

Harcourt Primary School



Admissions Policy 2026-27

Date of Review or Update:

Date of Next review:

Introduction

The admissions process should be simple, fair and easy for parents to use in selecting the preferred school for their children. This policy aims to achieve this and complies with current admissions legislation.

Harcourt Primary School is a Foundation School and so the Governing Body is the admissions authority. However, the Governors of Harcourt Primary School will work in co-operation with Kent County Council in order to operate within the local authority's Coordinated Scheme for Primary Admissions.

Prospective parents are invited to view the school in the autumn before their child is due to start the following September. These visits may be in the form of open afternoons or by an individual appointment and will take place between October and the end of December. Applications for school admissions have to be submitted to the Local Authority in mid-January for entry in September. If you would like to visit the school please contact the school office on 01303 275294 for further details.

Admission Numbers & Intake Times

- For Reception aged children the school's published admission number (PAN) is 30.
- Harcourt Primary School has one intake per year in September.
- Although parents may wish to defer their child's school place until the start of the term following their fifth birthday we may not have the facilities to admit these children at the beginning of the academic year in which their birthday falls.
- Applications for admission must be received in line with deadlines set by the Local Authority and children will be 4 plus years of age on entry.

Application Procedure – for Year R places

- The school will follow the procedures, timetable and deadlines applicable to KCC's Coordinated Scheme for Primary Admissions.
- If there are more applicants than places, the Governors' Admissions Committee will meet to agree on the allocation of places based on the Oversubscription Criteria below.
- Once the PAN for the year group has been reached no other children can be offered a place. Any remaining children, will automatically be entered onto a waiting list.
- Any parent whose child has been refused admission has the right to appeal against this decision. In these circumstances the school administrative officer will provide advice and an appeal form.
- For applications for September 2025 onwards parents can arrange to visit the school and/or receive advice on the admissions process by contacting the school office.
- Before the application of oversubscription criteria, children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school will be admitted (providing the school is assessed as a suitable placement). As a result of this, the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit.

- Criteria 1: Children in Local Authority Care – a child under the age of 18 years for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act. This applies equally to children who, immediately after being looked after by the local authority, became subject to an

adoption, residence or special guardianship order. (As defined by Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or Section 8 or 14A of the Children Act 1989)

- **Criteria 2: Current family association** –a brother or sister attending the school when the child starts. In this context brother or sister means children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers and sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters. The siblings link is maintained as long as the family live at the same address as when the first child applied, or has moved closer to the school than when the first child was offered a place, or has moved to an address that is less than 2 miles from the school using the distance measured by the method outlined in the distance/nearness of children’s homes to school criterion.
- **Criteria 3: Health and 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 mean 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 who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and the particular school.
- **Criteria 4: Nearness of children's homes to school.** We use the distance between the child’s permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child’s home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody.

Please Note:

The address must be the pupil’s home address on the day on which the application form is completed and which is either:

- Owned by the child’s parent, parents or guardian; or
- Leased to or rented by the child’s parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement. If parents live separately but share responsibility for the child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of the week.

Tie-Breaker: In the event that two or more children live the same distance from the school (as measured by the local authority) and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the school, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.

Withdrawal of an offer of a place

After a place has been offered the school reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

- when a parent/carer has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time; or
- when a parent/carer has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or

- when the place was offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent/carer

Admission for Year Groups Other than Reception

Parents seeking admission of children in years other than Reception should contact the school office for a copy of the In-year admissions form application. Once the published PAN for the year group has been reached no other children can be offered a place. (In 2026/27 the PAN for Year R to Year 6 will be 30)

Appeals

Parents have a statutory right of appeal to an independent appeal panel if their child has been refused admission. Parents should contact the school office in the first instance for an appeal form which should be completed and returned for the attention of the Clerk to the Governors.

If your child is due to start primary 2026 you can appeal between April and May 2026 (dates to be confirmed) to guarantee that your appeal will be heard by July 2026. For applications made in the normal admission round, appeals must be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals. For late applications, appeals should be heard within 40 schools days from the deadline for lodging appeals where possible, or within 30 schools days of the appeals being lodged.

Additional Notes and Definitions

Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children:

A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A previously looked after child means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Siblings:

This includes: natural or adopted siblings; step or foster siblings; those who live as siblings in the same house. The sibling link is maintained as long as the family lives at the same address as when the first child applied, or has moved closer to the school than when the first child was offered a place, or has moved to an address that is less than 2 miles from the school using distance measured by the method outlined in the distance criterion.

Health and 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 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 their child's needs. This must be sent to the Primary Admissions Team with the application form.

Proximity:

We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for the school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school. A child's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence (not an address at which the child may sometimes stay or sleep) and which is either owned by the child's parent, parents or guardians or leased or rented to them under a lease or written rental agreement. Where parents live apart but share responsibility for the child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of week days.

Parents should consult the most recent Admissions guidance, published by KCC, for further information about how home to school distances are measured and defined including details about how blocks of flats will be treated and what constitutes a permanent or main residence.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests for admission outside of the normal age group should be made to the Headteacher as early as possible in the admissions round associated with the child's date of birth. This allows the school and admissions authority sufficient time to make a decision before the closing date. Each case will be considered on its own merits. Parents are not expected to provide evidence to support their request, however where provided it must be specific to the child in question and may include medical or Educational Psychologist reports. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional, however, failure to provide this may impede the school's ability to agree to a request for admission outside of the normal age group. Parents are required to complete an application for the normal point of entry at the same time, in case their request is declined. This application can be cancelled if the school agrees to accept a deferred application for entry into Year R the following year. Deferred applications must be made via paper CAF to the Local Authority, with written confirmation from the Headteacher. Deferred applications will be processed in the same way as all applications for the cohort in the following admissions round, and offers will be made in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria.

Harcourt Primary School Governing Body

January 2025.