



Dated: 15th April 2016

**Kent County Council
Determined Co-ordinated Scheme for
Primary Admissions
Academic Year 2016/17**

**Incorporating Entry to Year R,
Transfer from Infant School to Junior School
(Year 2-3)
and
Determined Primary In-Year Admissions
Process for Schools**

Produced by:
Fair Access - Admissions

Table of Contents

| | Page Number |
|--|--------------------|
| Introduction / Background | 3 |
| Section 1 – Details of the Co-ordinated Scheme for Entry to Year R and Transfer from Infant School to Junior School (Year 2-3) | 4-12 |
| Section 2 – Details of the Primary In-Year Admissions Process | 13-18 |
| Section 3 – Glossary of Terms | 19-20 |

Contact Details

Admissions and Transport Office
Room 2.24
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

Tel: 03000 412121

E-mail: primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Introduction / Background

Each year, the Local Authority is required to draw up, consult on and determine:

- Co-ordinated admission arrangements (schemes) for all schools in the Local Authority area for entry at the normal time of admission (Year R for infant and primary schools, Year 3 for junior schools and Year 7 for secondary schools).
- There is a duty on the LA to secure agreement on the Admissions Scheme from all admission authorities including Academies in Kent. If the LA does not secure this agreement it must inform the Secretary of State no later than the 15 April who will then impose a scheme to which all admission authorities must adhere.
- This consultation ran from 9.00 am on 1 December 2014 until 5:00pm on 5 January 2015. Every Kent School, Academy and Co-ordinating Free School is required to agree to the admissions scheme and adhere to it. **Kent County Council made it clear in its consultation that it would constitute full acceptance to the proposed scheme if schools chose not to respond.**

Section 1 –

Details of the Co-ordinated Scheme for Entry to Year R and Transfer from Infant School to Junior School Year 3

This section details the Co-ordinated Scheme for Entry to Year R and Transfer from Infant School to Junior School (Year 2-3) in September 2016.

Year R applications are normally for children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012.

Year 3 applications are normally for children born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009.

The Key Scheme dates are:

| Key Action | Scheme Date |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| National closing date for application forms | Friday 15 Jan 2016 |
| Summary of applicant numbers sent to all Kent primary, infant and junior schools | By Friday 12 February 2016 |
| Full applicant details sent to all Kent primary, infant and junior schools for ranking against their over-subscription criteria | By Friday 19 February 2016 |
| Ranked lists returned to Kent County Council by all schools. Deadline for school to inform Kent County Council of wish to offer in excess of PAN | By Friday 4 March 2016 |
| Primary, infant and junior schools sent list of allocated pupils | Tuesday 12 April 2016 |
| National Offer Day: e-mails sent after 4pm and letters sent 1st class post | Monday 18 April 2016 |
| Schools send out welcome letters no earlier than | Wednesday 20 April 2016 |
| Deadline for late applications and waiting list requests to be included in Kent County Council's reallocation stage. Also date by which places should be accepted or declined to schools | By Monday 16 May 2016 |
| Deadline for lodging of appeals | Tuesday 17 May 2016 |
| Kent County Council will send schools reallocation waiting lists for ranking against their over-subscription criteria | Friday 20 May 2016 |
| Schools to send their ranked reallocation waiting list and acceptance and refusals to KCC | Tuesday 7 June 2016 |
| Kent County Council to reallocate places that have become available from the schools' waiting lists. After this point, schools will take back ownership of their waiting lists. | Friday 17 June 2016 |

In addition this scheme:

- (a) Allows for Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs) to be returned directly to schools to assist in the ranking of applicants against the schools over-subscription criteria.
- (b) confirms that on **17 June 2016** Kent County Council will run one reallocation process offering places to late applicants and original applicants that have joined a school's waiting list after offer day. Kent County Council will consider late applicants through the process described in paragraphs 26 to 35. After **17 June 2016**, Kent County Council will enable schools to accept applications directly and offer vacancies as they arise, to children on their waiting lists. Copies of applications will be forwarded by parents to Kent County Council who will support and advise parents where this is needed. Schools must notify Kent County Council of any offers or refusals that are made at the same time these are made to parents.

Kent County Council expects that all schools and Admissions Authorities including academies and co-ordinating Free schools engaged in the sharing of admissions data will manage personal information in accordance with the Data Protection principles.

1.

For normal points of entry to school, Kent resident parents will have the opportunity to apply for their child's school place either online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or by using a standard paper form known as the Reception Common Application Form (RCAF) or Junior Common Application Form (JCAF). Kent County Council cannot accept multiple applications for the same child. A parent may use either of the above methods, but not both. Kent County Council will take all reasonable steps to ensure that every parent resident in the Kent knows how to apply for a school place by completing a RCAF/JCAF online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or on paper, and has access to a written explanation of the co-ordinated admissions scheme.

2.

The RCAF will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into Year R (the first year of primary education) and the JCAF for Year 3 of junior schools. Online applications cover both of the above.

3.

The RCAF/JCAF or online application must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents resident in the Kent County Council area wishing to express a preference for their child:

- (a) to be admitted to a school within the Kent County Council area (including VA and Foundation schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools).
- (b) to be admitted to a school located in another Local Authority's area (including VA, Foundation schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools).

4.

Details of this scheme will apply to every application made by a Kent resident applying to Kent schools. Where a Kent resident applies to schools located in another Local Authority, variations may apply to take into account differences present in that Local Authority's scheme.

5.

Online applications, RCAF/JCAF and supporting publications will:

- (a) invite parents to express up to **three** preferences in priority order. Preferences can be expressed for Kent and non-Kent schools. Parents **must** complete the application for their home Local Authority (e.g. Kent residents complete Kent applications, Medway residents complete Medway applications, etc).
- (b) allow parents to give reasons for each preference, including details of any siblings that will still be on roll at the preferred school at the time of the applicant child's admission.
- (c) explain that parents will receive the offer of one school place only and that:
 - (i) a place will be offered at the highest available ranked preference for which they are eligible;and
 - (ii) if a place cannot be offered at any school named on the form, a place will be offered at an alternative school.
- (d) Specify the closing date for applications and where paper RCAF/JCAF must be returned to, in accordance with paragraph 7.
- (e) explain that parents cannot name primary schools on the JCAF and that if they do, they will be deleted and the preference will be lost.

6.

Kent County Council will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:

- (a) the online admissions website is readily accessible to all who wish to apply using this method.
- (b) the paper RCAF/JCAF are readily available on request from Kent County Council, Kent maintained primary, infant and junior schools and are also available on the Kent County Council website to print, complete and return.
- (c) a composite prospectus of all Kent maintained primary, infant and junior schools and written explanation of the co-ordinated admissions scheme is readily available on request from Kent County Council, Kent maintained primary, infant and junior schools and is also available on the Kent County Council website to read or print.

7.

Completed applications must be submitted online and paper RCAF/JCAF returned to Kent County Council or any Kent Primary School by **15 January 2016**.

8.

Applications made on the RCAF/JCAF and returned direct to any school before **16 May 2016** must be forwarded to Kent County Council immediately to ensure inclusion in the appropriate allocation stage.

Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs)

9.

Only applications submitted on a RCAF/JCAF (online or paper) are valid. Completion of a school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) alone does not constitute a valid application. Where schools use SIF they must confirm with the parent on receipt of their completed form that they have also made a formal application to Kent County Council.

10.

A school can ask parents who wish to name it, or have named it, on their RCAF/JCAF, to provide additional information on a SIF only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply its oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a SIF is required it must be requested from the school or Kent County Council and returned to the school. All schools that use SIFs must include the proposed form in their consultation document and in their published admission arrangements.

11.

Children with Statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan do not apply to schools for a place through the main round admissions process.

Any application received for a child with an SEN or EHCP will be referred directly to Kent County Council's Special Educational Needs Services (SEN), who must have regard to Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 " the LA must name the maintained school that is preferred by parents providing that:

- the school is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude and the special educational needs set out in part 2 of the statement
- the child's attendance is not incompatible with the efficient education of other children in the school, and
- the placement is an efficient use of the LA's resources"

Where a pupil is resident in another Local Authority, the home Authority must again comply with Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 which states:

"A local education authority shall, before specifying the name of any maintained school in a statement, consult the governing body of the school, and if the school is maintained by another local education authority, that authority."

Other Authorities looking for Kent school places for statemented pupils will need to contact Kent County Council's SEN team in addition to the relevant school.

Determining Offers in Response to the RCAF/JCAF

12.

Kent County Council will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to RCAF/JCAF completed online or on paper. Kent County Council will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the RCAF/JCAF where:

- (a) it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority;
- (b) an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school;
- (c) an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has named.

Kent County Council will allocate places in accordance with paragraph 17.

13.

By 12 February 2016 Kent County Council will:

- (a) notify all schools of the number of applications received for their school;
- (b) notify and forward details of applications to the relevant authority/authorities where parents have nominated a school outside the Kent County Council area.

14.

By 19 February 2016 Kent County Council will advise all Kent primary, infant and junior schools of the full details of all valid applications for their schools via rank lists, to enable them to apply their over-subscription criteria. Only children who appear on Kent County Council's list can be considered for places on the relevant offer day.

15.

By 4 March 2016 All Kent primary, infant and junior schools, including academies and co-ordinating free schools, **must** return completed lists, ranked in priority order in accordance with their over-subscription criteria, to Kent County Council for consideration in the allocation process. Where a school fails clearly to define its oversubscription criteria in its determined arrangements, the definitions laid out by Kent County Council must be adopted.

16.

4 March 2016 will also be the final deadline by which any school may notify Kent County Council of their intention to admit above PAN. Changes cannot be made after this date because Kent County Council will not have sufficient time to administer its coordination responsibilities.

17.

By 24 March 2016 the LA will match each ranked list against the ranked lists of every other school named and:

- (a) where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the named schools, will allocate a place at that school to the child;
- (b) where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the named schools, will allocate a place to the child at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference;
- (c) where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the named schools, will allocate a place to the child at an alternative school.

18.

By 24 March 2016 Kent County Council will have completed any data exchange with other Local Authorities to cover situations where a resident in Kent County Council's Local Authority area has named a school outside Kent, or a parent living outside the Kent County Council's Local Authority area has named a Kent school.

19.

By 12 April 2016 Kent County Council will inform schools of the pupils to be offered places at their establishment, and will inform other Local Authorities of places to be offered to their residents in its schools and Academies. Schools must not share this information with parents before **18 April 2016**.

20.

On Offer day, 18 April 2016 Kent County Council will:

(a) send an offer email after 4pm to those parents who have applied online and provided a valid email address.

1. The name of the school at which a place is offered.
2. Information about the right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places at other named schools.
3. Information on how to request a place on a waiting list for schools originally named as a preference, if they want their child to be considered for any places that might become available.

(b) send decision letters to ALL paper CAF applicants and online applicants that did not receive an offer of their first preference. In line with Kent County Council's ongoing desire to reduce the environmental and financial impact of large volume post runs, work will continue to produce email processes which will allow for the reduction of paper letters. The letter will give:

1. The name of the school at which a place is offered.
2. The reasons why the child is not being offered a place at any school named on the RCAF/JCAF as a higher preference than the school offered.
3. Information about the right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places at other named schools.
4. Information on how to request a place on a waiting list for schools originally named as a preference on their RCAF/JCAF, if they want their child to be considered for any places that might become available.
5. advice on how to find contact details for the school and Local Authority and the admission authorities of Foundation, VA schools, Academies and co-ordinating Free schools where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal with the governing body.

21.

The letter and/or email will notify parents that they need to respond to the offered school to accept or refuse the offer. It will inform parents to send waiting list requests to Kent County Council. It will also inform them of their right to appeal against the refusal of a place at any school on their application and where and when to lodge the appeal.

22.

Parents who reside in other Local Authorities, but who have applied for a Kent school or schools, will be notified of whether or not they are being offered a place at a Kent school by their own Local Authority on **18 April 2016**.

23.

Kent pupils who have not been offered a place at any of the schools nominated on their RCAF/JCAF will be allocated a place by Kent County Council at an alternative school in the Kent County Council area. This place will be offered on **18 April 2016**.

24.

Schools will send their welcome letters **no earlier than 20 April 2016**.

Acceptance/Refusal of Places - 16 May 2016

25.

By 16 May 2016 parents must inform the school whether they wish to accept or refuse the

place offered on offer day. Refusals should be made in writing or via e-mail to provide an appropriate audit trail. If a response has not been received by **16 May 2016**, the school **must** remind the parent in writing of the need to respond within a further seven days and point out that the place may be withdrawn if no response is received. Only after taking reasonable measures to secure a response from parents will a school be able to retract the offer of a place.

Determining Offers in Reallocation Process

26.

Kent County Council will collect a reallocation list for all schools up to **16 May 2016**. This will include details of the following:

- (a) all applicants who named the school on the RCAF/JCAF and were not offered a place on **18 April 2016** and who have asked to be included on the school's waiting list;
- (b) late applicants who named the school on their applications which were sent to Kent County Council by **16 May 2016**.

27.

By 20 May 2016 Kent County Council will advise all Kent primary, infant and junior schools, of the full details of all waiting list requests and late applications (reallocation list) for their schools to enable them to apply their over-subscription criteria. Only children who appear on the Kent County Council list can be considered for places on Kent County Council's reallocation day. The full reallocation list must be put into the school's over-subscription criteria order. No distinction should be made on the basis of the child being a waiting list request or a late applicant.

28.

By 7 June 2016 The schools must return their ranked waiting lists to Kent County Council. Schools should also return all acceptance and refusal information collected to ensure Kent County Council can calculate places available for its reallocation day.

29.

On 17 June 2016 Kent County Council will re-allocate any places that have become available since offer day using the same process described in paragraph 17. Applicants will be sent a letter by 1st Class post that day, informing them of offers. Schools will be sent a list of all new offers and the remainder of their waiting lists. Late applicants will be added to the waiting list of each school that they have not been offered.

Determining Offers after Waiting Lists returned to Schools

30.

After **17 June 2016** waiting lists will be managed by schools and can include:

- (a) all applicants who were not offered a place on **18 April 2016**, who asked to be included on the school's waiting list and who subsequently were not offered a place on **17 June 2016** (children on the waiting list described in paragraph 29);
- (b) applicants who did not name the school on their RCAF/JCAF and who have approached the school to be considered via Post Reallocation Reception Common Application Form (PRRCAF) or Post Reallocation Junior Common Application Form (PRJCAF).
- (c) Late applicants who have not previously been considered for a place at any

Primary/Infant or Junior school and who have approached the school to be considered via PRRCAF/PRJCAF. These applicants should also provide a copy of their application to Kent County Council who will support and advise parents where this is needed.

31.

After 17 June 2016 Schools will make offers from their waiting lists for any spaces available. Kent advises schools to wait until **19 June 2016** before making offers to allow all parents an opportunity to receive their letters detailing the outcome of Reallocation. Schools must inform Kent County Council whenever an offer or refusal is made so that Kent County Council can record all activity. If a school has reached its Published Admission Number an applicant cannot be admitted other than through the Independent Appeal process, the In Year Fair Access Protocol or where special arrangements relating to children in Local Authority Care or who ceased to be so because they were adopted, or with SSEN apply.

Handling of Late Applications:

Applications received after the RCAF/JCAF closing date but before 12 February 2016

32.

The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round (as above) is **15 January 2016**. As far as reasonably practicable, applications for places in the normal admissions round that are received late for a good reason will be accepted and considered 'on time', provided they are received by Kent County Council before **12 February 2016**. Late applications cannot be made online, so applicants must complete a paper RCAF/JCAF and return it direct to Kent County Council. On time applicants can also request to amend preferences up to this point for a good reason. These requests must be made in writing to the admissions team. Amendments made to the online system after **15 January 2016** will be ignored. Online applicants who amend preferences after **15 January 2016** will not be sent an email and their offer will not be available online. They will be sent an offer letter by 1st class post.

33.

Exceptional provision is made for the families of UK Service Personnel and Crown Servants as required by the School Admissions Code. Applications will be accepted up until **12 February 2016**, where it is confirmed in writing by the appropriate authority that the family will be resident in Kent by **1 September 2016**. A confirmed address, or, in the absence of this, a Unit or "quartermaster area" address, will be accepted as the home address from which home-school distance will be calculated. Children who are not successful in gaining any place they want will be allocated an available place at an alternative school, and will have the same access to a waiting list / right to appeal as other applicants.

Applications received on or after 12 February 2016 but before 16 May 2016

34.

Applications received after **12 February 2016** but before **16 May 2016** (the deadline for inclusion in any reallocation made on **17 June 2016**) will not be considered for places on **18 April 2016**, but will be included in the re-allocation of places on **17 June 2016** as defined above.

Applications received after 16 May 2016

35.

Late applications received after **16 May 2016** (the deadline for inclusion in any reallocation made on **17 June 2016**) must be made directly to the schools. Parents will apply using the Post Reallocation Reception Common Application Form (PRRCAF) or Post Reallocation Junior Common Application Form (PRJCAF). These applicants should also provide a copy of their application to Kent County Council who will support and advise parents where this is

needed. These will be considered by each school after **17 June 2016**, in accordance with a process similar to the in year admissions process (detailed in Section 2).

Cancelling applications

36.

Applications considered as 'on time' detailed in paragraph 7 and 32 can be cancelled or individual preferences can be removed by the applicant up to **4 March 2016** (the deadline for schools returning ranked lists). Requests must be made to the admissions team in writing. New preferences cannot be added to an application at this point. After this date, it is not possible to cancel applications or remove preferences as the offer allocation process will have started.

37.

Parents that have cancelled an 'on time' application may submit a late application, for consideration under the reallocation process. The deadline for these late applications is **16 May 2016**.

38.

Where an application is cancelled, parents cannot join a school's waiting list or appeal for a school that was on their original application unless they submit a new application for the school after **17 June 2016**.

Appeals

39.

All parents have the statutory right to appeal against any decision refusing them a school place and must lodge their appeal by **17 May 2016** for it to be considered as on time.

40.

Where parents have lodged an appeal against the refusal of a place and a place becomes available at the school, the place can then be offered without an appeal being heard, provided there are no other applicants at that time ranked higher on the school's waiting list, which is held in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria.

Summer Born Applications

41.

Kent will process applications for children outside the normal age range in exceptional circumstances taking account of the needs of the child and the impact on the school. A decision as to whether an application will be accepted outside of the admissions round is a decision for the admissions authority, which will normally be guided by the Headteachers of the schools in question. Further Information will be made available to parents on how applications should be made at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. Parents are advised to talk to schools no later than **20 November 2015** to enable a decision to be made before the closing date of the round on **15 January 2016**.

Section 2 –

Details of the Primary In-Year Admissions Process for Schools

In-Year Casual Admission Form.

1.

The scheme shall apply to every maintained school and Academy in the LA area (except special schools), which are required to comply with its terms, and it shall take effect from the point of formal Kent County Council Cabinet Determination.

2.

Kent County Council will produce a standard form, known as the In-Year Casual Admission Form (IYCAF), which Kent schools must use to allow applicants to apply for school places in any year group outside of the normal admissions round. Applicants must use one form for each school they wish to apply for.

3.

As Kent is no longer co-ordinating In-Year admissions, applications to out of county schools and from out of county residents will not have a standard process and will instead depend on the process of the county in question. Kent residents who wish to apply for a place at an out of county school will need to either approach the school or local authority directly. This will vary between authorities.

4.

Out of county residents of authorities that co-ordinate In-Year admissions should complete their authority's Common Application Form and return it to their authority. Kent County Council has given permission to each authority to liaise directly with Kent schools. Out of county residents of authorities that do not co-ordinate are free to contact Kent schools directly to request a place. It is the responsibility of the out of county resident to ensure they apply by the appropriate method.

5.

Parents will be able to obtain information about the process, other authority processes and IYCAFs from Kent County Council's Admissions and Transport Office or from any local Kent school. Enquiries can also be made via e-mail (kentinyearadmissions@kent.gov.uk). Information and IYCAFs will also be available on the Kent County Council's website to read and print.

6.

Kent County Council will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all relevant information is available upon request to any parents who require it.

7.

The IYCAF will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils to a school in the year group applied for.

8.

The IYCAF must be used by parents resident in the Kent County Council area as a means of expressing one preference for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, for their child to be admitted to a school within the Kent County Council area (including VA and Foundation schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools)

9.

Parents wishing to apply for more than one school must complete a separate form for each school. Completed forms must be returned directly to the school. Applications by Kent residents to out of county schools should be made to either the other local authority or school, depending on that local authority's In-Year process.

10.

The IYCAF will:

- (a) invite the parent to express a school preference.
- (b) invite parents to give their reasons for the preference and give details of any siblings that may be attending the preferred school.
- (c) explain that the parent must complete a form for each school they wish to apply for and return each form to the corresponding school.
- (d) explain that Kent County Council will be informed of any application and will monitor any subsequent offers that are made.
- (e) direct the parent to contact Kent County Council where they are unable to secure a school place.
- (f) explain where they can find information about applying to non-Kent schools.

11.

Kent County Council will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:

- (a) that the IYCAF is available in paper form on request from Kent County Council and from all maintained primary schools, Academies and Co-ordinating Free Schools in the Kent County Council area; and
- (b) that the IYCAF is accompanied by a written explanation of the In-Year admissions process in an easy to follow format.

12.

IYCAFs for Kent schools must be returned to the school. Schools must process them, no later than 5 days from receipt.

Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs)

13.

All completed IYCAFs are valid applications. A school can ask parents who wish to nominate it, or have nominated it, on the IYCAF, to provide additional information on a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply its oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a SIF is required it must be requested from the school or Kent County Council (where supplied) and returned to the school. All schools that use SIFs must include the form in their published admission arrangements.

14.

A SIF is not a valid application by itself: a formal application can only be made on the IYCAF (or corresponding form if out of county applicants live in a county which co-ordinates In-Year admissions). When SIFs are received, the school must ensure that the IYCAF or neighbouring LA's Common Application Form has been completed by the parent and, if not, contact the parent and ask them to complete one. Parents will not be under any obligation to complete any part of an individual school's supplementary information form where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply its oversubscription criteria.

15.

a)

Children with Statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan do not apply to schools for a place through the main round admissions process.

Any application received for a child with an SSEN or EHCP will be referred directly to Kent County Council's Special Educational Needs Services (SEN), who must have regard to Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 " the LA must name the maintained school that is preferred by parents providing that:

- the school is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude and the special educational needs set out in part 2 of the statement
- the child's attendance is not incompatible with the efficient education of other children in the school, and
- the placement is an efficient use of the LA's resources"

Where a pupil is resident in another Local Authority, the home Authority must again comply with Schedule 27 of the Education Act 1996 which states:

"A local education authority shall, before specifying the name of any maintained school in a statement, consult the governing body of the school, and if the school is maintained by another local education authority, that authority."

Other Authorities looking for Kent school places for statemented pupils will need to contact Kent County Council's SEN team in addition to the relevant school.

b)

Children in Local Authority Care (CiC) and Children Adopted from Care

When applications are made for young people in the care of other Local Authorities or who ceased to be so because they were adopted, Kent County Council - as receiving authority - will confirm an offer of a school place with the placing authority. Where an in-year application is received from the corporate parent of a child in Local Authority Care or who ceased to be so because they were adopted, Kent Admissions team will expect that in line with Statutory Guidance *, arrangements for appropriate education will have been made as part of the overall care planning, unless the placement has been made in an emergency. Where the placement has been made in an emergency, and this is not the case, Kent, as the receiving authority, will refer the matter to a school identified by the placing authority, to establish if an offer of a place can be provided. If the school is at capacity or the school provision is not considered appropriate, Kent County Council will advise the home authority of the schools position and where possible identify alternative education provision that may be more suitable to meet the child's needs. It will be for the corporate parent to determine whether it wishes to challenge the school's or the LA's position or identify an alternative education setting more suited to meeting the child's needs.

Where Kent County Council is the corporate parent of the child in question, an appropriately appointed social worker will liaise in the first instance with Admission Placement Officers and other professionals as necessary, in order to agree the school or setting that would best meet the individual needs of the child (most appropriate provision for the child). Kent County Council will then allocate a place (where it is the admission authority for the school) or contact the school directly and seek a place where it is not. Where a school refuses to admit the child Kent County Council as corporate parent will decide whether to initiate proceedings required to either direct or instruct the school in question or consider if other education provision may be in the best interest of the child.

* *Statutory Guidance on the duty of local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children under section 52 of the Children Act 2004 (S35.1-37)*

c)

Exceptional provision is made for the families of UK Service Personnel, Crown Servants and British Council employees, as required by the School Admissions Code. A confirmed address, or, in the absence of this, a Unit or "quartering area" address, will be accepted as the home address from which home-school distance will be calculated. This must be confirmed by a letter from the Commanding Officer or the Foreign Office. However, this does not guarantee a place at the parent's preferred school for their child. Places cannot be held for an extended period of time, as this could create disadvantage with other applications.

Determining Offers in Response to the IYCAF

16.

The school will notify applicants resident in the Kent County Council area by letter the outcome of their application. Where appropriate, the letter will detail:

- (a) the starting date if a place is available;
- (b) the reasons why the child is not being offered a place if a place is unavailable;
- (c) information about the statutory right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places;
- (d) information on how to apply for a place on the waiting list;
- (e) contact details for the school and Kent County Council and for the admission authorities of Foundation, VA schools, Academies and co-ordinating Free schools where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal with the governing body.

The letter will notify parents that they need to respond to accept or refuse the offer of a place within 10 school days

17.

Kent residents who wish to apply for a place at an out of county school will need to either approach the school or local authority directly. This will vary between authorities. Depending on the other LA's determined process, the parent will confirm the acceptance or refusal of the place to the school or that school's LA.

18.

Kent pupils who have applied to schools and have not been offered a place can contact Kent County Council who will inform them where there is an available place at an alternative school. If no school in the local area has places available, the application may be referred to a local panel under the In Year Fair Access Protocol. If the child is already attending a school in the local area, no alternative place will be offered.

19.

Schools must inform Kent County Council of every offer that is made via the In Year Casual process to allow the necessary safeguarding checks to take place. Notification should be made at the same time as the offer being made to the parent.

20.

Applicants who are not successful in gaining any place can contact Kent County Council and will be informed where there is an available place at an alternative school. Parents can then approach these schools to secure a place. These applicants will have the same access

to a waiting list and right to appeal as other applicants.

Acceptance/Refusal of Places

21.

Parents will be advised in their offer letter that they must accept/refuse the school place offer in writing to the school within 10 school days of the date of the offer letter. If the school has not obtained a response within the specified time, it will remind the parent in writing of the need to respond within a further seven week days and point out that the place may be withdrawn if no response is received. Only after having exhausted all reasonable enquiries will it be assumed that a place is not required.

22.

The school will notify Kent County Council of places accepted/refused as soon as possible after receipt of the acceptance/refusal. A mechanism for this transfer will be specified by Kent County Council.

23.

Once a place has been accepted, a child must start at the school within a reasonable length of time. This would normally be 10 school days from receipt of acceptance, but schools may extend if they feel there are justifiable reasons to do so.

Waiting Lists

24.

Each oversubscribed school will keep a waiting list at least until the end of the first term. This will include details of all applicants who have named the school on the IYCAF but could not be offered a place and have asked to be placed on a waiting list.

25.

Waiting lists will be maintained in order of priority, in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria. If a school has reached its Published Admission Number it may not admit applicants other than through the Independent Appeal process, via the process detailed in the In Year Fair Access Protocol or where special arrangements relating to children in Local Authority Care or who ceased to be so because they were adopted, or children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs apply. To maintain the database, schools will advise Kent County Council when a place has been offered to a pupil on a waiting list. Parents whose children are refused admission **must** be offered a right of appeal (even if their child's name has been put on the waiting list).

Appeals

26.

All parents have the statutory right to appeal against any decision refusing them a school place.

27.

Where parents have lodged an appeal against the refusal of a place and a place becomes available at the school, the place can then be offered without an appeal being heard, provided there are no other applicants at that time ranked higher on the school's waiting list.

Section 3 – Glossary of Terms

| Term | Definition |
|--------------------|---|
| LA | A Local Authority |
| The LA | Kent County Council |
| The LA area | The area in respect of which Kent County Council is the Local Authority |
| Primary | Has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Education Act 1996 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Education | |
| Primary School | Has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Education Act 1996 |
| School | A Community, Foundation, Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled school and Academy (but not a special school) which is maintained. |
| Foundation school | Such of the schools as are Foundation schools. The governing body is the admissions authority for these schools. |
| VA schools | Such of the schools as are Voluntary Aided schools, the governing body of these schools is the admission authority. These schools are church schools, and governors must have regard to the relevant diocesan board when setting admissions arrangements. |
| VC schools | Such of the schools as are Voluntary Controlled schools |
| Academies | Such schools which have been established under section 482 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by section 65 of the Education Act 2002) and/or those established under the Academies Act 2010. |
| Free Schools | Such of the schools as are Free Schools. All-ability, state-funded school set up in response to what local people say they want and need in order to improve education for their children. |
| Admission authority | In relation to a community or voluntary controlled school means the LA and, in relation to a trust, foundation or VA school and Academy, means the governing body of that school |
| Admission arrangements | The arrangements for a particular school or schools which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to the school |
| Eligible for a place | Means that a child has been placed on a school's ranked list at such a point as falls within the school's published admission number. |
| RCAF | Reception Common Application Form, completed online or on paper |
| JCAF | Junior Common Application Form, completed online or on paper |
| IYCAF | In Year Casual Admission Form – this is the form used by parents to apply for a school place outside of a school's normal point of entry. |
| SIF | Supplementary Information Form – This is a form used by some Academies, Foundation and Voluntary Aided and Free schools which may use them to collect additional information at the time of application in order for them to apply their over subscription criteria. They are most commonly used by Faith Schools to collect details in relation to a level of commitment to Faith which can be a factor in the priority given to applicants. A supplementary information form can only collect information which is directly related to the oversubscription criteria published for a school. |
| PAN | Published Admission Number – this is the number of pupils a school is able to admit before it reaches capacity. School admissions authorities must consult on and determine a school's PAN and must not admit pupils above this number other than where 1.4 of the School Admissions Code 2012 applies. |
| Late Application | an application sent to the LA after the closing date where the child has not been considered for a place at any school through the Primary Scheme, or where applicants have moved house and their original preferences are no longer suitable. |
| Reallocation Process | the process by which vacant places are offered by the local authority to late applicants and pupils on school waiting lists. |

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|