



Maidstone Grammar School
for Girls

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Generic Defence Statement - 11+ Appeals for Entry 2026

Contents

- Introduction
- Context
- Conclusion
- Appendix One - Secondary Transfer Co-ordinated Scheme for Kent
- Appendix Two - PESE 2025 – Threshold Statement
- Appendix Three - Oversubscription Criteria for Maidstone Grammar School for Girls

INTRODUCTION

Appeals are received from students that have not been allocated a grammar school place in line with the Secondary Transfer Co-ordinated Scheme for Kent (Appendix 1).

The school considers that it is relieved of its duty to meet the parental preference because the student did not meet our entry criteria and this would not be compatible with the published admission arrangements.

The Independent Appeal Panel will be asked to decide whether or not students appealing should be allocated a place at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls into Year 7 for September 2026 intake.

Background Information

1. Places at Kent Secondary Schools have been allocated in accordance with the co-ordinated scheme (see Appendix 1).
2. Maidstone Grammar School for Girls is selective and the admission of this student would not be compatible with the admission arrangements of the school.
3. Maidstone Grammar School for Girls for Year 7 entry for September 2026 is not currently oversubscribed. However, it is anticipated that the school will receive more 11+ appeals than places available. For this reason only, the school's case for not exceeding its Published Admission Number (210) is attached to these papers in Appendix 2. The Admissions Authority takes the view that to exceed the Published Admission Number would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

CONTEXT

The parents' preferred school is MGGS. It has not been possible to allocate a place at MGGS because the student does not have a grammar school assessment.

The best indicator of a student's performance is their English and Mathematics 11+ test scores, together

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Maidstone Grammar School
for Girls

Non sibi sed omnibus

with any NFER CATS data. Students with 11+ scores lower than 100 in any of the tests, do struggle to access the curriculum at MGGS.

Year 7 will have seven classes; historically, the school has been able to accommodate 30 children in each class.

On 2nd March 2026 National Offer Day, MGGS will offer places and parents/carers have until 16th March 2026 to accept or refuse the school place. The PAN is 210 for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 2026 cohorts with seven form groups. Other year groups have a PAN of 180, with six form groups as follows:

Anticipated Class Organisation September 2026:

Year 7:	PAN 210 Seven form groups of 30.
Year 8:	PAN 210 Two form groups of 27, one form group of 26, two form groups of 25 and two form groups of 24, total number of students 178.
Year 9:	PAN 210 Two form groups of 31, one form group of 30, two form groups of 29 and two form groups of 28, total number of students 205.
Year 10 and Year 11:	Students are not taught in these form groups. There are a range of different classes, differing in size, for both core and option subjects. Year 10 205 students - (PAN 210) Year 11 173 students - (PAN 180)

The school has sufficient classrooms for seven forms of entry. However, the infrastructure, in particular the Canteen, does not have sufficient space, creating pressure on students' ability to access this space at break and lunch times.

Technology rooms cannot take more than 20 students for health and safety reasons, as given by DATA Design Technology Association. There is no equipment nor space for more than 20 students to participate in Design Technology lessons. Across the first six form groups students are split into nine groups of 20 students. The additional seventh form will be split in half, to create a total of 11 Design Technology classes at Key Stage three. To take more than 20 students would limit the tasks that groups can make and as a result would be detrimental to students wanting to continue to study Design Technology beyond KS3 due to their limited experiences caused by large classes. Additionally, staff have reported there are health and safety concerns with classes over 20 students.

At KS3: in each year group classes of at most 30. Where the number in the year group exceeds this, students will be spread across groups to have a minimal impact, especially for practical subjects.

At KS4: Students are organised into 6 form groups, but are not taught in these form groups. There are a range of different classes, differing in size, for both core and option subjects.

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Maidstone Grammar School
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Non sibi sed omnibus

There is pressure on students' ability to access large spaces such as the Canteen during the time given at break time. This is an increasing problem with the additional form of entry.

Context of the School Buildings:

- To admit more than 30 students per class would result in arrangements of classroom furniture, which would prevent any flexibility or movement of furniture to suit different class activities. This will limit the activities that take place in the classroom, ultimately having a detrimental effect on teaching and learning. In some classrooms, teachers will not be able to circulate to see students' work as the rooms are too crowded, creating a severe barrier to effective one-to-one support of students. Larger classes that we currently have can simply not be accommodated in these rooms.
- Some classrooms are not accessible for students with mobility issues and ensuring these students can access their education can create knock-on consequences for classroom availability.
- The main school building at MGGS has narrow corridors and there is significant congestion during lesson changeover.
- To go above 210 students would require the need for an additional class, which we do not have the room, the resources, nor the teachers available.
- SEN statistics – the school does not employ a Teaching Assistant.

CONCLUSION

The parents' preferred school is MGGS. It has not been possible to allocate a place at MGGS because the student does not have a grammar school assessment.

The best indicator of a student's performance is their English and Mathematics 11+ test scores together with any NFER CATS data. Students with 11+ scores lower than 100 in any of the tests, do struggle to access the curriculum at MGGS.

Miss Deborah Stanley, Headteacher

February 2026

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Admissions Policy](#)

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APPENDIX 1

Secondary Transfer Co-ordinated Scheme for Kent

ADMISSION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 2026

The Secondary Transfer Scheme to co-ordinate admissions to Kent Secondary Schools has been agreed by all admissions authorities.

The key features of the scheme are:

- There is a standard form known as a Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF).
- Parents were invited to express four preferences in priority order, including any schools outside the LA area.
- Some schools asked parents to provide additional information on a supplementary form. This was not an application form; the only valid application form was the SCAF.
- The closing date for return of completed SCAFs was 31 October 2025.
- The LA notified all secondary schools of the applications for their school. The schools applied their over-subscription criteria and sent back to the LA a list of all applicants ranked in priority order.
- The LA acted as a clearing house for all applications, and matched each school's ranked list against other schools' ranked lists and:
 - (a) Where a child was eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools, that school was offered.
 - (b) Where a child was eligible for a place at two or more nominated schools, a place was allocated at whichever of these was the highest ranked preference.
 - (c) Where a child was not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, the child was allocated a place at an alternative school.
- On 2 March 2026 the home LA notified parents of the school allocation decision.
- On 23 April 2026 Kent County Council allocated places at schools with vacancies to children on schools' waiting lists, in accordance with their oversubscription criteria.
- After 23 April, schools with vacancies allocate places to children on their waiting lists, in accordance with their oversubscription criteria.

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Maidstone Grammar School
for Girls

Non sibi sed omnibus

APPENDIX 2

PESE 2026 – Threshold Statement

Pupils have been assessed on the basis of their scores in the English, Maths and Reasoning tests (the reasoning score is for all the subsections combined).

For a Grammar assessment (G), a pupil needs:

An aggregate score of 332 or more, with no single score lower than 108.

Pupils with a Grammar assessment may be offered a place at any type of school, including a grammar school, *subject to local admission criteria*. **A grammar school assessment does not guarantee that a child will get a grammar school place.** The allocation process uses data from the Secondary Common Application Form to offer parents the highest available of their preferences.

Pupils with **an aggregate score lower than 332** will have an H assessment, as will pupils who have scored **less than 108 on one test**.

Pupils with an H assessment may be offered a place at any type of school except a grammar school, subject to local admission criteria.

Scores in this year's standardisation run from 69 to 141. 423 is therefore the maximum standardised score any pupil can achieve.

On 16th October results including test scores will be sent to parents using the email address they gave on registration. Parents can also use their login details to view their child's assessment decision and test scores. Kent County Council emails will not include outcomes from other tests set by individual grammar schools, who will contact parents separately.

Although there is no scope to appeal against the assessment decision itself, parents who name one or more grammar schools on the SCAF have the right appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel for admission to the named grammar school(s) once school places have been offered on Monday, 2nd March 2026.

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Maidstone Grammar School
for Girls

Non sibi sed omnibus

APPENDIX 3

Oversubscription Criteria for Maidstone Grammar School for Girls

Maidstone Grammar School for Girls complies with the Co-ordinated Admission Scheme, which is administered by Kent Local Authority. Detailed information about the school is available in the prospectus and Essential Information Booklets which can be found on the school website <https://www.mggs.org/>.

Girls are normally admitted at age 11. All students must have gained a selective place through the Kent PESE (Procedure for Entry into Secondary Education). Details of the Kent PESE are available from the Kent County Council booklet 'Admission to Secondary School in Kent'. There is no guarantee of a place to applicants who meet the over-subscription criteria.

The Published Admissions Number is 210.

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. As a result of this the Published Admission Number will be reduced accordingly.

When the school is oversubscribed, the following oversubscription criteria will be used in the order shown:

- **Eligible girls who are looked after and previously looked after children:** 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). Children previously in Care outside of England Children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.
- **Students in receipt of Pupil Premium:** A student is eligible for Pupil Premium where they have been registered for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years. This does not include students who have only been eligible to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. Parents wishing to apply under this criterion must ensure that they complete the attached Supplementary Information Form and return it to the school by 31st October in the year of application. Parents must also complete an application (via online or paper Secondary Common Application Form) naming the school, otherwise their child cannot be considered for a place.
- **Current family association:** This is defined as a sister or brother attending either Maidstone Grammar School for Girls or Maidstone Grammar School when the child starts. In this context brother or sister

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Maidstone Grammar School
for Girls

Non sibi sed omnibus

means children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, step brothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

● **Distance from home to school:** Determined by straight line using NLPG data, with those eligible girls living nearest being accorded highest priority. The school uses measurements provided by the local authority and further information on how distances are calculated is available in the ‘Admission to Secondary School in Kent’ booklet provided by the local authority.

If more than one applicant has 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. In the event that the final place offered from a ranked list falls to a pupil of a multiple birth, the school will offer a place to each of these girls who have met the over subscription criteria.

Requests for admission to Year 7 outside of the normal age group should be made to the Headteacher as early as possible. As entry to the school is through the Kent Test procedure, parents need to ensure they allow the school and admissions authority sufficient time to make a decision before the closing date for Kent Test registration.

Where a parent is requesting for their child to apply a year early, parents are advised to contact the school shortly before the opening of the Kent Test registration process for the year they wish their child to start. If the request for early testing is accepted, the child cannot sit the test again.

Where a parent is requesting for their child to apply a year later than expected, they should make their request shortly before the opening of the Kent Test registration process associated with the child’s date of birth. Parents are advised to complete a Kent test registration for the normal point of entry at the same time, in case their request is declined. This registration can be cancelled if the school agrees to accept a deferred application for entry into Year 7 the following year, allowing the child to apply for the Kent Test the following year.

Parents are not expected to provide evidence to support their request to defer their application; however, where provided, it must be specific to the child in question. This might include medical or Educational Psychologist reports. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional, however, failure to provide this may impede a school’s ability to agree to deferral or early admission to their secondary phase of education.

The school will take into account the year group the child has been taught in leading up to transition. Deferred applications must be made via paper SCAF to the LA, with written confirmation from the school attached. Early or deferred applications will be processed in the same way as all applications for the cohort in the following admissions round, and offers will be made in accordance with each school’s oversubscription criteria. Further advice is available at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places>.

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