

# South Avenue Primary School



## Admissions Policy

### Approved by:

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(Head of School)

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**by:**

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### 1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- › Explain how to apply for a place at the school
- › Set out the school's arrangements for allocating places to the pupils who apply
- › Explain how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place

### 2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- › [School Admissions Code 2021](#)
- › [School Admission Appeals Code](#)

The school is required to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

### 3. Definitions

The **normal admissions round** is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded school places at the school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

**Looked-after children** are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- › In the care of a local authority, or
- › Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

**Previously looked-after children** are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- › Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- › Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
- › Became subject to a special guardianship order

This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted.

A child reaches **compulsory school age** on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday (or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

## 4. How to apply

For applications in the normal admissions round you should use the application form provided by Kent County Council. The following link will take you to where you need to apply: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places> You can use this form to express your preference for a minimum of 3 state-funded schools, in rank order.

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from the local authority on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025**. If you provided an email address on your application Kent County Council will email you on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 after 4pm** to tell you which school you have been offered.

You can also [log in from 5pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025](https://kent.cloud.servelec.synergy.com/Synergy/Admissions.aspx) to view your offer online. The link to the log in page is: <https://kent.cloud.servelec.synergy.com/Synergy/Admissions.aspx>.

## 5. Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group.

Requests for admission outside of the normal age group should be made to the Head of 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.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, this will include taking account of:

- › Parents' views
- › 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
- › Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- › The Head of School's views

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child's normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered on the basis of the admission arrangements laid out in this policy, including the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6. Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

## 6. Allocation of places

### 6.1 Admission number

The school has an agreed admission number of 60 pupils for entry in reception. The school will accordingly admit 60 pupils in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received.

### 6.2 Oversubscription criteria

All children whose education, health and care (EHC) plans name the school will be admitted before any other places are allocated.

If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be offered a place.

In the event that the school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be given to those children who meet any of the criteria set out below, in order, until all places are filled:

1. Highest priority will be given to looked-after children and all previously looked-after children who apply for a place at the school.
2. Priority will next be given to children with a sibling attending any school within the Fulston Manor Academy Trust at the time of application. Sibling is defined in these arrangements as children who live as brother or sister in the same house including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and 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 the children's home to school criterion.
3. Priority will next be given to children of staff at the school. Children of staff who will have been employed at the school for a minimum of two years at the time of entry.
4. Priority will next be given to children with exceptional compassionate, social, medical/health or special access needs. 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 South Avenue Primary 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 South Avenue Primary School.

5. Priority will next be given to 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. 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.

Further information on how distances are calculated is available in the Admissions Booklets available on the KCC Admissions website.

A child's home address is defined as a residential property that is the child's main or only residence. This should not be an address at which the child may stay during the week such as at a friend's, grandparents or child minder's home.

### **6.3 Tie break**

If two or more children in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place(s) at the school, and their family homes are measured as being equidistant from the school, a random draw will be made to determine which child(ren) should be offered the place(s).

The criteria above, in the order as set out, will also be applied to fill any vacancies that occur during the school year. The school's Waiting List will be re-ranked, in line with the published oversubscription criteria, every time a child is added.

## **6.4 Children below compulsory school age**

Where children below compulsory school age are offered a place at the school, they will be entitled to attend the school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents may defer their child's entry to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age, and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year the offer was made for.

Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

The parents would need to demonstrate why it is in their child's best interest that they be considered for admission outside the normal age range, guidance suggests this should only be agreed in very limited circumstances. This will need to be completed by writing a letter to the admissions team at South Avenue Primary School.

Admission will be for the child to start school in the September following their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. The child will be able to remain with the same age group as they progress through the school, including into secondary school.

The government would agree that, in general, children should be educated in their normal age group, with the curriculum adapted 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 Head of School, parents have to attend the school with their child and put forward their case. The Head of School'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.

## **6.5 Challenging behaviour**

We will not refuse to admit a child on behavioural grounds in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (paragraph 3.8) apply, i.e. where section 87 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 is engaged.

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked-after children, previously looked-after children and children with EHC plans listing the school.

## **6.6 Fair Access Protocol**

We participate in Kent's Fair Access Protocol. This helps ensure that all children, including those who are unplaced and vulnerable, or having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, get access to a school place as quickly as possible.

## **6.7 Right to Withdraw a Place**

After a place has been offered South Avenue Primary 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

## 7. In-year admissions

Parents can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the normal admissions round.

If there are spaces available in the year group you are applying for, your child will be offered a place.

If there are no spaces available at the time of your application, your child's name will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. When a space becomes available, it will be filled by 1 of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6.3 of this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.

Applications for in-year admissions should be sent to the following address:

[office@southavenue.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@southavenue.kent.sch.uk)

Parents will be notified of the outcome of their in-year application in writing within 10 school days.

## 8. Appeals

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. If you wish to appeal, you must set out the grounds for your appeal in writing and send it to the following address:

[office@southavenue.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@southavenue.kent.sch.uk)

You can find details of the school's appeals process on the school's admission page.

## 9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the governing board every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the governing board will publicly consult on these changes. If nothing changes, it will publicly consult on the school's admission arrangements at least once every 7 years.