



SMARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY **SEPTEMBER 2025 ENTRY**

Arrangements for applications for places in Reception at Swarden Primary School will be made in accordance with Kent's co-ordinated admission arrangements; parents resident in Kent can apply online [here](#); parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority. Swarden Primary School will use Kent's timetable published online for these applications and Kent will make the offers of places as required by the School Admissions Code.

Attendance at Swarden Pre-School does not guarantee admission to Swarden Primary School and a separate application must be made.

Published Admission Number (PAN)

Swarden Primary School admits 15 pupils into Reception. If there are fewer applicants than places available all applicants will be admitted. Children are admitted to the Reception Class in the school year in which they have their fifth birthday.

Special Educational Needs

Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school will be admitted. As a result of this, the PAN will be reduced accordingly.

Oversubscription Criteria

If there are more applications than places available we will apply the oversubscription criteria listed below:

- 1) 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 the school. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). Previously looked after children also includes those who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- 2) Children with medical or social needs which make the school particularly suitable for the child. Priority will be given to those children or their parent(s)/carer(s) whose mental or physical impairment, medical needs or social needs means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend Swarden Primary School. Applications for priority in this criterion will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other



practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between the applicant's (or their parent/carer's) needs and Smarden Primary School.

- 3) Children of any member of staff at the school:
 - where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
 - the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- 4) Children with brothers or sisters attending Smarden Primary School at the time of entry. Brother or sister means children who live as a brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers and sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.
- 5) Distance. 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). The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. Priority will be given to children living closest to the school.

Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the permanent home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of school nights Monday–Friday.

Tie-break

If the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two or more applicants for the last remaining place then random allocation will be used. This process will be supervised by somebody independent of the school.

Multiple Births

In the case of twins or other multiple births, where there is only one place available in the school, both will be considered together as one application. The school will be allowed to go above its admission number for this purpose.

Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information, for example a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.



Fair Access Protocol

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced, vulnerable children are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. The school will comply with Kent's Fair Access Protocol. This may mean admitting children above the PAN.

Deferred entry for Reception places

In accordance with the requirements of the Admissions Code, if your child has been offered a place: -

- a) your child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;
- b) you can defer the date your child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which your child reaches compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; and
- c) if you wish, your child may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which your child reaches compulsory school age.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so, they should include a written request with their application, setting out the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place and the reasons for their request. It is important for parents to note that they will have responsibility for providing evidence to support their request. When such a request is made, Smarden Primary School will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case, based on their professional judgement of what is in the best interest of the child, taking account of the evidence and rationale provided by the parents.

In-year admissions

As an academy we coordinate our own in-year admissions. Applicants should complete our in-year application form available from the school office. Parents will be notified of the outcome within 15 school days and will be provided with details about their right to appeal if a place is refused.

Waiting List

Any child refused a place at the school will automatically be put on the waiting list unless a higher preference school has been offered. A waiting list will be maintained until the end of the first term after which it will be cleared. If you would like your child to remain on the waiting list after the first term please contact the school.



The waiting list is maintained in the order of the oversubscription criteria. This means that names can move down the list if, e.g. someone moves into the area and is higher placed under the oversubscription criteria.

Appeals

The parents of any child refused a place at the school have a right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. The decision of the independent appeal panel is binding on all parties.