



Admission FAQs

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

Every week we take a large number of admission enquiries. This, together with the fact that we rarely have places to offer, many families do not eventually move to Tunbridge Wells or the local area, and in consideration of the disruption caused by visits to the school, means that we are unable to offer ad hoc visits to the school, even if you are visiting from overseas.

We have an annual 'open afternoon' mid-July from 2.30-4.30pm. 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.

My family and I are moving into your area and I was hoping you would be able to provide me with some information about places and waiting lists.

Unfortunately, we are usually full in all year groups. As we are oversubscribed there are prioritised waiting lists for all year groups. As with all waiting lists, Claremont's are ranked:

1. Children in the care of the Local Authority or adopted from Care.
2. Siblings.
3. Health, social and special access reasons.
4. Distance.

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, nor do we offer places specifically in January or September. We do not have any guarantees if, or when, you might be offered a place here. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to recommend other schools in the area.

We do NOT have what is commonly known as a 'catchment area'. In addition, as most people are ranked on distance, it is not relevant how many people are on the waiting list as clearly the closer you live to the school, the higher you will be on the waiting list. Please be aware that your position on the waiting list is always subject to change should someone else move into the area to an address that is closer to the school than yours. Under GDPR guidance, we cannot give out detailed information about distances of people already on the waiting list.

Your address in Tunbridge Wells will therefore be used to rank you. Without a local address you are likely to be at the bottom of the waiting list. It is KCC, not the school, who measure all the distances

in a straight line from the school. 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 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.

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 2017, in the first round of allocations, 29 places were offered on distance, the furthest being 0.223 miles. In the second round of allocations, two places were offered from the waiting list to a distance of 0.093 miles. For September 2018, in the first round of allocations, 33 places were offered on distance, the furthest being 0.303 miles. In the second round of allocations, 6 places were offered from the waiting list to a distance of 0.561. The increase in the distance this year is owing to a low birth rate in the area for primary aged children. For September 2019, in the first round of allocations, we offered 34 places on distance, the furthest being 0.271 miles. In the second round of allocations, 5 places were offered from the waiting list to a distance of 0.428 miles. Currently, for September 2020, in the first round, 40 places were offered on distance, to 0.361 miles. In the second round, 2 offers were made from the waiting list to a distance of 0.374 miles.