

**Admission Appeal Defence Statement
Secondary School – Wrotham School
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2021**

Pupils Name:
Date of Birth:
Published Admission Number: 165
Number of Applications received: 762
How many places were offered on national offer day and what is the position today: XXX offered, XXX accepted

Places Offered – (Please catalog oversubscription criteria)	Numbers
Places offered of which:	
Students with an EHCP	
Looked after Children	
Siblings	
Total number of pupils offered a place;	
Rank position of last child offered a place;	
Rank position of this appellant ;	

Under which criteria was this child considered for admission; ??? was considered in the criterion “Distance”. The distance from ’s home to the school is miles.
Distance of last child allocated a place (N/A if not applicable); The last child allocated lives a distance of XXX miles from the school.

<p>The appeal is for a place in Year 7 for September 2021 with a PAN (Published Admission Number) of 165. We currently already have 165 assigned to that year group. Our Year 7 PAN history is as below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 – 130 • 2016 – 140 • 2017 – 145 • 2018 – 145 • 2019 – 165 • 2020 – 165 <p>The school has agreed to take 165 this year to meet the increase in the local demand. The current Year 7 group has 160. The funding for this growth is delayed by one year and will already place temporary financial pressure on the school to meet the increase in numbers.</p>
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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 already have a waiting list of students in year 7 (2021/22) 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 2021 we will have 951 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 42) 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 have increased our year 7 group size to 165. This would move us towards 1000 on roll in 2 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.

As the roll continues to increase, we have to be prepared that when each year group has 165-175 that the resources will be increasingly strained. Although some year groups are at 145, in two years' time all year groups will hit 175 adding significant strain to the resources of the school. We have to consider this in our capacity over the course of 5 years.

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 165, admitting additional pupils will affect the support given to current pupils.

Groups are populated based on ability profiles and are sized accordingly. The Higher Prior attaining classes have higher numbers and our nurture set has smaller numbers to improve catch up and teaching of basics in core areas. No group exceeds 30 students due to the size of

the classrooms. To increase the LPA set to this number would reduce the quality of provision provided to our most vulnerable students. Having classes at maximum (30 students) means we are able to accommodate and teach all ability levels appropriately. Going over our published 165 would mean that we could not place additional students in the correct set for their ability and this would completely compromise the appropriate education of these children.

Numbers for September 2021

Year Group	Published Admission Number 2020/21	Actual Nos April 2021	SEN Support	Statement of SEN/EHCP April 2021	Published Admission Number 2021/22	SEN Support	Statement of SEN/EHCP Sept 2021
Year 7 (New)					165	?	?
Year 7	165	160	20	5			
Year 8	165	172	24	3	165	20	5
Year 9	145	144	18	0	165	24	3
Year 10	145	145	11	1	145	18	0
Year 11	135	137	11	1	145	11	1
Year 12	120	83	7	2	75	11	1
Year 13		61	7		75	7	2
Year 14		9					
Total	875	911	98	12	935	91	12

Prejudice to Year 7 Students

Current school resourcing:

Teaching groups for specialist subjects happen in classrooms designed for smaller groups. Teaching groups for the Technology Subjects (Food, ICT, and Design Technology) are taught on a rotation throughout Key stage 3, and as Food Technology can cater for a maximum of 16/17 students all groups in this rotation are planned at this size. To go over this number means that a student would not be able to take part in the lesson. 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: April 2021

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:

1. **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 Act 1989)
2. **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.
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.

4. **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.

A dot map of the location of children admitted in the previous year is available to help you. However, 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.

5. **Requests for admission outside of the normal age group** should be made to the Headteacher of each preferred school as early as possible in the admissions round associated with that child's date of birth. This will allow the school and admissions authority sufficient time to make a decision before the closing date. Parents are not expected to provide evidence to support their request to defer their application, however where provided it must be specific to the child in question. This might 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 a school's ability to agree to deferral. Parents are required to complete an application for the normal point of entry at the same time, in case their request is declined. Deferred applications must be made via paper CAF to the LA, with written confirmation from each named school attached. 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 each school's oversubscription criteria.

Supplementary Form Required: No

Waiting lists will be maintained up to January 2022.

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 A*-C GCSE grades or equivalent including English and maths. A or B (or numerical grades 6-9) grades 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 International Baccalaureate Career Programme: 5 A*-C GCSEs including a grade 5 or above in **either** English **or** mathematics
- 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 and 14 to study the International Baccalaureate Career Programme. The entry criteria for this foundation pathway is 4 GCSEs at Grade D (or numerical grades 4 and 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 A*-C grades (or numerical grades 5 and above) including English and/or mathematics.

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