



## Admission FAQs

### **I am moving into the area and want to visit the school.**

We have an annual 'open afternoon' mid July from 4-6pm. This is very informal and there is no need to book. You can bring your children with you to have a look around the school. All the classes are open and current pupils and parents come in to see their work, which is on display. Our Admissions Officer will be available to answer any questions you may have during this time. Please see the website for this year's date.

We also hold an Open Morning in November. The date and time is posted on the website at the beginning of the Autumn term. This is primarily aimed at parents of children who will be starting Reception class the following September. As numbers are limited, priority is given to these parents. Booking is required. Please see the main Admissions page on the website for details of how to book.

Should your child be offered a place at Claremont through an In Year Admission, we will arrange for you and your child to visit at that point.

We are sorry but we are unable to offer visits to the school outside these times, even if you are visiting from overseas.

### **My family and I are moving into your area and I was hoping you would be able to provide me with some indication as to what the likelihood would be of my child getting a place at your school.**

Unfortunately we are usually full in all year groups. As we are oversubscribed there are prioritised waiting lists for all year groups. We do have people leaving Claremont during the school year but there is not a high turnover generally and we rarely get much advanced notice. Any places that do become available are offered immediately to whoever is currently at the top of the waiting list. We cannot keep places open.

As with all waiting lists, Claremont's are ranked. Children in the care of the Local Authority or adopted from Care take priority, followed by siblings then health, social and special access reasons and thereafter it is distance from the school. We do NOT have what is commonly known as a 'catchment area'. Your address in Tunbridge Wells will be used to rank you. KCC measure all the distances in a straight line from the school. Clearly the closer you live to the school, the higher you will be on the waiting list but please be aware that your position on the waiting list is always therefore subject to change. Without a local address you would be at the bottom of the waiting list. We understand that it is a 'Catch 22' situation – that you don't want to commit to a property without guaranteeing a place at the school of your choice but unfortunately you are highly unlikely to get a place at Claremont without a local address in Tunbridge Wells.

If you wish to apply for a school place/place on the waiting list at Claremont, please complete and return the **In Year Casual Admission Form** available to download from the KCC website via a link on our school website. We will respond to you in writing and if we are unable to offer you a place, you

can request to be placed on the waiting list. We will place you on the waiting list according to the address you are using on the application form. We request to see proof of residence in the form of a rental agreement or exchange of contracts. We will hold your place on the waiting list for one calendar year from date of joining. Should you wish to re-apply at the end of this year, you will need to complete a new application form and provide current proof of residence. Please be advised that your place on the waiting list can go down as well as up

**I am relocating to the area at the end of July and am looking for a place for my child who will be in Year 3 in September.**

As before, we are usually full in all year groups with waiting lists. We do open up an extra 2 places per class going into Year 3 but any siblings on the waiting list for this year group will take priority. We generally do not have any indication as to whether we will have any leavers that will free up any further spaces until towards the end of the summer term. Any places we do have available are offered around the beginning of July so you will need to be living in the area and on the waiting list at that point to be considered for a September place.

**We would be grateful for any information you can share with us regarding this year's admissions to Reception class.**

Offers are made in early April and, until then, the school does not have exact information on the number of sibling places or how far we will offer in September of that year.

Generally siblings take up half of the 60 places. There is no defined 'catchment area'. Places are offered in priority order to Children in the Care of a Local Authority or adopted from Care, followed by siblings, then health, social and special access reasons. Any places we have remaining are offered on the basis of distance. It is difficult to predict how far we can offer as it largely depends on the number of siblings and also the number of children living close to the school who will be starting school that year.

In 2010, when we admitted 60 children (our normal admission number), we reached just over a quarter of a mile from the school. In 2011 and 2012, when we admitted 90 children into year R, we offered to non-siblings up to about half a mile away. In 2013 we returned to offering 60 places as in 2010. For September 2013, 36 siblings were offered places and the furthest distance to be offered in the first round of allocations was 0.1948 miles. Subsequent offers from the waiting list got to a distance of 0.2918 miles. For September 2014 we initially offered to 46 siblings and got to a distance of 0.1484 in the first round of allocations. Due to a number of families relocating out of the area, sibling numbers fell to a final total of 42. One place was given to a child in the care of the LA and the furthest distance offered to from the waiting list was 0.1566 miles. For September 2015, the most up to date information on the first round of allocations is as follows: 3 places were offered to children in the care of the LA, 40 places were offered to siblings and the furthest place offered on distance was 0.1653 miles. In the second round of allocations, one place was offered to a distance of 0.1498 miles. For September 2016, in the first round of allocations, we offered two places to children in the care of the LA or adopted from care, 40 places to siblings and 1 place on health grounds. The furthest place offered on distance was 0.1847 miles. In the second round of allocations, four places were offered from the waiting list to a distance of 0.189 miles. For September 2017, in the first round of allocations, 31 places went to siblings and the remaining places were offered to a distance of 0.223

miles. In the second round of allocations, two places were offered from the waiting list to a distance of 0.093 miles.