

Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2026

West Malling CE Primary School

Monday 29th September 2025

Transfer to Secondary School 2026

- Applying for secondary school is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child. The application process began in September.
- Key reading: 'Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2026' booklet available on the Kent website
www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/195646/Secondary-admissions-book.pdf

Key Dates

- September 2025
- 11 September 2025
- 16 October 2025
- October 2025
- 2 March 2026
- 16 March 2026
- 30 March 2026
- April to June 2026
- September 2026
- Information about secondary schools available on County website. School open evenings begin.
- Children who registered take the Kent Test (11+)
- Kent Test (11+) assessment decisions sent to parents
- Apply online for a secondary school place at www.kent.gov.uk/ola by 31 October
- Offers of school places sent to parents
- Date by which you should ask to go on a school's waiting list and accept or refuse the place offered
- Date by which you should lodge any appeal
- Admission appeals held
- Children start in Year 7 at secondary school

What do I need to do?

- Visit schools:

All schools hold open sessions. They are a good way for you and your child to find out about different schools. You can get details of the dates direct from the school you want to visit.

- Get more information about the schools:

Look at the school website or ask for a prospectus.

Read the information about each school in the 'Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2026' booklet.

Visit the Government website www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables for links to school Ofsted reports and performance data.

Admission Rules

If the school has more applications than places it will use admission rules called 'Oversubscription Criteria' to decide who should be offered a place. For example, all schools must give priority to children in care. Other common criteria may take account of:

- Where you live
- How far away your home is from the school
- Whether or not you have other children already at the school
- Whether (if it's a church school) you belong to or practise a particular faith
- Whether (if it's a Grammar school) your child has met the entry requirements through the Kent Test.

Some schools use other rules. Look up the school you want at www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions. Read the list of oversubscription criteria carefully and consider whether or not your child would meet them. Ask if there is anything you don't understand.

Which school to apply to?

Some things to think about:

- Where does your child want to go to school?
- Where do his/her brothers and sisters go?
- How will your child get to school?
- Which of the schools you have looked at seem right for your child?
- How likely is it that you can get a place under the admission rules?
- If you are looking for a grammar school has your child passed the Kent grammar school test?

Complete the application form

- Kent residents apply online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola. It is vital you apply by the closing date of 31 October.
- If you have already used the online system to register your child for the Kent Test (11+), you will be able to log on and simply add your preferences then submit your application.
- Some schools, especially church schools, ask for extra information and have an extra form you must complete and send back to the school. You can find out which schools need extra forms by looking at their entry in the 'Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2026' book.

Complete the application form

- Place the schools you would like on the form in the order you want them. Secondary schools are not told if you have put them as first, second, third or fourth preference so put them in the order you really want. If possible use all four preferences to increase your chances of getting one of your preferred schools.
- Putting the same school four times does not give your child a greater chance of getting a place at the school. Putting just one school does not give your child more chance; both are a waste of the other three preferences.

What happens next?

- All the applications for a school are put in order according to their Oversubscription Criteria.
- If there are more applications than places, then places are filled in this order until the school is full.
- If your child meets the rules for your first preference school and is high enough on the list he/she will be offered a place.
- The same process will be applied to your 2nd, 3rd and 4th preference schools. If the County Council can offer you a place at more than one of these schools they will offer a place at whichever of them you put highest in your list of preferences. This is why it is so important to name schools in the genuine order of preference.

Where can I get help?

- Speak to Mr Rye.
- Email the Admissions Team on kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk or kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk
- Visit the Government website www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables for links to school Ofsted reports and performance data.
- Go to www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions.