

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Rory Love, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

25/00022

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

Key decision: YES

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- a) *be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:*
- the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;*
 - significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether County-wide or in a particular locality.*

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Proposed Co-ordinated Schemes for Primary and Secondary Schools in Kent and Admission Arrangements for Primary and Secondary Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2026/27

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to approve the determined admission arrangements as set out below:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2026/27 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2026/27 incorporating the In Year admissions process and Kent Test process as detailed in Appendix B
- c) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools in Kent 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix C
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix D
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2026/27 as set out in Appendix C
- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2026/27 as set out in Appendix D
- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix A and the relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Secondary Schools 2026/27 as set out in Appendix B

Reason(s) for decision:

Background

1.1 The Local Authority (LA), as the admissions authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, is required to determine its admission arrangements for these schools by 28 February each year.

1.2 The Education Act 2002 includes a duty on each LA, to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all maintained schools in its area and to take action to secure the agreement to the scheme by all admission authorities. Education Cabinet Committee is requested to comment and inform the forthcoming Cabinet Member decision to agree the Co-ordinated scheme for Admissions to Primary and Secondary schools in Kent for 2026/27 and determine the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.

1.3 All admission arrangements identified in this document are outside the arrangements for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).

1.4 KCC has consulted the Headteachers and Governors of all Kent Primary and Secondary schools on its proposals to co-ordinate admissions to all Kent Primary and Secondary schools for September 2026. Due to the fact the scheme remains unchanged other than date adjustments to accommodate the minor variations between annual calendars, admissions authorities have been advised that non-response to the consultation, constitutes full acceptance to the proposals.

Equality Implications

Reviewed Equalities Impact Assessments were considered as part of this process

Financial Implications

Following the outcomes of the consultation there may be changes to school provision in identified areas in order to fulfil the intent of the admissions schemes and arrangements. The costs to this provision will be identified in the subsequent reports that will be considered by Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee where necessary. There is an annual cost for the provision of Kent test materials in the region of £200-230k in line with provider contracts, which in turn are finalised through competitive tender in conjunction with Commissioning colleagues.

Legal Implications

The Education Act 2002 includes a duty on each LA, to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all maintained schools in its area and to take action to secure the agreement to the scheme by all admission authorities

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee consider the decision on 27 February 2025.

An LA consultation ran from 10 December 2024 and 29 January 2025 and considered the following aspects:

- a) The Primary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2026/27;
- b) The Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2026/27;

Further LA consultations ran from 2 December 2024 and 13 January 2025 which adjusted the Published Admissions Number (PAN) for the following schools, which are proposed as a result of reduced forecasted demand in the locality around the school:

- Sevenoaks Primary School - reduce PAN from 90 to 60
- Woodlands Primary School - reduce PAN from 90 to 60
- Tunbury Primary School - reduce PAN from 90 to 60
- Downs View Infant School - reduce PAN from 90 to 60
- Bodsham CofE Primary School - reduce PAN from 13 to 10
- Herne Bay Infant School – reduce PAN from 90 to 60
- Guston CofE Primary School - reduce PAN from 22 to 20 and addition of Service Pupil Premium criterion

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The Education Act 2002 includes a duty on each LA, to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all maintained schools in its area and to take action to secure the agreement to the scheme by all admission authorities.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None

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signed

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date