

15 November 2024

Dear Stakeholder

Admissions Consultation - for September 2026 admissions

Weald of Kent Grammar School is consulting on its policy for admissions in September 2026. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure that our school complies with the School Admissions Code (DfE, 2021) by consulting with our local and wider community when there are proposed changes and/or within every seven years.

The dates of the consultation have been set to comply with the School Admissions Code and provide the school's Board of Trustees time to consider comments made, in time for ratification and publication by February 28th 2024.

Period of consultation is November 15th 2024 to December 27th 2024.

Proposed changes

Year 7

There is a proposed increase to the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 270 to 300. This is following a temporary increase to this number for the last five years.

Sixth Form

- 2.1 Priority will be given to Weald of Kent pupils, who meet the entry requirements, transferring from Year 11 to the Weald of Kent Sixth Form.

Rationale: same text but emphasised in a new point.

- 2.3 A place is further based on spaces being available in appropriate subjects and the applicant meeting the published subject entry requirements (which can be found on the school website).

Rationale: additional point so that external applicants fully understand their place is subject to availability in appropriate subjects which have their own subject entry requirements published annually on the website

- 2.3 Applicants will be required to study a minimum of three A Levels.

Rationale: and additional comment to assist applicants in fully understanding that the academic programme of study is a minimum of three A Levels and we will not consider

applications based on a preference of one or two A Levels

- 2.4 Late Applications. Pupils who apply after the closing date of 15 January will be considered, with good reason, following GCSE Results Day, and after all other applicants have been considered, and dependent upon spaces being available in subjects.

Rationale – bringing policy into line with our practice of considering late applicants after those who completed the process on time

- 2.7 For applicants who are seeking a place in the sixth form outside of their normal age group, please see Section 3 of this policy. The school must be notified of this at application.

Rationale: we will consider out of age applicants only after we have considered applicants of the cohort. We are receiving an increasing number of such applications thus the additional comment made in this year's policy. These applicants are resitting GCSEs and have taken three or more years to achieve the same threshold as those on a standard two-year programme.

Appendices

Appendices have been amended to bring them up to date with current procedures. Procedural changes only.

How to respond to the consultation

The Board of Trustees would welcome comments and questions during this period of consultation on any aspect of the proposed changes to the policy, from those within the Weald community as well as prospective parents, stakeholders and the local community. All responses will be collated and considered by the Board prior to the determination of the admissions policy. The ratified policy will be published on the school website no later than February 28th 2025.

Responses can be sent:

- Via email to admissions@wealdgs.org
- Via post to 'Admissions Officer, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Tudeley Lane, Tonbridge, TN9 2JP'

Yours sincerely

Mr R Booth
Headteacher



The Weald of Kent Grammar School uses the Co-ordinated Admission Scheme administered by Kent Local Authority (LA), details of which are outlined in the Kent County Council (KCC) published “Admissions to Secondary Schools in Kent 2026” booklet.

1. Admission of children into Year 7

1.1 All applicants for Year 7 admission must have gained a selective place (i.e. met the required score in the Kent Test, as determined by KCC).

1.2 The Published Admission Number (PAN) is 300 girls for entry in September 2026. Places will be allocated on the grounds of care, pupil premium, family association, medical need, children of staff members and geography. Before the application of oversubscription criteria, applicants with a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan, who have been deemed as selective, and have named the school, will be admitted. Such admissions are included in the PAN.

1.3 The school is usually over-subscribed. If the number of applicants is greater than the number of places available, the following **Oversubscription Criteria** will be applied in priority order:

1. **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 including those 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 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). The school will follow the Guidance as issued, from time to time, by the Department for Education. It will be the parents' responsibility to provide appropriate evidence to prove that a child is either a 'Looked After Child' or a 'Previously Looked After Child'. For Previously LAC this will include the original Adoption Certificate.
2. **Pupil Premium.** Priority will be given to 40 Students in receipt of Pupil Premium who have passed the Kent Test. These places will be calculated on the basis of distance with those being the closest to the OS Reference (TQ 59489 45217) as determined by KCC, being given priority. A child is eligible for Pupil Premium where they have been registered for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years. This does not include girls who have only been eligible to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. Pupil Premium is also afforded to Children in LA Care or Previously in LA Care, however, these children will be prioritised in the relevant criteria above. Parents wishing to apply under this priority must ensure they complete the attached Supplementary Information Form and return it to the school by 31 October in the year of application. Parents must also complete an application (via online or paper Secondary Common Application Form) naming the school, otherwise their child cannot be considered for a place.
If these places are not filled by applicants in receipt of Pupil Premium by the LA on National Offer Day, any surplus or declined places will be offered to the next priority listed in our oversubscription criteria.
For more information on Pupil Premium places please refer to the Supplementary Information Form in Appendix 3. This is only required from applicants eligible and wish to apply for pupil premium. The deadline for submitting this form is 31 October.
3. **Current Family Association.** A sister or brother attending Weald of Kent at the time the child starts. In this context sister or brother means children who live as sister or brother, in the same house including natural sisters and brothers, adopted siblings, half siblings, stepsisters or brothers and foster sisters and brothers. If siblings from multiple births (twins, triplets, etc.) apply for a school

and the school would reach its PAN after admitting one of more, but before admitting all of those siblings, a place will be offered to each of the siblings, even if doing so takes the school above its PAN.

4. **Health and Special Access Reasons.** Medical, health, 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 with exceptional medical grounds for whom Weald of Kent is the best identified school to meet their needs. Such applications will be considered under this criterion only if they are supported by an attached written statement from a Hospital Consultant. This must demonstrate that there is a very specific connection between the child's medical need and the school requested. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents'/guardians', physical or mental health or social needs means there is a demonstrable and significant need for their child to attend Weald of Kent. All claims under this criterion must be submitted to the school by October 31st. Decisions will be made by the Admissions Committee.

5. **Children of Permanent Members of Staff.** A child who has passed the Kent Test and whose parent is a current and permanent member of staff, providing that his/her child lives in the same house as him/her. In this context a child means a natural daughter/son including adopted children and or foster children who live at the same address as the member of staff. A permanent member of staff is defined as a full-time teaching member, a full-time support member whose contract is 37 weeks and above, a part-time teaching member with a 50% and above timetable and a part-time support staff member who works more than 15 hours per week for 37 weeks or more. The definition does not include contract staff. If a service has been 'in house' and is subsequently 'contracted out' children of staff will no longer be eligible for priority admission under this criterion. The definition does not include peripatetic staff. A permanent member of staff can be defined as someone who has been employed directly by Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust for the last two years at the time of application or someone who was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

6. **Distance of the child's home to school.** The distance will be measured from the child's permanent home to the designated OS reference point (TQ 59489 45217) of the Tonbridge Campus. Category 6 includes the following postcodes and parishes:

Tonbridge Town is made up of TN9, TN10, TN11 and TN12 and the Parishes of Ightham, Ivy Hatch, Kings Hill, Pembury, Platt and St Mary's Platt, Plaxtol and Shipbourne.

The following Parishes within the Sevenoaks district are included:

Brasted, Chevening, Chiddingstone, Cowden, Dunton Green, Edenbridge, Godden Green, Halstead, Hever, Kemsing, Knockholt, Leigh, Otford, Penshurst, Riverhead, Seal, Sevenoaks town, Sevenoaks Weald and Underriver, Shoreham, Sundridge and Ide Hill, Westerham and Crockham Hill.

7. **All other Postcodes.**

1.4 **Nearness of Children's Homes to School.** The LA uses 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 the OS Reference (TQ 59489 45217) within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school Campus is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for the school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the Tonbridge campus of the school.

A student's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence and not an address at which your child might sometimes stay or sleep due to your own domestic or special arrangements. The address must be the student's home address on the day you completed your application form and which is either owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian, OR leased to or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement.

The school uses measurements provided by the LA and further information on how distances are calculated (including for flats) is available in the Admissions to Secondary School Booklet provided by the LA.

1.5 The distribution of pupils between the Tonbridge and Sevenoaks campuses is an internal decision and not included in this policy. The number of pupils allocated per campus will be determined annually by the Admissions Committee. The school will send a Campus Supplementary Information Form to applicants, with a welcome letter, once an offer of a place at the school has been made.

2. Admission into the Sixth Form

2.1 Priority will be given to Weald of Kent pupils, who meet the entry requirements, transferring from Year 11 to the Weald of Kent Sixth Form.

2.2 Weald of Kent Grammar School accepts applications from pupils to join its coeducational sixth form. All students joining Weald of Kent Grammar Sixth Form must meet the published academic entry requirements. The PAN for new applicants to the Sixth Form is 25, for external pupils who are in other schools in Year 11. This figure may be exceeded if there are more available spaces. Where the number of external candidates exceeds the PAN, the Sixth Form Oversubscription Criteria will apply, see 2.5.

2.3 Application process. Curriculum information together with details of the application procedure is published on the school website. All applicants meeting the academic criteria will follow through the application process given below:

- a) Completion of an Admissions application via Applicaa (this must be accessed via the link on the school website).
- b) A place is based on meeting the following academic requirements:
An average GCSE point score of at least 5.5 from the pupil's best eight subjects, and;
A minimum of a Grade 5 in Mathematics, and;
A minimum of a Grade 5 in either GCSE English Language or English Literature.
- c) A place is further based on spaces being available in appropriate subjects and the applicant meeting the published subject entry requirements (which can be found on the school website).

The school will only accept GCSE or iGCSE grades in support of an application. Applicants will be required to study a minimum of three A Levels.

2.4 Late Applications. Pupils who apply after the closing date of 15 January will be considered, with good reason, following GCSE Results Day, and after all other applicants have been considered, and dependent upon spaces being available in subjects.

2.5 Sixth Form Oversubscription Criteria. If there are more external applicants, who have met the academic requirements for entry, than the PAN, places will be offered in accordance with our oversubscription criteria.

1. Looked After Children
2. Pupil Premium*
3. Current Family Association
4. Health and Special Access Reasons
5. Children of Permanent Members of Staff
6. Average point score of best eight GCSEs

Each category will be further ranked by distance from the school (OS Reference TQ59489 45217 as determined by KCC).

Details of categories 1-5 can be found on pages 1-2 of this policy.

*Students in receipt of Pupil Premium should provide evidence from their current school or local authority as part of their application.

2.6 A waiting list of qualifying applicants will be maintained in the order of the oversubscription criteria until 31 December. This list will be re-ranked each time a new student is added.

2.7 For applicants who are seeking a place in the sixth form outside of their normal age group, please see Section 3 of this policy. The school must be notified of this at application.

2.8 **Right to appeal.** There is a right of appeal against the refusal of a place once GCSE results are published. This should be made using the link on the school website, found on the Admissions page, titled 'Appeal Information'. All appeals must be received within the date published on the school website. Appeals will be heard by an Independent Appeal Panel within 30 school days of receipt of the request.

3. Admission of children outside their normal age group

Admission Applications

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group. Parents who wish for their child to be educated out of year should contact the school in writing between April and May irrespective of age. Parents should provide evidence to support their request. If a child has a medical or educational psychologist report, this evidence must be provided with the application. The school will provide acknowledgement of this request and parents should then make an application via paper CAF to the LA attaching the written acknowledgement from the school. All applications will be processed in line with our normal admissions policy for the relevant cohort.

Accelerated Admission Applications

Where parents wish to apply for a place ahead of their daughter's actual year group they should contact the school in writing between April and May irrespective of age. Parents are not expected to provide evidence to support their request, however if a child has a medical or educational psychologist report this evidence must be provided with the application. The school will provide acknowledgement of this request and parents should then make an application via paper CAF to the LA attaching the written acknowledgement from the school. All applications will be processed in line with our normal admissions policy for the relevant cohort.

The Admissions Committee will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child, and include the views of the headteacher.

Please refer to the attached Appendix for the following procedures and information:

1. Admissions Procedure for entry at age 11
2. Procedure for Admission at age 12 + (In Year Admissions)
3. Supplementary Information Form

This policy will be reviewed annually and changes to the Policy will be published as required.

Signed: _____

(Headteacher)

Signed: _____

(Chair of Trustees)

Authors:	Ken MacSporran Lou Fung-On	Reviewed:	September 2024
Link Trustee/s:	FTB	Next Review Date:	September 2025

Ratified by Trustees: October 2024

APPENDIX 1 Admissions Procedure for entry at age 11

1.1 Gaining entry to the School and making an application

- a. Weald of Kent Grammar School is a selective* Academy school and admits girls at age 11 who have gained a Kent selective* place through the PESE process. Weald of Kent Grammar School sets no test of its own for applicants at this stage of entry. The PAN is **270**.
- b. Under the co-ordinated Admissions Scheme run by Kent County Council parents name four schools on the Secondary Common Application Form ("SCAF"). **Parents must express their preferences, and rank them accordingly.** Kent County Council acts as the co-ordinating authority for all admission applications and will allocate a place to the highest preference school for which the child is eligible. If there are more applications than vacancies for Weald of Kent, the school places are allocated using the published over-subscription criteria (see Policy). In the event of a tie breaker situation if more than one applicant has the same distance from home to school (as measured by the LA), then a random selection will be applied.
- c. Weald of Kent must be named on the SCAF for a student to be eligible for admission. Details of the Kent PESE tests are available from the Kent County Council booklet "Admission to Secondary Schools in Kent".
- d. Kent County Council will offer a place at a school which they will endeavour to make the highest of the four preferences named on the SCAF in accordance with the individual school's over subscription criteria. All children are sent one offer of a place on National Offer Day (March 1).

1.2 Acceptance/refusal

Weald of Kent Grammar School will send their welcome letters on a date as determined by KCC in March.

Parents must advise the school by the deadline date, as given by KCC, whether they are accepting or declining the place offered. The school will provide an online form to do so.

1.3 Waiting list procedures

- a. The waiting list is held by KCC between the first and second offer days. After the second offer day, the waiting list will be held and maintained by the Admissions Manager. This will include details of all applicants who have named the school on the SCAF and were not offered a place on National Offer Day and have asked to be included on the school's waiting list, and any late application sent to the school or by the co-ordinating authority.
- b. Applicants will be listed in order of priority, in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria. (NB: priority is not given based on the date the application was added to the waiting list.) The Waiting List will be re-ranked every time a new child is added.
- c. If Weald of Kent has vacancies against their PAN places will be offered in line with KCC's prescribed processes and then as vacancies arise.
- d. If Weald of Kent has reached its PAN it may not admit applicants other than through the Independent Appeal process.
- e. Waiting lists will be maintained after the new Year 7 intake has been admitted in September, for the academic year.
- f. Where a child has not been assessed as being suitable for a Grammar School, their parents cannot ask to join the waiting list for Weald of Kent.

1.4 Appeals

There is a parental right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel against the refusal of a place regardless of where the school was ranked on the SCAF. Appeals must be received within twenty days of National Offer Day, and using the Appeal Form provided by the school, found on the school website, on the Admissions page.

After 31st December, students wishing to make an application for a place in Year 7 will have to be CAT tested if they did not sit the Kent Test prior to 31st December.

There is no parental right of appeal against the Campus allocated.

1.5 Making a late nomination for Weald of Kent Grammar School

Where parents who do not nominate Weald of Kent Grammar School on the SCAF decide subsequently that they wish for their daughter to be considered for a place at the school, the application can only be considered after the 'reallocation offers'. Parents who think they might wish to pursue a place at the school are strongly urged to nominate Weald of Kent Grammar School on the SCAF.

APPENDIX 2 Procedure for Admission at age 12+ (In Year Admissions)

Weald of Kent Grammar School accepts applications for places, for girls, in Years 8, 9 and 10. These should be made directly to the school.

2.1 Application process:

- I. A completed IYAF form must be received by the Admissions Manager at Weald of Kent Grammar School. The IYAF can be found on the school website.
- II. Weald of Kent will write to confirm they are prepared to proceed with the request and the student will be invited into School for admissions tests.

All girls wishing to apply for a place will be required to sit CAT tests (quantitative, non-verbal and verbal reasoning) to establish whether they are working within the range of the existing cohort. A minimum of 112 in each test must be achieved with a mean score of 115 from the three tests.

Parents will be notified of the test results within fifteen school days. Following successful testing Weald of Kent will write to make an offer of a place if there is a place available. If the pupil's CAT results are below the entry requirement a place will not be offered. There is the right to lodge an appeal against any decision not to offer a place, (see 2.3).

After the offer has been made, the school expects the place to be taken up and for the pupil to start on roll within a reasonable time frame, no more than ten school days.

After the offer is made, the School reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

- When a parent has failed to respond to an offer within ten working days, or
- When a parent has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
- The admissions authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent.

2.2 Multiple Applications

In common with many selective schools, Weald of Kent Grammar School use GL Assessment CAT4UK tests to ascertain a child's eligibility. Given that students may only complete CAT tests once per calendar year. Where a family applies to any school which uses a CAT4 test we will share the test results with other schools to speed up the Admissions process and to reduce pressure on the individual child.

Should a parent refuse permission for other schools to share test results from CAT4 tests with Weald of Kent, the application to Weald of Kent will be declined.

2.3 Appeals

There is a parental right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel against the refusal of a place. This should be made using the Appeal Form provided by the school, found on the school website, on the Admissions page.

Appendix 3 The Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for Admissions Pupil Premium Notification

Required ONLY from applicants who are eligible for and wish to apply for pupil premium

This form does not constitute a valid application. You must complete the relevant KCC Application Form (SCAF or IYAF) if you wish your child to be considered for a place at Weald of Kent Grammar School, these are available directly from KCC or online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola.

The following sections should be completed and returned to the school **by 31 October**, to notify us that you are applying for a Pupil Premium place. This should be sent to Admissions Department, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Tudeley Lane, Tonbridge TN9 2JP.

Personal Details

Child's Surname:	
Child's Forenames:	
Child's Date of Birth:	
Permanent Home Address:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	
Parent/Carer:	

Other Details

Evidence of Eligibility:	Please provide a letter from the child's current school or a letter from the child's LA.
Declaration:	I confirm the information supplied is true and accurate and I consent to checks being made.
Parent/Carer Signature:	
Date:	

Pupil Premium Eligibility Criteria:

A child is eligible for Pupil Premium where they have been registered for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years. This does not include girls who have only been eligible to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. Pupil Premium is also afforded to Children in LA Care or Previously in LA Care, however, these children will be prioritised in the relevant criteria above.