



ADMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

The admissions process should be simple, fair and easy for parents to use. This policy aims to achieve this and complies with current admissions legislation.

The Discovery School is a community school and as such our admissions policy is set by Kent County Council in order with the local authority's Co-ordinated Scheme for Primary Admissions.

Admission Numbers and Intake Times

The school's published admission number (PAN) is 90

The Discovery School has one intake per year

Application Procedure

1. The Discovery School follows the procedures, timetable and deadlines set by Kent County Council.
2. Parents will have the opportunity to visit the school; we will contact people who have registered an interest in The Discovery School.
3. An RCAF (Reception Common Application Form) has to be completed at the appropriate time, online, and returned to Kent County Council.
4. Kent County Council allocate places based on the criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools:-
 - Children in Local Authority Care
 - Current Family Association (sibling)
 - Health and Special Access Reasons; including those children with an Education and Health Care Plan
 - Nearness of Children's Home to School

Oversubscription Criteria

Where the number of applicants exceeds 90 for a new intake, the following criteria will be applied.

Before the application of oversubscription criteria children with a bold statement of special educational need which names the school will be admitted. As a result of this the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

To be reviewed September 2022

1. Children in Local Authority Care and children who have been adopted from care

A child in care or a child who was previously looked after immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order is a child which is either in the care of the Local Authority or is being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of the social services functions.

2. Current Family Association

This refers to a brother or sister attending the same school when they start there and live at the same address. This includes: natural or adopted siblings; step or foster brother or sisters; those who live as brothers and sisters in the same house. This does not include cousins.

The sibling claim will stand if the family have continued to live at the same house as when the older sibling was admitted into the school, OR

- If the family have moved, and they have moved to within 2 miles of the school, OR
- If the family have moved nearer to the school.

However, if the family have moved more than 2 miles from the school since the older sibling was admitted, the sibling link is broken.

If siblings from multiple births apply for a school and the school reaches its published admission number after admitting one or more but not all of the children, KCC will offer a place to all of the multiple birth siblings. This is in line with school admission code and if doing so will take the school above its published admission number and possibly result in breaching class size legislation, the children are to be treated as 'excepted' pupils.

Unfortunately, if your older sibling is currently attending Year 6, you cannot claim a sibling link for a child applying for a Reception place intake, as the older sibling will be transferring to secondary school when they enter.

3. Health & 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 means 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 which can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and the particular school that parents feel is the **only** school that can accommodate these needs.

4. Nearness of Children's Homes to School

The home address for a child is to be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence and not an address at which the child may stay at during the week such as at grandparents or childminder's home.

Distances are measured in a straight line from a defined point within the child's home to a defined point within the school as defined by Ordnance Survey. Distances are worked out using Kent County Council's measuring software. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody.

Withdrawal of an offer of a place

Kent County Council has the right to withdraw an offered place in the following circumstances.

- When a parent has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time.
- If an application has been made by a parent in a fraudulent or intentionally misleading way.

Appeals

The Discovery School is an outstanding and therefore a very popular school. If it has not been possible for you to be offered a place at The Discovery School, you may have the right to appeal against this decision to an Independent Appeal Panel.

To obtain a Primary Appeal Pack, you can download and print off the pack from www.kent.gov.uk or contact Kent County Council on 03000 416 111. Once completed please return to:

The Appeals Administrator
Democratic Services
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

Admission Arrangements for Reception Year (EYFS)

At The Discovery School children have the opportunity to have nine full terms in the Foundation Stage and KS1. We admit all children in the September after their fourth birthday.

In order that all pupils and parents feel confident and comfortable within our school surroundings we invite all pre-schoolers to visit our school for settling in sessions before they start in September. This initiative allows both parents and pupils to build up their friendship networks, as well as meet their class teacher, other staff and familiarise themselves with their classroom, our school building and school routines.

Admission for Year Groups other than Reception

In Year Casual Admissions are admissions which take place outside of the normal entry to school. An IYCAF (in year common application form) needs to be completed and returned to the school for process. If a place is not available a refusal letter and a request for going onto the waiting list will be sent out. IYCAF forms are available from the school or online at www.kent.gov.uk.

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