, a final letter should be sent informing the parent that the offer has been withdrawn. Only after taking reasonable measures to secure a response from parents will a school be able to retract the offer of a place. In cases of shared custody, schools should ensure that confirmation of acceptance or refusal is received from the applying parent.

Determining Offers in Reallocation Process

- Kent County Council will collect a reallocation list for all schools up to 6 May 2020. This will include details of the following:
 - (a) all applicants who named the school on the RCAF/JCAF and were not offered a place on 16 April 2020 and who have asked to be included on the school's waiting list;
 - (b) late applicants who named the school on their applications which were sent to Kent County Council by 6 May 2020.
- By 11 May 2020 Kent County Council will advise all Kent Primary, Infant and Junior schools, of the full details of all waiting list requests and late applications (reallocation list) for their schools to enable them to apply their over-subscription criteria. Only children who appear on the Kent County Council list can be considered for places on Kent County Council's reallocation day.
- If a child's circumstances have changed since their original application, Kent County Council will amend their waiting list details up to 6 May 2020. Kent County Council will not be able to amend details after this date. The full reallocation list must be put into the school's over-subscription criteria order. No distinction should be made on the basis of the child being a waiting list request or a late applicant.
- By 18 May 2020 The schools must return their ranked waiting lists to Kent County Council. Schools should also return all acceptance and refusal information collected to ensure Kent County Council can calculate places available for its reallocation day.
- On 10 June 2020 Kent County Council will re-allocate any places that have become available since offer day using the same process described in paragraph.
- Applicants will be sent a letter by 1st Class post that day, informing them of offers. In line with Kent County Council's ongoing desire to reduce the environmental and financial impact of large volume post runs, work will continue to produce email processes which will allow for the reduction of paper letters. Schools will be sent a list of all new offers and the remainder of their waiting lists. Late applicants will be added to the waiting list of each

school that they have not been offered. Determining Offers after Waiting Lists returned to Schools

- After 10 June 2020 waiting lists will be managed by schools and held in oversubscription criteria order. These lists can include:
 - (a) all applicants who were not offered a place on 16 April 2020, who asked to be included on the school's waiting list and who subsequently were not offered a place on 10 June 2020 (children on the waiting list described in paragraph 29);
 - (b) applicants who did not name the school on their RCAF/JCAF and who have approached the school to be considered via the In Year Common Application Form (IYCAF).
 - (c) Late applicants who have not previously been considered for a place at any Primary/Infant or Junior school and who have approached the school to be considered via Post Reallocation Reception Common Application Form (PRRCAF) or Post Reallocation Junior Common Application Form (PRJCAF).
- After 10 June 2020 Schools will make offers from their waiting lists for any spaces available. Kent advises schools to wait until 15 June 2020 before making offers to allow all parents an opportunity to receive their letters detailing the outcome of Reallocation. Schools must inform Kent County Council whenever an offer or refusal is made so that Kent County Council can record all activity. If a school has reached its Published Admission Number, or and agreed number in excess of its Published Admissions Number as specified in paragraph 1.4 of the Admissions Code, an applicant should not be admitted other than through the Independent Appeal process, the In Year Fair Access Protocol or where special arrangements relating to children in Local Authority Care or who ceased to be so because they were adopted, or with an EHCP apply.

Handling of Late Applications:

- Applications received after the RCAF/JCAF closing date until 10 February 2020
- The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round (as above) is 15 January 2020. As far as reasonably practicable, applications for places in the normal admissions round that are received late for a good reason will be accepted and considered 'on time', provided they are received by Kent County Council by 10 February 2020. Late applications cannot be made online, so applicants must complete a paper RCAF/JCAF and return it direct to Kent County Council. On time applicants can also request to amend their application up to this point for a good reason. These requests must be made in writing to the admissions team. Amendments made to the online system after 15 January 2020 will be ignored. Online applicants who amend preferences after 15 January 2020 may not be sent an email and their offer may not be available online. If offers are not available via email and online. They will alternatively be sent an offer letter by 1st class post.
- Exceptional provision is made for the families of UK Service Personnel and Crown Servants as required by the School Admissions Code. Applications will be accepted up until 10 February 2020, where it is confirmed in writing by the appropriate authority that the family

will be resident in Kent by 1 September 2020. A confirmed address, or, in the absence of this, a Unit or “quartering area” address, will be accepted as the home address from which home-school distance will be calculated. Children who are not successful in gaining any place they want will be allocated an available place at an alternative school, and will have the same access to a waiting list / right to appeal as other applicants. Applications received after 10 February 2020 but before 6 May 2020

- Applications received after 10 February 2020 but before 6 May 2020 (the deadline for inclusion in any reallocation made on 10 June 2020) will not be considered for places on 16 April 2020, but will be included in the re-allocation of places on 10 June 2020 as defined above. Applications received after 6 May 2020
- Late applications received after 6 May 2020 (the deadline for inclusion in any reallocation made on 10 June 2020) must be made directly to the LA. Parents will apply using the Post Reallocation Reception Common Application Form (PRRCAF) or Post Reallocation Junior Common Application Form (PRJCAF). Kent County Council will support and advise parents. These will be considered by each school after 10 June 2020, in accordance with a process similar to the in year admissions process (detailed in Section 2).