

**Admission Appeal Defense Statement
Secondary School – Saint George’s Church of England School
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2022**

Published Admission Number: 210
Number of Applications received: 765
How many places were offered on national offer day: 211

Places Offered – (Please catalog oversubscription criteria)	Numbers
Before the application of oversubscription criteria, children with a statement of special educational need or Education, Health and Care Plan which names the school will be admitted. A Statement of Special Educational Need is a statement made by the local authority under Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 specifying the special educational provision required for that child. An Education, Health and Care plan is a plan made by the local authority under Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014 specifying the special education provision required for that child.	8
1. Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care – a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).	7
2a. Children or one of whose parents/grandparents/guardians is: A regular worshipper at a Church of England church. This would be monthly attendance for a period of at least 1 year. The appropriate priest, minister or religious leader will be required to confirm this on this Supplementary Information Form at the time of application.	85
2b. A regular worshipper at a church which is a member of Churches Together (https://www.cte.org.uk/) in England or the Evangelical Alliance (https://www.eauk.org/find-a-church) (churches will have to prove membership) or attached to a place of worship, or equivalent religious centre, of a faith other than the Christian faith. This would be monthly attendance for a period of at least 1 year. The appropriate priest, minister or religious leader will be required to confirm this on this Supplementary Information Form at the time of application.	27
3. Children who have a brother, sister or step or half siblings including fostered and adopted siblings living at the same home address attending Saint George’s School at the time of admission. The school reserves the	28

right to ask for proof of relationship.	
4. Children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances: Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post in the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage for the requirements of the post	0
5. Children who attend an Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust (AAAT) primary school. We will admit up to 45 children who have attended an AAAT primary school throughout years 5 and 6.	26
6. All other applicants	30
Total number of pupils offered a place;	211
Rank position of last child offered a place;	242

Distance of last child allocated a place (N/A if not applicable);

The last child allocated lives a distance of 15.146 miles from the school

ADMISSIONS APPEALS 2022

STATEMENT OF HEADTEACHER

This year the school faced a particularly high demand for year 7 places having received a total of 765 applications, including 243 first preferences. We are grateful for parental interest in the school and consider this a reflection of our careful planning and considered approach to teaching and learning within the physical limitations of our site. Given the high demand for secondary places and local capacity issues we, after some persuasion from KCC officers, agreed to permanently expand our PAN to include an additional 30 students from September 2020. This has led to an increase to 7 forms of entry with a limit on each teaching group of 30 as a maximum although, in some specialist teaching areas (Design Technology, PE, Food, Drama and Dance for example) to match health and safety guidelines this is reduced still further.

Saint George's was the only non-selective school in Gravesham not to have been rebuilt under the 'Building Schools for the Future; initiative and therefore continues to operate in spaces that would now fail to meet the minimum required space for classrooms. The aforementioned increase in pupils has put additional strain on our already limited classroom space. In order to cope with this increase to our roll we are in the process of developing our site to be able to cope with the additional numbers. Whilst some buildings have been improved and are appropriate for the number of pupils on roll, there are still several areas that fall below the required standards.

The school experienced severe budget cuts for 2016-19 in excess of those experienced elsewhere due to the previous undersubscription in Key stage 4. Furthermore, in order to offer the best learning experience to all of our pupils, including the relatively large numbers of EAL and Pupil Premium students, it is all the more important that class sizes do not increase. We simply do not have the financial

capacity, space or personnel to accommodate additional students.

Uniquely to Gravesham Saint George's is an all-through school (4-18 years). Both phases of the school (primary and secondary) have a single school registration number. Although we believe this model provides a significant academic and pastoral advantage it places the school at considerable financial disadvantage. To counter this many staff work across both phases. Taking additional secondary students beyond our PAN would have significant implications on this staffing model and on school financial wellbeing.

Parents were asked to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for Saint George's School at the same time as they completed their CAF, without which Governors cannot consider a place above criteria 6. The requirement for this is made clear via a number of forums (school prospectus, school and KCC websites, social media etc) and the SIF is readily available from a number of sources. The Governors used the Supplementary Information Form to prioritise the applications in rank order. The Governors used the published admissions criteria to make these decisions. When all applicants had been prioritised in accordance with the admissions criteria the list was sent back to the LEA to allocate the places taking account of the preferences expressed by the parents on their CAF. The Governors were then informed by the LEA of those pupils who had been offered a place at Saint George's School.

Number of roll for 2021-2022 as at 1st March 2022

Year	Number on Roll	Planned Admission Number
7	211	210
8	208	210
9	183	180
10	210	210
11	180	180

Completed by: Headteacher Mr M Lillie

Date: 9th March 2022