

25th November 2024

Consultation – Proposed Reduction to Published Admissions Number

Proposal

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust and Goodwin Academy are opening a period of formal consultation regarding the reduction of the Year 7 Published Admissions Number (PAN) at Goodwin Academy. The purpose of this consultation is to seek the views of parents, carers and other relevant stakeholders on our proposal.

Rationale

We are proposing that the PAN at Goodwin Academy is reduced from 180 to 150 for the September 2026 admissions process. Kent County Council as the local authority is aware of this proposal. The proposal will mean that the number of places available for children in Year 7 from September 2026 will be 150. There will be no change for children who already attend the Academy.

Sandwich and Deal non-selective planning area has 2 secondary schools, Sandwich Technology School and Goodwin Academy. Sandwich Technology School has a determined PAN of 255 and Goodwin 180. Currently, there are 117 pupils on roll in Year 7 at the Academy. As academies are funded on a per-pupil basis, this has a significant impact on the Academy's budget and workforce planning.

For the 2026/27 academic year, the local authority forecasts that 392 pupils will be on roll in Year 7 in the planning area, creating a surplus of 33 places in the planning area. Birth rates in the area suggest that we are not going to see a significant increase to Year 7 numbers in the coming years. Should the pressure for Year 7 places in the planning group exceed forecasts, the Trust will support the local authority in ensuring that there are sufficient school places on National Offer Day for all who require one.

The proposed change to admissions arrangements would allow us to set a sustainable budget and staffing structure moving forward. The ability to budget and plan our staffing more effectively will enable us to provide a higher standard of education to the children in our care, and ensure money is spent in a way that will best enhance the life chances of Goodwin Academy students.

If we do not reduce the PAN, we create a risk of pupil numbers fluctuating significantly each year, which then creates a significant financial risk to the Academy. Furthermore, the proposed change would not impact on families' ability to secure a secondary school place within the planning area. Should the demand for additional school places increase in the future, we will consider raising the PAN again to accommodate this.

The proposed admissions policy can be accessed online – [Draft 2026 Admissions Policy](#). If you require a printed version, please contact the school office to request this.

Who are we consulting with?

- Parents and Carers of Goodwin Academy Students
- Goodwin Academy Staff
- Kent County Council
- Local MP
- Local Councillors
- Local Primary Schools
- Local Secondary Schools
- Local Colleges
- Multi-Academy Trusts operating in the local area

Consultation

The consultation period will run for six weeks from Monday 25th November 2024 to Monday 6th January 2025 inclusive.

Views on this proposal are welcome via our Microsoft Forms link: [Goodwin PAN Consultation](#). The deadline for responses is Monday 6th January 2025. Alternatively, please feel free to submit your response via email at admin@goodwinacademy.org.uk, or in writing to the Academy Office (addressed to Mr P Jones, Headteacher). All responses will be considered carefully as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Jones
Headteacher

2026/2027 Admissions Cover Sheet

School Name	Goodwin Academy
Address	Hamilton Road Deal Kent CT14 9BD
Telephone number	03333 602210
Status	Academy (member of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust)
Date of determination	TBC - DRAFT

Goodwin Academy Admissions Policy 2026/2027

At Goodwin Academy we are committed to transforming the life chances of our students, ensuring that all are supported and encouraged to achieve their personal best. We deliver this through the BEST Agenda - 'Be Your Best' with BEST being an acronym for B = Brilliance, E = Enrichment, S = Society and T = Thinking.

We pride ourselves on our caring and compassionate ethos, which enables our students to grow in a supportive atmosphere conducive to their development. Where students need additional support, we will look to meet their needs through our highly effective pastoral system.

Ultimately, we aspire for our students to develop their academic and life skills, so that they become confident, well-rounded and contented individuals and are equipped and ready to be successful for the world of work and the challenges of the 21st Century.

Year 7 Admission Arrangements

The arrangements for co-ordinated admissions in Kent will be set out in detail in the Kent LA booklet for parents 'Admission to Secondary School', a copy of which will be available from the Principal or from the admissions team at the Education Office. The main points are summarised below:

- Parents complete the Kent common application form (CAF) in accordance with the Kent Co-ordinated Admission Scheme.
- The Local Authority will then act as clearing house for the administration of pupils' preferences. Parents will be informed from 1 March 2026.
- The school will also post to parents decisions of the governors on admission and details of the right of appeal against the governors' decision.

The school's published admission number is 150 in Years 7-11.

Where the Academy is named on a student's Education, Health and Care Plan, the student will be admitted by the Academy. The Academy is committed to ensuring that all SEND students have access to the same opportunities as other students.

The Academy has facilities for students with disabilities, including lift access and accessible bathroom facilities. All students are encouraged to take full part in the everyday activities of the Academy.

The SENCo will put in place additional support if required to enable every student to have the opportunity to take advantage of outside visits and field trips. Timetable and any other reasonable adjustments can be arranged if necessary to ensure full access to the curriculum. If the number of applications for admission to the Academy is greater than the Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 150, places will be allocated in the following priority order:

1st Looked After Children

Looked After Children and all children who have been previously looked after, but following being looked after became subject to an adoption order, child arrangement order or special guardianship order (*in the care of the Local Authority or provided with accommodation by the authority for a continuous period of more than 24 hours*), or children who appear to the Admission Authority to have been in state care outside of England but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted only.*

*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”.

2nd Children who, at the time of the admission, have a sibling who attends the Academy (Goodwin Academy).

For this purpose, “sibling” means a whole, half or step-sister or brother, or an adopted child resident at the same address. The Academy will also include in this criterion children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household. In the case of multiple births or siblings in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the Academy, the other child/children will be offered place above PAN.

3rd Children of staff employed by the Academy

Following the criteria above, priority will be given to the child of a person (1) who has been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time the application was made and/or (2) where the person was employed by the Academy to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.

4th Child’s health reasons

Written medical evidence from a General Practitioner or hospital consultant must be provided which demonstrates a specific health reason which requires the child to attend Goodwin Academy.

5th Any other children

In the event of the school being oversubscribed, priority will be given within each criterion based on distance from the school, with those closest being given higher priority. We will 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 data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child’s home as determined by KCC to a point defined as within the school, as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. 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.

Waiting List

All parents who have been refused a place at the school will have the option to indicate their wish to remain on the waiting list.

Children will be held on the waiting list by order of the oversubscription criteria in the Admissions Policy. No account can be taken of the length of time a pupil is on the list. A pupil’s position can change on the list as new applicants join or other applicants come off the waiting list.

The Goodwin Academy will be responsible for holding a waiting list for parents who request their child’s name be added until 31 December 2026.

Notwithstanding a child's place on the waiting list, if the local fair access protocol identifies the Academy as offering a suitable place for a child, i.e. one who falls within the scope of the protocol, then he or she will be offered a place.

Applications for admission outside the normal admissions round – in-year applications (all year groups)

This includes admissions arrangements for any transfers to any year up to and including Year 11, which do not fall within the initial Year 7 September admission. Parents/carers resident in Kent will be able to apply for a school place by using the form on line at http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/school_education/applying_for_a_school_place/in_year_admissions.aspx or by using a standard paper form known as the In-year Common Application Form (IYCAF), which is available from the Local Authority or the Academy Office. The Academy does not ask for additional information on a supplementary information form.

The Academy has the right to refuse the admission of children who have been permanently excluded from two or more schools. Should a student be considered to be hard to place under Schools Admission Code 2014 paragraph 3.15, the admission request will be referred to Kent to be considered by the Fair Access Panel rather than follow the normal admissions process.

If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria shall apply. Please see the oversubscription criteria section for more information. Parents/Carers whose application is turned down shall be entitled to appeal.

Children with statements of special educational needs, where the Academy is named, will be offered a place over PAN. The Academy reserves the right to discuss this with relevant agencies.

Application for admission outside the normal age range

Any parent wishing to place a child in the school in a year group different to their chronological age should first contact the school to explain the situation and the rationale underpinning the decision. The school will, in accordance with the School Admissions Code, consider all such requests and will respond to the parent on whether such an application would be accepted. If an application was submitted, it would be processed in line with the admission arrangements and the relevant test and, if applicable, oversubscription criteria applied.

Children from Overseas

Children entering the country for the first time will need to provide proof of British citizenship, EEA nationality or appropriate leave to remain in the UK. Documentation should ideally be included with the application.

Post 16 Admission Arrangements

Priority will be given to existing students transferring from Year 11 who have met the academic entry requirements for the Academy (published in the Sixth Form prospectus and on the website). Following the transfer of internal Year 11 students into the Sixth Form, all remaining places will be allocated to students who have met the entry requirements for the Sixth Form and their particular courses of study (specific criteria in relation to minimum entrance requirements for Year 12 based on GCSE grades or other measures of prior attainment will be published in the Academy's Sixth Form prospectus and website).

The Goodwin Academy will also publish academic entry requirements for each course available based upon GCSE grades or other measures of prior attainment. These criteria will be the same for internal and external transfers and will be published in its prospectus and on its website. Students failing to meet the grades for their preferred course option will be offered alternative

courses if available. Students already on Goodwin Academy school roll are entitled to transfer to Year 12 if they meet the published academic standards of entry.

Goodwin Academy operates a Sixth Form for a total of 300 students. 150 places overall will be available in Year 12 (the Year 12 'capacity'). The admission number for Year 12 is 35. This is the number of places which will be offered on an annual basis to eligible external applicants. If fewer of the Academy's own Year 11 pupils transfer into Year 12, additional external pupils will be admitted until Year 12 meets its capacity of 150.

The Academy will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the Academy who have met the entry requirements outlined above.

When the Sixth Form is undersubscribed all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted/ permitted to progress.

Post 16 Oversubscription Criteria

Following the transfer of internal students from Year 11, all remaining places will be allocated to external applicants who have met the entry requirements for the Sixth Form and their particular courses of study. Where there are more eligible external applicants (i.e. that satisfy the academic entry requirements outlined above) seeking places than the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied in the order set out below to rank external candidates until the overall figure for the year group is reached:

1st Looked After Children

Looked After Children and all children who have been previously looked after, but following being looked after became subject to an adoption order, child arrangement order or special guardianship order (*in the care of the Local Authority or provided with accommodation by the authority for a continuous period of more than 24 hours*), or children who appear to the Admission Authority to have been in state care outside of England but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted only.*

*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”.

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For this purpose, “sibling” means a whole, half or step-sister or brother, or an adopted child resident at the same address. The Academy will also include in this criterion children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household. In the case of multiple births or siblings in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the Academy, the other child/children will be offered place above PAN.

3rd Children of staff employed by the Academy

Following the criteria above, priority will be given to the child of a person (1) who has been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time the application was made and/or (2) where the person was employed by the Academy to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.

4th Child's health reasons

Written medical evidence from a General Practitioner or hospital consultant must be provided which demonstrates a specific health reason which requires the child to attend The Goodwin Academy.

5th Any other student

In the event of the school being oversubscribed, priority will be given within each criterion based on distance from the school, with those closest being given higher priority. We will 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 data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home as determined by KCC to a point defined as within the school, as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. 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.

Right of Appeal

Offers will be made with the requirement that entry requirements specified on the Academy's (Goodwin Academy) website and in its Sixth Form prospectus are achieved in the final examinations prior to entry to the Sixth Form. All offers made to external applicants are conditional upon students meeting the grade criteria specified and will only become firm offers upon the confirmation of actual GCSE results. Offer letters will be made before the end of March 2026. Offers will be confirmed once the school has been notified of GCSE results in August 2026.

All Year 11 transfers into the Sixth Form must meet the entry requirements specified on the Academy's (Goodwin Academy) website and in its Sixth Form prospectus.

Where external applicants have achieved better results than the predicted grades, they will be considered based on the grades achieved and ranked accordingly for any places that become available as a result of other students failing to meet the required entry levels.

Parents have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. The Appeal Panel will be independent of the Academy. The arrangements for appeals will be in line with the Appeals Code. The determination of the Appeal panel will be made in accordance with the Code and the outcome of the appeal hearing will be binding on all parties.

Distance criterion

Where it is necessary to prioritise applications, the criterion will be prioritised based on the shortest distance from the child's home to school. Distances will be measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home as determined by KCC to a point defined as within the school, as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody.

Child's Home Address

A child's home will be the address at which the child normally resides and which has been notified to the Academy and other relevant agencies as being the child's normal place of residence. If a child resides between split parents for different parts of the week the parents must agree and nominate one of their addresses to be used for the application.