



Platts Heath Primary School

Admissions Policy

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Signed by Headteacher	P. Anscomb
Signed (Chair of Governors)	F. Reeves
Date Policy to be Reviewed	May 2019

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1. Annual Admissions

The Local Authority (LA) is responsible for the control of annual admissions to Platts Heath Primary School and this will be co-ordinated by them using a common application form and timetable.

The Governing Body and the Local Authority (Kent County Council, KCC) have agreed that the admission limit for Key Stage 1 (Reception Classes and Year 1 and 2) shall be 13 pupils per year.

The School has a total roll limit of 91 children. Wherever possible we aim not to exceed 30 children per class because we believe this is in the best educational and social interest of all our children.

For children entering the school at the start of Reception class there is a Common Application Form (RCAF) produced by KCC (accessed via their website www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions) which has to be returned to the School or directly to KCC by the closing date stipulated for that year, usually six to eight months prior to the September of the school year in which the child turns five.

The procedure for admissions to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is arranged by KCC and will follow the timetable set by them. Detailed information can be found in the booklet 'Admission to Primary School' on the website www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

The offer of a place at Platts Heath Primary School will be made by KCC as we are a Maintained School and we are required to adhere to KCC admissions procedure. This will be in the form of a letter which is sent on the date set in the timetable for that year.

Decisions on admissions to the School are guided by a Kent-wide policy and places are allocated by KCC. Their criteria are set out at:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/67732/Primary-determined-scheme-for2018-19.pdf

Admission decisions reached by KCC are binding. A parent refused a place for their child can appeal which, if upheld, requires the school to take in the extra child. Further detailed information is available from the School Office.

There are times when one child from a family can be offered a place in Reception but a sibling in another year group is not. Year groups run at a capacity of 13 children. Vacancies do occur, usually when a family leave the area, but these vacancies may not accommodate sibling links in a year group that is already full.

At Platts Heath Primary School all children start school in the September of the school year (September to August) in which a child turns five. However, in certain cases the Headteacher may agree a January start date.

We admit children to our school in a way which we hope is supportive to building positive attitudes to school and which helps children achieve. We believe it is conducive to a happy “starting school” experience to bring the children into class gradually when they first start school.

All prospective parents/pupils are welcome to visit the school. The School Office, 01622 850316, should be contacted to make arrangements.

Our arrangements for admitting children to the EYFS Year (Reception) will be explained at our Admissions Meeting with new parents and carers.

Please refer to Kent County Council Admission and Transport Office, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ 01622 696565 or www.kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk for further information.

2. In Year Admissions

Applications for all places at Platts Heath Primary School, other than the start of Reception, are made directly to the school using the In Year Common Application Form (IYCAF) accessed via www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions or directly from the school.

If a place is available at the school:

- Parents should complete the IYCAF and send to school (with SIF if needed). The school will produce an offer letter (if places available) and send to parents within 5 school days. Parents must accept or refuse the place within 10 school days;

- If the place is accepted the child should start school as soon as possible and the completed IYCAF be sent to the LA;
- If the child subsequently doesn't start, CME processes are initiated by the school;
- If the place is refused by the parents the completed IYCAF should be sent to the LA;
- If the parent doesn't reply a chaser letter will be sent by the school after 10 school days;
- If the place is accepted the child should start school as soon as possible and the completed IYCAF sent to the LA;
- If no reply after a further 5 school days, school can withdraw the offer. Completed IYCAF sent to LA.

If a place is not available at the school:

- Parents send IYCAF to school (with SIF if needed);
- School produces a refusal letter and sends to parents within 5 school days;
- School waits for 5 days to see if parent requests to join waiting list and then sends a completed IYCAF to the LA.

Applications will be processed in the order that they are received. If more applications are made than places available offers will be made to those applications received first. If more applications are received in one day than places available these applications will be put into the schools oversubscription criteria order (looked after children, siblings at school, distance from school) to decide who gets an offer. Cases will be reviewed on an individual basis.

If the school makes an offer from the waiting list this will also be maintained in the oversubscription criteria order. The school will inform the LA that an offer from the waiting list has been made.

The school will retain copies of all correspondence.

New Entrants Induction

Parents and children are invited to visit the school on making initial contact. They are welcomed to the school by staff and shown around the school by older pupils or an adult. They then have the opportunity to meet the Headteacher.

Year R

Parents' Meeting

We hold a meeting for parents during the two transition afternoons in July of the Summer Term preceding the academic year of entry. This gives us the opportunity to outline the arrangements for admission and the organisation of the school. A governor may attend this meeting with the Headteacher, class teacher and other staff as appropriate. This provides the opportunity for parents to ask questions, order uniform and fill in school documents.

Afternoon transitions in July

The children spend at least two afternoons in school with their teacher and classmates. They join in class activities and go outside onto the playground, in order for them to gain familiarity with their classmates. This can be extended if the class teacher feels a longer transition period is required.

Contact with Pre-School Groups

The Class teacher and / or SENCO meets with local Pre-School Staff to discuss each child if and when required or contact is made via email or telephone conversations. . The record of transfer is also passed from pre-school to the class teacher. The class teacher also visits the pre-school so children can recognize them.

Individual Consultations

Parents are invited to meet the class teacher during the second week of the first term of admission to discuss progress and for parents to see the classroom and ask questions about a typical week. Formal consultations occur at the end of Term 1.

Getting to know the school before entry

Newsletters are sent to families prior to admission so that they can know a little about the school.