

Admission to Secondary school in Kent 2021

FOR CHILDREN BORN
BETWEEN

1 SEPTEMBER 2009
AND

31 AUGUST 2010,
TRANSFERRING TO
SECONDARY SCHOOL
IN SEPTEMBER 2021

Key Dates

Tuesday 1 September 2020	Online application process opened. Parents need to go to www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions to register and apply.
Thursday 15 October 2020 (amended from Thursday 10 September as a result of Covid-19)	Kent Test for children in Kent primary schools who registered to take the test (11+).
Monday 2 November 2020	Online application process closes. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk
By Thursday 26 November 2020 (amended from Thursday 15 October 2020 as a result of Covid-19)	Kent Test (11+) assessment decisions sent to parents after 4pm. This date is subject to change in the event of further Covid-19 related restrictions, however, parents will be advised directly if this becomes necessary.
Friday 11th December	Deadline for any changes to applications.
Monday 1 March 2021	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.

What has changed?

As a result of the impact of Covid-19 on schools and pupils the Kent test will now take place on Thursday, October 15 for pupils who attend a Kent school and from Saturday, October 17 for all other students.

Kent parents are now offered two additional preferences on their child's secondary school application this year, an increase from four to six, to account for the later release of Kent Test results.

Six Preferences Explained

As the Kent Test is taking place later than usual this year, parents will need to list their preferred schools before they know their child's result. If a child will be taking the Kent Test, parents should put their preferred grammar schools as the top preferences so that the schools can consider the application if the child qualifies.

If the child doesn't qualify for grammar school, those preferences will not be considered, but the others will. Parents are therefore advised to name at least one school on the application form that is not a Grammar school. Naming this school as the last preference will ensure that it is not offered if a higher preference school can be offered instead.

Extended deadline – Friday 11 December

The closing date for applications is Monday 2nd November. This is a deadline that is set in legislation, however KCC allows parents to make changes to their application up until Friday 11th December. That means even with Kent Test results being available later this year parents still have the opportunity to change their preferences.

This includes changing school preferences (to accommodate for the results of the Kent Test) along with any address changes etc.

Parents must email kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk with the details of any changes, ensuring that they contact us with the same email address used for their application.

What to consider before applying?

BEFORE COMPLETING AN APPLICATION WE ADVISE PARENTS TO...

- VISIT THE SCHOOL (to check if this is possible due to Covid restrictions contact the school directly)
- TAKE THE CHILD WHERE POSSIBLE (again due to Covid restrictions)
- LOOK AT THE SCHOOLS WEBSITE AND HOW THEY PROMOTE THEMSELVES
- LOOK AT THE OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR EACH SCHOOL YOU WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR
- READ THE ADMISSIONS TO SECONDARY SCHOOL IN KENT 2021 BOOK
- GO TO OPEN DAYS/TALKS/ONLINE EVENTS
- TALK ABOUT IF THEY CAN GET THE CHILD THERE...BE REALISTIC, THINK ABOUT TRANSPORT

When you are ready to apply...

Go to www.kent.gov.uk/ola

If you registered for the Kent Test online you can log back in to your account and add your preferences (please do not start a new application)

Remember to update any existing information such as address or current school if it has changed since June and submit it!

If you are a new applicant please click on Register and begin your application

Email the team at kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk if you need help

Not registered for the Kent test?

We understand there will be parents who have not registered for the Kent test, for those parents there are two options;

- Name Kent grammar school(s) on the secondary application form. This will give parents the right of appeal in March 2021 and the grammar school will arrange for the child to be tested before the hearing.
- Or apply directly to Kent grammar schools after 21 April 2021 and the school will arrange testing at this stage.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply by post?

This year, **all** parents will need to apply online to complete the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF). There is no longer any availability for a paper form to be completed and returned to the Admissions team. If you do not have the necessary technology to complete the form, please ensure that you are able to access a computer/smart phone before the November 2nd deadline. Free internet access is available at The Beaney House of Art and Knowledge, 18 High Street, Canterbury CT1 2BD.

Opening hours are;

Monday – Closed.

Tuesday – Saturday 10.00am – 5.00pm

Sunday 11.00am – 4.00pm

When can I apply online?

The online system opened on Tuesday 1 September and closes at midnight on Monday 2 November. If you have already completed but wish to make changes, you can amend as many times as you like as long as this is before the 2nd November deadline. Access your SCAF online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola

Can I amend my choices once I have the Kent Test results?

Further amendments are being offered by KCC to allow parents to make changes up until Friday 11th December. If they are after the 2nd November deadline shown above for the portal however, they should be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk ensuring that they are sent from the same email address that made the initial application.

How many schools should I apply for?

This year, parents are provided with the opportunity to give 6 schools in order of preference. You are strongly advised to use all of the preference spaces.

Are schools allocated in the order I put on the SCAF form?

KCC will seek to offer each child their highest available preference so please ensure that you list the schools on your SCAF in the order that reflects this. **There are particularly useful references in the *Admission to Secondary Schools in Kent* booklet** which provide further information and example applications and offers. See sections 11 and 12 of the document which can be found at:

https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/17930/Secondary-admissions-booklet-all-areas.pdf