

TITLE
School Admission Arrangements 2026
DATE
13 November 2024
LEAD OFFICER.
Paul Clarke, Head of School Services
<p>1 Summary description of the proposed change What is the change to policy / service / new project that is being proposed? How does it compare with the current situation?</p> <p>Each year the Local Authority is required to undertake a consultation on the co-ordinated admission schemes and arrangements for primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>This assessment relates to the proposed Medway Council co-ordinated admission schemes for secondary and primary admissions 2026 and the arrangements being proposed in relation to community and voluntary controlled primary, infant and junior schools only.</p> <p>The changes proposed from last year are as follows:</p> <p>Secondary admissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of dates to fit the 2026/27 admission timeline • Co-ordinated admissions process for year 7 ends 31 August rather than 31 December <p>Primary admissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of dates to fit the 2026/27 admission timeline • Co-ordinated admissions process for year R and 3 (junior schools) ends 31 August rather than 31 December
<p>2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment Eg: Feedback from consultation, performance information, service user. Eg: Comparison of service user profile with Medway Community Profile</p> <p>A full 6 week public consultation on the proposed admission arrangements has been undertaken. The Council have received 15 responses to the consultation, which have been considered as part of the proposed outcomes.</p>

Diversity impact assessment

3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change?

Is it likely to:

Adversely impact on one or more of the protected characteristic groups

Advance equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected characteristic groups

Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

(insert Yes when there is an impact or No when there isn't)

Protected characteristic groups (Equality Act 2010)	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Age	No	No	No
Disability	No	No	No
Gender reassignment	No	No	No
Marriage/civil partnership	No	No	No
Pregnancy/maternity	No	No	No
Race	No	No	No
Religion/belief	No	No	No
Sex	No	No	No
Sexual orientation	No	No	No
Other (eg low income groups)	No	No	No

4 Summary of the likely impacts

Who will be affected?

How will they be affected?

The proposed change would bring our scheme into line with the School Admissions Code and other local authorities by closing the main round admissions process 31 August rather than 31 December. This will make the process simpler for Medway residents, especially those moving into or out of the area later in the process.

Diversity impact assessment

<p>5 What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations? What alternative ways can the Council provide the service? Are there alternative providers? Can demand for services be managed differently?</p>
<p>All applications will be processed in accordance with the co-ordinated schemes and admission arrangements for all schools which is fair for all pupils and provides equality of opportunity.</p>

<p>6 Action plan Actions to mitigate adverse impact, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations and/or obtain new evidence</p>
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Action	Lead	Deadline or review date
To consider all applications in accordance with the co-ordinated schemes	School Admissions	As part of the admissions process

<p>7 Recommendation The recommendation by the lead officer should be stated below. This may be: to proceed with the change, implementing the Action Plan if appropriate, consider alternatives, gather further evidence If the recommendation is to proceed with the change and there are no actions that can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impact, it is important to state why. That the proposed schemes be adopted following the outcome and taking consideration of the admissions consultation, which closed 12 November 2024.</p>
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<p>8 Authorisation The authorising officer is consenting that the recommendation can be implemented, sufficient evidence has been obtained and appropriate mitigation is planned, the Action Plan will be incorporated into the relevant Service Plan and monitored</p>
<p>Assistant Director Celia Buxton</p>
<p>Date of authorisation</p>