



## Admissions FAQs

### Visiting the school.

Every week we take a large number of admission enquiries. However, as we rarely have places to offer and many families do not eventually move to the local area, and in consideration of the disruption caused by visits to the school, we are unable to offer ad hoc visits, even if you are coming from overseas.

We have an annual 'open afternoon' mid-July from 3.30-5.00pm. 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 Admissions page on the website for this year's date.

We also hold an Open Morning in November for parents who are looking for Reception places the following September. The date and time is posted on the website at the beginning of the Autumn term. 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.

### 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. KCC, not the school, 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 Admission Form** available to download from the KCC website via the link on the Admissions page 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.

### **Year 3 places 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 and offer places according to over subscription criteria. 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 end of June/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.

### **Admission to Reception class.**

Offers are made mid 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. Please see the table below for previous distances offered.

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.

There are two rounds of allocations. The first round is the initial offer made in April. Any places that are declined are then offered in the second round of allocations in June from the waiting list. The waiting list comprises of those who have requested to be placed on the waiting list and any late applications submitted to KCC. Both of these allocations are made by KCC who hold the waiting list until June. After the second round of allocations, waiting lists are passed over to schools and any further places are offered directly by the school under the In Year admissions process.

<b>Year of Entry</b>	<b>Places offered on distance – 1<sup>st</sup> round</b>	<b>Furthest distance offered</b>	<b>Places offered on distance – 2<sup>nd</sup> round</b>	<b>Furthest distance offered</b>
2019	34	0.271 miles	5	0.428 miles
2020	40	0.361 miles	2	0.374 miles
2021	24	0.242 miles	5	0.314 miles
2022	32	0.291 miles	2	0.316 miles
2023	37	0.323 miles	3	0.340 miles
2024	24	0.238 miles	TBC	TBC