

Generic Defence Statement
Secondary School – The Robert Napier School
Admission Appeals for Year 7 in September 2021

Published Admission Number: 180

Oversubscription Criteria

a) Looked After Children/ Previously Looked After Children

¹ As defined in the School Admissions Code paragraph 1.7 and the Medway Co-ordinated Scheme for Secondary Admission Academic Year 2021/2022: -

School Admissions Code

1.7 All schools **must** have oversubscription criteria for each 'relevant age group' and the highest priority **must** be given, unless otherwise provided in this Code, to looked after children¹⁶ and all previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted¹⁷ (or became subject to a child arrangements order¹⁸ or special guardianship order¹⁹). Further references to previously looked after children in this Code means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after. Oversubscription criteria **must** then be applied to all other applicants in the order set out in the arrangements.

Medway Co-ordinated Scheme for Secondary Admissions Academic Year 2021/22: -

Looked after children/Previously looked after children:

Looked after children are children who are (i) in the care of a local authority, or (ii) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (as defined in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making the application for a school.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, Section 46) or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order (under the terms of the Children Act 1989, Section 8 and Section 14A).

Please note that the Council will require a copy of the adoption/residence order to validate this criterion and evidence that the child was previously looked after.

b) Current Family Association, i.e. an older sibling who is on the roll of the school when the application is made, living in the same household, and who must still be attending at the point of entry

² 'Sibling' means children who live as brother/sister in the same house and includes natural siblings, adopted siblings, foster siblings and step siblings. (Extended family, for example cousins, living in the same house do not qualify as siblings).

c) Nearness of children's homes

d)

³ The Governors of The Robert Napier School have adopted Medway Council's criteria for measuring the nearness of children's homes to the school when allocating places. Distance* will be measured by the shortest available safe walking route between home and school, as measured by Medway Council's Geographical Information System and as defined in the Medway Co-ordinated Admission Scheme.

Tiebreaker – In the unlikely event that two or more children in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the school, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.

The reason for all unsuccessful applications was that having accepted 210 students again this year, consideration of the remainder fell into category c) above. All unsuccessful applications fell outside the furthest distance at which we were able to admit, using Medway Council's Geographical Information System, and these applicants were allocated places by the Local Authority to other schools within the area.

Parts of The Robert Napier School were built over 90 years ago, and other parts have been built over the last 40 years. The latest block built was constructed in accordance with DfE regulations and all classrooms were of approved size at the time of being built. In 2018, 8 prefabricated classrooms were decommissioned due to their age and inefficiency of use. Classrooms are designed to take 30 pupils, and furniture and equipment provided accordingly. The capacity of the school historically has been 8 forms of entry, i.e. 210 in each Year Group, but with the reduction in classrooms, the school is now only fit for 6 forms of entry.

All practical rooms and practical teaching capacity are designed and constructed to take account of the Year Group of 180. To admit a significant number of additional pupils raises issues of Health and Safety in these areas, particularly in the design and technology subjects, where numbers must not exceed health and safety guidance.

During 2014, Medway Council determined the school's Indicated Admission Number (IAN) based on classroom capacity at 180 places. The Governors accepted this number as our Planned Admission Number (PAN). A survey carried out by Medway Council in 2005 indicated that many rooms within the school were now considered undersized.

Our over-subscription criteria are considered very carefully each year by the Admissions Authority. In 2018 and in 2019 we agreed to accept an additional 10 students, making a total of 190 students being admitted into Year 7 for two consecutive years. In addition, in both September 2020 and September 2021, we agreed to accept an additional 30 students, to support Medway with the current bulge in population.

Whilst there are no immediate planned modifications to the school buildings to accommodate the increased numbers for the last three years, Governors have taken into account the school's ability to cope with the additional pupils admitted over the last 3 years, and would not wish to exceed the PAN of 180 set for September 2021, as it is felt any higher number might compromise the health and safety of the students already on roll, in respect of the points mentioned above.

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Date: 26th February 2021