2026 - 2027

Our Community Multi Academy Trust
CEO - David Whitehead

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Dymchurch Primary School

September 2026

Committee	Board of Directors
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Author	CEO
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Trust rationale
Our Community Multi Academy Trust has adopted the following arrangements with respect to the admission of pupils to Dymchurch Primary School.

Pupils will be admitted to the Reception Year before their fifth birthday, usually entering at the start of the academic year (September 2026 – July 2027). The Published Admission Number (PAN) to the Reception Year in September 2026 is 30.

Where the school is undersubscribed all applicants will be offered a place.

The school will admit any pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school. As a result of this, the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

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.

Dymchurch Primary School Rationale
At Dymchurch Primary School we aim to provide a welcoming and caring environment which values diversity, promotes equal opportunities and has an ethos of inclusion. This policy outlines the procedures for admissions into our Reception year. It has been written in line with Local Authority guidance and statutory Admissions procedures.

Aims
The aim of this policy is to:

- ensure fair and equitable access to Dymchurch Primary School for local children.
- clarify the school's admission arrangements and the rights of parents and pupils.
- ensure the school complies with the LA admissions code.
- meets its statutory duties regarding Children Looked After (CLA) pupils.

Reception – OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

1. Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care – 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.

2. Sibling / Current Family Association a brother or sister attending The School; in this context brother or sister means children who live as brother or sister in the same house on role at the time of entry, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers or sisters. The sibling 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 home to school criterion.

3. Medical / 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 the School. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents'/guardians', physical or mental health or social needs means that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend The 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 school.

4. Children of school staff - a child of a current member of staff of the school will be considered eligible for a place at the school.

Admission authorities may give priority in their oversubscription criteria to children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances:

a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

5. Nearness of children's homes to school - we use the distance between the child's permanent home address (defined in KCC's annual admissions prospectus) and the school, measured in a straight line using the 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 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. Where applications are made from properties or abodes that are not registered to the NLPG, including new build properties, KCC may be required to use planning sites or other relevant co-ordinates. In exceptional circumstances where alternative co-ordinates are not available, measurements will be determined by a Senior Admissions Officer and confirmed by Head of Service.

Applications

Applications for entrance should be made through Kent Primary Admissions Scheme, if applicants live outside the area at the time of application, these should be made through their home local authority. You will be required to complete the Reception Common Application Form (RCAF) online through the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk/ola. Telephone 03000 412121. National closing date for applications is 15 January and National offer day is 19 April. Late applications will be placed on a waiting list and places allocated based on the above criteria.

Tie Breaker

In the unlikely event that two or more children are unable to be separated and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the school, the names will be allocated a number and drawn randomly, this must be supervised by someone independent of the school, to decide which child should be given the place.

Appeals

Parents have the right to appeal against any refusal to admit their child. Appeals should be

directed to an Appeals Committee established within the terms of the Education Act 1996. Details of the appeals procedure can be obtained from the clerk to the Trust Board. The Appeals Committee will notify the Appellant of the outcome:

- Appeals must be lodged in line with the Local Authority's published date (14 May 2026), except where the initial application was a late application, in which case the appeal must be lodged within 21 days of the allocation decision being sent to the parents.
- The School will acknowledge an appeal within seven working days of it being lodged.
- Appeals relating to other admissions can be made at any time.

DEFERRED ENTRY FOR INFANTS

Parents offered a place for their child have a right to defer entry, or to take a place up part-time, until the start of the term beginning immediately after their child has reached compulsory school age. However, places cannot be deferred until the next academic year.

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting on his or her schooling. All such requests will be considered on their merits and either agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The process for requesting such an admission is as follows:

With the application, parents should request that the child is admitted to another year group (state which one), and the reasons for that request.

Parents will submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, Headteacher etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include:

- whether the child is 'summer born' and is seeking admission to a year group other than the Reception Year (or is seeking admission to the Reception Year rather than Year 1);
- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

The school will consider each case on its merits, taking into account the individual circumstances of the request and the child's best interests. We will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made, and the reason for any refusal.

Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time. An application from a child who would 'normally' be a Year 1 child for a Reception Year place will be considered alongside applications for the Reception Year.

Right to Withdraw a Place:

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

- When a parent has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time; or
- When a parent has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
- The admission authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent.

Waiting Lists:
Parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school may ask for their child's name to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list, which will be maintained until 31 December 25, will be operated using the same admissions criteria listed above. Placing a child's name on the waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place. It is possible that when a child is directed under the Local Authority's fair access protocol they will take precedence over those children already on the list.

Waiting lists will be re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever a child joins or leaves the waiting list.

Applying for a deferred entry to school
"Where a need is demonstrated and we can be assured it is in the child's best interest, Kent invariably supports parents in applying for Community or Voluntary Controlled Schools outside the expected age range. We currently ask our Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools to provide parents with a letter detailing their support of a child's case. Where schools have provided this letter to parents, KCC will always allow the child to apply in the following round. This letter should be attached to a paper application and sent to the Admissions team. "

Compulsory school age is set out in section 8 of the Education Act 1996 and The Education (Start of Compulsory School Age) Order 1998. A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their fifth birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August. The term 'summer born' is used to refer to children born from 1 April to 31 August. These children are not required to start school until a full school year after the point at which they could first have been admitted.

As per the DfE School Admissions code, paragraph 2.17, 2021 …"parents of a summer born child may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their 5th birthday and may request that they are admitted out of normal year group - in reception rather than year 1."

Reception class is defined in section 143 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as "a class in which education is provided which is suitable to the requirements of pupils aged five…" and is referenced as such in sect 1.2 of the 2021 Schools Admissions Code as "the relevant age group" for entry to primary education.

The DfE also clarified in their "Advice on Summer Born Children", published July 2013, that "There is no statutory barrier to children being admitted to school outside their normal year group", and that there "are no statutory barriers to admitting a child of five to a reception class".

"Making a decision in the child's best interests…We are aware that, in making their decision, many admission authorities have focused on whether the child has any particular medical or special educational needs which mean their development is significantly below the expected levels for a child of their age.

The government would agree that, in general, children should be educated in their normal age group, with the curriculum differentiated as appropriate, and that they should only be educated

out of their normal age group in very limited circumstances.

If you meet the criteria you qualify for an interview with the headteacher, parents have to attend the school with their child and put forward their case. The headteacher's decision is final.

Deferred applications cannot be made online and have to be made on paper. They are however not guaranteed a place following interview. Applications should be made through KCC following the usual procedure, KCC may not allocate the school which has given assurance for deferred entry.

In-Year (Casual) Admissions

Applications for a place at the school should be made via the school office at the Our Community Multi Academy Trust c/o Dymchurch Primary School, New Hall Close, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent, TN29 0LE, where you will be sent an application form. This form must be returned to the above address who will offer a place, if one is available and the child meets the criteria for admission. If a place cannot be offered, parents will be offered the opportunity of placing their child's name on a waiting list. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place.