

POLICY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY OF RAINHAM SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (RSG), an academy as part of the Kemnal Academies Trust (TKAT)

STATUS: Agreed by LGB – determined un-changed (no consultation required)

LAST REVIEWED: *December 2014*

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Rainham School for Girls is an Academy within the Kemnal Academies Trust.

Admission Numbers

The published admission number for September 2016 will be:

Years 7 – 11: 270

Year 12: The overall capacity for year 12 is 180. Within this there are 10 places available for students being admitted to the school for the first time in year 12. The minimum entry requirements for level 3 courses are 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C including English or Maths. There are also subject specific requirements. Please see the year 12 section of this policy for further details.

Application Procedures

Transfer from Primary into year 7.

The arrangements for co-ordinated admissions in Medway is set out in detail in the Medway LA booklet for parents/carers 'Admission to Secondary School', a copy of which will be available from the Primary School Headteacher or from the Admissions Team at Medway Council, Gun Wharf. The secondary common application form (SCAF) must be completed and returned to the Primary School or direct to the Student Services Admissions Team. Alternatively an application can be made on-line at www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions.

Offers of places will be posted to parents/carers by the LA, on behalf of the Governing Body. When parental preferences have been received, places will first be offered to children with statements of special educational needs where the school is named and agreed to be an appropriate placement.

Casual Admissions

From September 2013, applications for year groups other than the normal point of entry, should be made directly to the school. For applications new to the area, a Casual Admissions form should be completed, available from the school office, and must be returned to the school office.

The Academy Trust will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child unless one of the permitted reliefs apply. Should a student be considered to be hard to place under Medway's Fair Access Protocols, the admission request will be referred to Medway to be considered by the Fair Access panel, rather than follow the normal admissions process.

If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria shall apply. Please see the oversubscription section for more details. Parents/Carers whose application is turned down shall be entitled to appeal.

However, within the exceptional circumstances as set out in the Admissions Code of Practice, the Academy may refuse to admit a challenging child where there are places available on the grounds that admission would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources. Children with statements of special educational needs where the school is named and agreed to be an appropriate placement, will be offered a place over PAN. The school must be in a position to meet the needs outlined in the statement. Each case will be considered on an individual basis.

Looked After Children, or those previously Looked After, will also be given priority.

Year 12

The sixth form is mixed. All Year 11 students wishing to continue to Year 12 at the school are encouraged to apply provided that they meet the entry demands of the course they wish to study. The overall capacity of year 12 is 180.

There will be 10 places available for external applicants, both girls and boys, applying the same entry criteria. Should fewer than 170 year 11 students apply for places, additional external pupils will be admitted until year 12 meets its capacity. Should fewer than 10 external applicants apply, additional year 11 applicants will be admitted until year 12 meets its capacity.

Applications

Application for a place in the sixth form is via the UCAS Progress website (www.ucasprogress.com). Subject choice discussion will take place with students to confirm suitability of choices.

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirements for level 3 courses are 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C including English or Maths. All level 2 BTEC awards at pass and above will count as 1 GCSE equivalent regardless of the number of guided learning hours studied. There are also subject specific requirements which are published in the sixth form prospectus. Students failing to meet the specific entry criteria for their preferred course choice will be offered alternative courses if available.

Students achieving below a C grade in either English or Maths will be eligible to choose from the full range of courses (assuming they meet the individual subject criteria) if they have 5 or more A*-C grades in total, but will need to retake the relevant GCSE.

Students achieving A*-C in five subjects excluding English or Maths can apply for a place on an alternative full time curriculum pathway which will include GCSE English and Maths. Please refer to the current sixth form prospectus for the details of courses which make up this curriculum pathway.

Borderline cases or students in exceptional circumstances will be offered a meeting with a senior member of staff and will be considered on an individual basis.

A report will be requested from the previous school where applicable, to confirm the student could cope with the required A2 courses.

Students who have studied in another country will need to have obtained an equivalent qualification to meet the entry criteria. It is the applicant's responsibility to prove the equivalency of their qualifications before the application will be considered.

Offers

Offers of sixth form places are conditional on final GCSE results. Applications made by the date publicised in the sixth form prospectus will be considered at the same time and conditional offers made to those who are eligible and are allocated a place. If there are more applications from students who meet the criteria than places available, the oversubscription criteria will be used for those students. Please see the oversubscription section for more details.

Late applications will be considered if they meet the entry criteria and if there is space in year 12 and on the chosen courses.

Admissions are subject to a vacancy existing on the course for which the student is applying. The governors may, in exceptional circumstances, refuse admission to any individual student if, in their view, to admit that student would prejudice the fulfillment of the school aims or seriously disrupt the provision of effective education of other students.

Year 13

Students successfully passing their AS courses will automatically progress into Year 13. If a student does not pass their AS course then they cannot continue with that course into A2, and they would need to choose another AS level. Students are allowed to re-take one AS course in Year 13 to improve a low grade (E or above). Borderline cases or students with exceptional circumstances will be considered on an individual basis and will have a meeting with a senior member of staff. Students not passing more than one AS course will need to meet with a senior member of staff to discuss whether progression into Year 13 is appropriate for them.

This is in line with government policy (at November 2013), and may be amended to meet changes to government policy.

Oversubscription

If the number of preferences for the school, in any year, is more than the number of places available, places will be allocated in the following priority order:

- a) children in public care, and those who have been in care and have been subsequently adopted or have been made subject of a residence order or special guardianship
- b) children who at the time of application have a sibling (including children living as siblings in the same family unit) on the roll of the school and who will be on roll at the time of the siblings admission, or were on roll in the preceding five years
- c) child's health reasons. Medical evidence must be provided which demonstrates a specific health reason which requires the child to attend the preferred school.
- d) children of a member of staff working at this school for 2 or more years at time of application for admission, or appointed to a skill shortage subject
- e) Residence in an access area (please see appendix 1 or Medway Council's Admission to Secondary School booklet for details of our access area)
- f) Nearness of student's home. The distance calculated is the shortest available safe walking route between the child's home and the school using roads and footpaths known to the mapping layer used by Medway Council Student Services – Admissions within the Geographical Information Software (GIS). Please see Medway Council booklet for further details about how the distance is measured.

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

Parents/Carers who wish their applications to be considered under oversubscription criteria (a), (b), (c) or (d) may need to provide further information to support this. For casual admission applications, details can be added onto the application form in the spaces provided. In all cases, additional documentation should be provided to the school to support consideration under these oversubscription criteria, where appropriate. Please note that information provided will only be used if there are more applications than spaces available and it is necessary to apply our oversubscription criteria.

Appeals Process

Any child not offered a place has the statutory right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. The Independent Appeal Panel will be determined by the Governing Body on an annual basis and will, usually, consist of two lay members and one person from the community, independent of the School. The decision of the Independent Appeal Panel will be binding on the Governors and the parents. Full details of the Appeals process are available from the Clerk to the Independent Appeal Panel.

Parents wishing to make an appeal should contact the school to request a Registration and Appeal Form.

Waiting list

Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in the LA's co-ordinated admission scheme, the Academy will operate a waiting list for each year group.

A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above. Where places become vacant students on the waiting list will be contacted in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Fair Access

Children directed via the Fair Access Protocol and agreed by the Headteacher, will take precedence over any child already on a waiting list, and this includes admitting children over the published admission number. See Medway's current Fair Access Protocol agreement for more details on this process.

Admission of Students with disabilities

As far as possible the school will ensure that students with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as other students. The school does not have specific facilities for students with disabilities.

All of the main teaching rooms have easy access on ground level and disabled toilets are situated in the main block, Learning Resources Centre, Lower School block and the Creative Arts Block. There is no lift access to the upper floors of the main block, lower school block or English Block. It is expected that all students will take a full part in the everyday activities of the school. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator will put into place additional adult supervision and support required to enable every student to have the opportunity to take advantage of outside visits and field trips, where possible. Timetabling adjustments can be arranged if necessary to ensure full access to the curriculum.

Children from Overseas

Children entering the country for the first time will need to provide proof of British Citizenship, EEA nationality or appropriate leave to remain in the UK. This will ideally need to be included with the application for admission.

Arrangements to visit

The school holds open sessions in the Autumn for Year 6 girls and their parents. There is a further Open Evening in November for Year 11 students and their parents who are choosing sixth form courses. Individual visits are by appointment only.

Students wanting to apply for other year groups are encouraged to contact the school to arrange a tour.

Agreed by:

Local Governing Body

Date: December 2014

TKAT

Date: _____

DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW

AUTUMN 2015

ACCESS AREA

The access area for Rainham School for Girls is as indicated by area D below, encircled in red.



Picture taken from Medway Admission to Secondary School booklet for 2012.