

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Beverley Fordham, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

26/00015

For publication

Key decision: YES

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 2027/28

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2027/28 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2027/28 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 2027/28 as detailed in Appendix C
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent 2027/28 as detailed in Appendix D
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2027/28 as set out in Appendix C
- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2027/28 as set out in Appendix D
- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2027/28 as detailed in Appendix A and the relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Secondary Schools 2027/28 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 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 2027/28 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 2027. 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 Procurement 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:

An LA consultation ran from 25 November 2025 and 9 January 2026 and considered the following aspects:

- a) The Primary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2027/28;
- b) The Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2027/28;

Further LA consultations ran from 17 November 2025 and 2 January 2026 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:

- Broadwater Down Primary School – reduce PAN from 30 to 15
- Eastry Church of England Primary School – reduce PAN from 30 to 15
- Eythorne Elvington Community Primary School – reduce PAN from 20 to 15
- Hythe Bay CofE Primary School – reduce PAN from 45 to 30
- St Peter’s Church of England Primary School, Aylesford – increase PAN from 24 to 30
- St Saviour’s Church of England Junior School – reduce PAN from 96 to 64

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