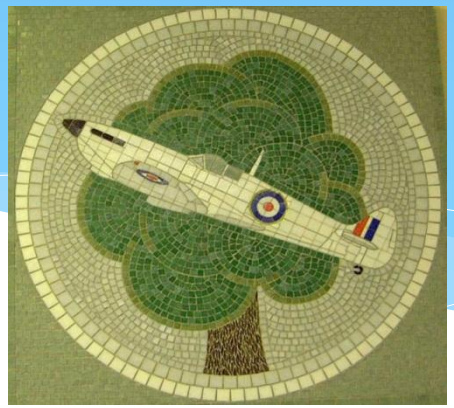
Kent Secondary School Transition

2026/2027



Kent Test –Thursday 10th September

Results Day – Thursday 15th October

Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF)

Applications for children due to start Secondary School in September 2027 opened on **1st September 2026** and will close on **2nd November 2026**.

It's important to find out more about schools that you're interested in before you apply. Specialist curriculums.

Visit each school's website for dates and times of their open days and evenings
Apply online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or via and alternative method on request to KCC

KCC can not accept multiple applications for the same child, it needs to be one of the methods above.

Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF)

Take your child to visit the school. You may take time out of class to do this. Shortlist the 4 schools you are interested in, so it does not become too confusing!

Visit the schools during the day as well as at night. Get a feel for the school on a normal day.

Consider the length of travel. The current cost of a Bus Pass is £615 per year.

Remember….your child's thoughts are important but the final decision is yours!

If your child has an EHCP the application process is slightly different.

Putting down your choices

* You can apply for up to 4 schools, putting them in order of preference. It's in your best interests to list 4 schools. Naming only one school does not guarantee your child a place at that school or give your child priority for a place over another child, neither does naming a school more than once. There is no benefit to parents in putting fewer than 4 preferences, and not using all 4 makes it more likely that they will be offered a school they do not want, as the LA is obliged to offer a place by default if they can't offer any of the schools named on the form.

* Once SCAFs have been processed, Kent LA will pass to secondary schools the details of all children who have named them as a preference without indicating whether they were a first, second, third or fourth preference.

* Each school will apply its published criteria (including, where appropriate, selection criteria) before returning a list arranged in priority order to the LA, which uses a computerised system to compare the lists and allocate school places.

Schools outside of Kent and SIFs

To apply to a school outside of Kent, name the school in your application along with your other preferences. Your application details will be passed on to the relevant local authority for processing.

For advice call 03000 41 21 21 or email kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Additional information

Some schools may need you to complete an additional form called a Supplementary Information Form (SIF).

You can collect the form from the chosen school.

Processing and offers

* Applications are processed between 3rd November 2026 and 1 March 2027.
* If you apply online you will receive an email on 2nd March 2027 after 4pm to tell you which school you have been offered. The LEA cannot guarantee the exact time you will receive your email, this will depend on your email service provider.
* You can also log in after 5pm on 2nd March 2027 to view your offer online. If you need to reset your password you must use the email address you registered with.
* If you applied by an alternative route the LEA will explain how your school allocation will be conveyed.
* Secondary Schools will send out welcome letters March 2027.
* For advice call 03000 41 21 21 or email kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk.

Useful background information :

If you are unhappy with the offer

* We suggest that you visit the school you have been offered to find out more about it.
* If you are still unhappy you can put your child on the waiting list or make an appeal for any of the schools you applied for. You can do either or both for the same school or for different schools. For example, you can appeal for one school and put your child on the waiting list for another.
* We recommend that you still accept the place your child has been offered. This will not affect your waiting list position or your appeal. It will guarantee your child has a school place if no places become available or if your appeal is unsuccessful. If the waiting list or appeal are successful you must remember to tell the school you were originally offered that you no longer want the place.

Useful Background Information

- A significant number of Kent's grammar schools have their own admission authority and set their own oversubscription criteria, which can change year on year. Every school's admission arrangements for 2026/27 should be available on their websites.

- Transport assistance to grammar schools and faith schools is discretionary, not automatic.

Kent Test

* If your child sits and passes the Kent tests, you may name just grammar schools on your SCAF. If your child does not qualify for any of these, because other children have taken up all available places, you could be offered the nearest grammar school with a vacancy, although KCC has no obligation to do so and could offer a place at the nearest non-selective school.
* If your child has not taken the Kent test, you can only be considered for non selective schools.
* If your child has taken the Kent test and not passed, and you wish to appeal, you **must** name the grammar schools you wish to appeal to on the SCAF, together with any non selective schools you wish to apply to.
* If your child has passed the Kent test and you name grammar schools and a non selective school, for example a church comprehensive school, you will be offered the highest school on your list for which your child is eligible. If this is the non selective school then you will be offered it in preference to a grammar school lower down your list.

What can you do?

* Visit secondary schools as early as possible with your child so that they can start to consider their options. Secondary schools will advertise details about admissions on their websites as well as details of open afternoons/evenings. It is worth familiarising yourself with the websites of schools you think may be on your short-list.

* Get a “feel” for the environment and ethos of each school and involve your child in the decision-making process. Visit both during the day and in the evening.

* Consider travel arrangements and distance from home. As well as the work load.

* Try to avoid your child feeling the pressure - they will have enough to worry about with the move to a new school.

Contacts

* Email:

www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

www.kent.gov.uk/ola

kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk

(Kent online Admission applications)

* Secondary Admissions Team

  03000 41 21 21

* School DCSF Number: **8862185**