

**Admission Appeal Generic Defence Statement  
Secondary School – Wrotham School  
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2025/26**

Published Admission Number for Year 7: <b>190</b>
Number of Applications received: <b>210</b>
How many places were offered on national offer day: <b>210</b> <i>(if over PAN please include these numbers and why you took over PAN e.g. you were instructed by the LA/bulge year, EHCPs etc)</i>
The school has agreed to take 210 students in year 7 in 2025, at the request of KCC to meet the increase in the local demand.

<b>Places Offered – (Please catalog oversubscription criteria along with the numbers allocated on National offer day for each catalog. If the numbers in each individual catalog is below 5, please state &lt;5 so individual children cannot be identified )</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Students with an EHCP	<b>7</b>
Looked after Children	<b>&lt;5</b>
Siblings	<b>71</b>
Health & Special Access	<b>&lt;5</b>
<b>Total number of pupils offered a place;</b>	<b>210</b>

<p>The appeal is for a place in year 7 for academic year 2025/26 with a PAN (Published Admission Number) of 190. We currently already have 210 assigned to that year group. Our Year 7 PAN history is as below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 – 140</li> <li>• 2017 – 145</li> <li>• 2018 – 145</li> <li>• 2019 – 165</li> <li>• 2020 – 165</li> <li>• 2021 – 165 (190 actual)</li> <li>• 2022 – 190</li> <li>• 2023 – 190</li> <li>• 2024 – 190</li> <li>• 2025 – 190</li> </ul> <p>The school is currently awaiting a new build. Set to be completed in 2027. Currently, at the request of KCC we are operating significantly over capacity. This places strain on all school resources including toilet space, canteen facilities and classrooms. Whilst we have had some new temporary buildings provided for this growth, these are already over/ at capacity. Therefore, our defense rests on total student numbers and prevents us from going over PAN due to the impact on health, safety and quality of provision.</p>
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The school has agreed to take 210 students in year 7 in 2025, at the request of KCC to meet the increase in the local demand. The funding for this growth was delayed by one year and placed a temporary financial pressure on the school to meet the increase in numbers.

Due to the increase in numbers this required an additional form of entry in year 7 for 2021, 22, 23, 24 and 25.

Due to classroom sizes we are limited to a maximum of 30 students which is limited by classroom size in our aging buildings that were originally built for fewer students and are currently at capacity.

The students were admitted in accordance with the published criteria for the school. These are laid out in appendix A along with the current school roll and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) figures are below.

The school operates a waiting list for student applications in year groups that are at the PAN. As soon as a place is available we offer the place based on the over subscription criteria stated below.

We maintain a waiting list of students in all years and believe the fairest way is to fill any places from this list according to our fair and transparent criteria.

The school feels we have already done all we can to meet parental choice but cannot increase any further numbers without seriously compromising quality and safety of provision.

### **Background**

The school has a net capacity of 716 and in September 2024 we will have over 1100 pupils in the school. Most of the accommodation dates from the 1950s when the school had a roll of 300. Like other schools at that time many of the rooms are small, (under the 54sqm recommendation) and were not designed for teaching the current curriculum. A significant proportion (12 out of 49) of the school's classrooms are smaller than 54 square metres, so to add to class sizes would cause crowding in these rooms, which may be detrimental to good teaching and the progress students can make.

To accommodate our increased popularity among parents we increased our year 7 group size to 190 and from September 2021, at the request of KCC we agreed to take 200 students into year 7 to meet local demand. This would move us towards 1170 on roll in a years' time, well over our net capacity. Whilst this does allow us to better meet the needs and choices of local parents, it does restrict further growth and we need to be highly aware of the impact of exceeding this number in the short/ medium and long term.

### **Determining Prejudice**

Paragraph 3.2(b) of the Schools Admission Appeals Code poses the question "in light of current school organisation and structure, what effect an additional admission would have .....

Admitting additional children into the school will be prejudicial to the effective provision of education, given the capacity of the existing facilities and teaching equipment and pupil support available, with a significant proportion of the school having some form of SEN, the school being way above its net capacity, the school is offering the higher number of places at 210, admitting additional pupils will affect the support given to current pupils. In admitting above our PAN this effectively reduces the quality of provision the school is able to offer both in regards to classroom education and additional support for those who need it.

Transport to the school on local roads and on site is at/ overcapacity and any further admission would place an exceptional and unmanageable strain on the local road network and ability for students to arrive safely and on time to school.

Pressure on effectively managing food collection, movement around the school and safeguarding welfare in regards to toilet capacity would be substantial above our published numbers. This could prevent our ability to safeguard the welfare of students on a day to day basis whilst meeting their basic needs.

#### Numbers for September 2025

Year Group	Published Admission Number 2025/26	Actual Nos September 2025	SEN Support September 2025	Statement of EHCP September 2025
Year 7	190	210	TBC	7 (TBC)
Year 8	180	180	30	2
Year 9	190	195	27	6
Year 10	180	180	24	2
Year 11	165 (190 actual)	193	16	4
Year 12	85	85	20 (TBC)	2 (TBC)
Year 13	80	80	2	1
Year 14	TBC	TBC	TBC	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>1123</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>24</b>

#### Prejudice to Year 7 Students

Current school resourcing:

An extra child would prejudice the education of those already there as they may have to take it in turns to use equipment; therefore, reducing the time the existing students have to use such equipment. An extra pupil may mean relying on absent pupils to teach groups which would be unacceptable. To increase the number of groups is unaffordable as it would need new buildings and staffing. **The school does not have the funds to do this. Despite our success and popularity Wrotham School is one of the lowest funded secondary schools in Kent and increasing staffing/ costs would leave us in a financial deficit which we are not permitted by the DFE to fall into.**

As an additional child moves up through the year groups, further problems would be caused as certain GCSE option groups are limited by size. Therefore, additional students would reduce the choice available to existing students and therefore prejudice them.

## 8. Health and Safety

Health and Safety considerations in the toilets, PE changing rooms, and technology need to be recognized. Additional students would make the use of these untenable and there are no additional facilities for hygiene. Furthermore, we have experienced extensive problems with the scheduled buses that transport many of our students to and from school. An increase in numbers could prevent students from using these services safely.

Completed by: Headteacher Mr M Cater Date: 27/02/25

## Oversubscription Criteria

Wrotham School Governors have adopted the same definition of terms as used by Kent County Council. Before the application of the oversubscription criteria, children with a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health Care Plan, which names Wrotham School will be admitted. As a result of this the published admissions criteria will be reduced accordingly.

If the number of preferences for the school is more than the number of places available, places will be allocated in the following priority order:

- **Children in Local Authority Care** or previously in Local Authority Care A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is child who is (a) in the care of the 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(a) or the Children Action 1989). This includes , looked after children and all previously looked after children, including 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. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order).
- **Current Family Association** – A brother or sister attending Wrotham 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 stepsisters and foster brothers and sisters.
- **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.
- **Distance from the school to the home**, 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 National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point. 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 KCC 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.

If you live separately from your partner but share responsibility for your child, and the child lives at two addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of weekdays.

A block of flats has a single address point reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from the school. In the unlikely event that two or more children live in the same block and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place for the school, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.

Past admission trends can only be taken as a guide and not a guarantee for admission.

In a tie breaker situation the nearness of an applicant's home to school will be the decider. If in the event more than one applicant has the same distance from home to school, as measured by the Local Authority, then a random selection will be applied.

- **For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting, or crown servants returning from overseas**, we will allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area (as long as one is available), provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date. We will not refuse to process an application and must not refuse a place solely because the family do not yet have an intended address, or do not yet live in the area. We will use the address at which the child will live when applying their oversubscription criteria, as long as the parents provide some evidence of their intended address. Where required we will use a Unit or quartering address as the child's home address when considering the application against our oversubscription criteria, where a parent requests this.

**Supplementary Form Required:** No

Waiting lists will be maintained up to January 2026.

### **Sixth Form Admissions arrangements**

Before the application of the oversubscription criteria, children with a Statement of Special Educational Need or Health Care Plan which names Wrotham School will be admitted. As a result of this the published admissions criteria will be reduced accordingly.

**Sixth Form Published Admission Number:** a minimum 30 places are reserved for students who do not attend Wrotham School.

Places in the sixth form will be given to students who have attained the following qualifications:

- For 'A' Levels: 5 Grade 4 GCSE grades or equivalent including English and maths. Numerical grades 6-9 at GCSE in the subject a student wishes to study at A Level (depending on the subject – see prospectus for details). Where there is no GCSE or equivalent course a decision will be made based on the student's other GCSE grades.
- For the 'Foundation year 12' students will retake English and mathematics GCSE and will study at least one level 2 or 3 vocational course. If successful students will continue in years 13 Programme. The entry criteria for this foundation pathway is 4 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including English and mathematics.
- For the Wrotham Pro-Soccer Academy places will be awarded based on footballing ability through a process of trials, and a student having 5 GCSEs at numerical grades 5 and above, including English and/or mathematics.
- All courses are subject to numbers of applicants and the school reserves the right to not run courses should they not have viable uptake as judged by the school leadership team.

After students have satisfied the academic criteria for admission into the Sixth Form places will be allocated using our oversubscription criteria above.

**Please be advised that each parent who lodges an appeal will have a personalised defence statement forwarded to them as part of their case papers.**

Completed by: Headteacher Mr M Cater Date: 27/02/2025