



Kentmere Academy and Nursery

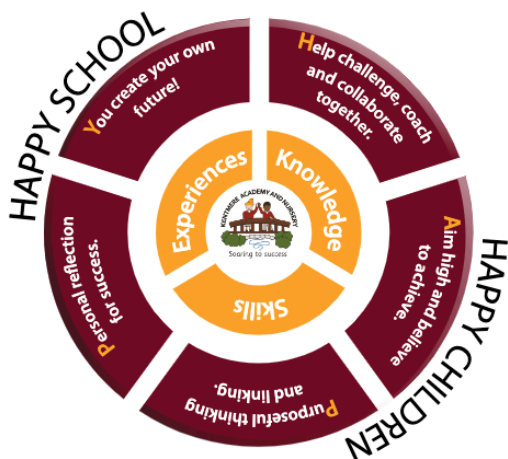
Admissions Policy 2026

Introduction

This document sets out the admission arrangements of Kentmere Academy and Nursery. For the purpose of this policy, the Watergrove Trust is the admission authority.

Ethos Statement

At Kentmere Academy, every pupil is nurtured and encouraged to fulfill their potential – our aim, to stretch the most able and support the least confident, informs and guides all that we do. We want all our pupils to achieve their best both academically and socially. Alongside this we promote an ethos where every child is valued as an individual, to help them to grow into caring and respectful young people who are able to get on well with each other and make a positive contribution to our community.



We are a Proud and Happy School

Help challenge, coach and collaborate together

Aim high and believe to achieve

Purposeful thinking and linking

Personal reflection for success

You create your own future

Process

1. Applications for admission to the school should be made using the Local Authority Common Application Form by the national closing date of 15th January 2026.
2. The Local Authority will inform parents of the offer of a place on behalf of the Watergrove Trust on the national offer date 16th April 2026 or the next working day.
3. Kentmere Academy School and Nursery has an admission number of 45 pupils for entry into Reception. The school will accordingly admit at least 45 each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 45 or fewer apply. The school will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school. Priority will then be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below.

Oversubscription Criteria

1. Looked After Children, Previously Looked After Children and Internationally Adopted Looked After Children (LAC, PLAC, IAPLAC)

A "Looked After Child" (LAC) 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) at the time of making an application to a school.

A "Previously Looked After Child" (PLAC) is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after.

An "Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Child (IAPLAC) is a child who appears (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

2. Social and Medical need

Exceptional medical needs must be supported at the time of application by a letter from a GP, hospital consultant or other medical professional indicating how a pupil's medical condition relates only to the school of preference.

Exceptional welfare considerations (such as children at risk) must be supported at the time of the application by a letter from a supporting agency (e.g. Social Worker, Family Support Worker, Education Welfare Officer) indicating how the circumstances relate only to the school of preference.

It should be noted that providing such evidence does not automatically mean that a place will be allocated under this priority.

This criterion will consider issues relevant to the child and/or the family in line with the Equalities Act 2010. If exceptional medical or exceptional welfare grounds are claimed after the allocation procedure has been completed, it will not be possible to allocate a place under this priority.

3. Siblings

For the purposes of these arrangements, a sibling is defined as natural brothers or sisters, half-brothers and half-sisters, step-brothers and step-sisters and adopted or fostered brothers and sisters. The sibling must be residing at the same address and must not be a cousin or other relative.

Priority may only be claimed under this criterion where the sibling is attending the school at the time the application is submitted and is expected to still be attending the school at the time when this child is due to be admitted. As such, for applications made in the normal admissions round, a sibling who is currently in Year 6 or Year 11 would not be considered as a genuine sibling link.

4. Children eligible for the service premium

Pupils attract SPP if they meet one of the following criteria:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve service);
- they have been registered as a 'service child' on a school census since 2016, on the DfE's ever 6 service child measure;
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.

Children have to be flagged as service children ahead of the autumn school census deadline. Service parents need to make the school aware of their status by talking to the head teacher or school admin staff. Evidence of eligibility for the Service Pupil Premium (such as a copy of a military identification (ID) card) must be submitted at the time of your application.

5. Children of staff

Children of all staff of the school will be considered where the parent has a permanent contract of employment. Their normal base of work must be at Kentmere Academy and Nursery, Kentmere Avenue, Smallbridge, Rochdale OL12 9EE and their employment contract must have been in place for two or more years at the time of the closing date for application for admission.

6. Children attending Kentmere Nursery

In order to claim this priority, the child must have attended Kentmere Academy Nursery for over a term prior to January. Children not meeting this criteria who attend Kentmere Academy Nursery will be considered under criteria 7

7. Distance from school

Priority will be given to children who live nearest to the school as measured by the Local Authority's GIS system. Distances are measured in a straight line "as the crow flies" from the Easting and Northing coordinates of the child's home address as taken from the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG), to the identified school gate used for admissions at the school.¹

¹ Details of the location of the school gate is provided in Appendix A to these arrangements.

Tie-break

Where there are two or more applications that cannot be separated by using the above stated criteria, priority will be determined by random allocation. This process will be independently verified.

If a tie-break is required in earlier categories to decide who has priority for admission, distance from the school will be used and will be measured as described in criterion 7 above.

NOTES

DfE's ever 6 service child measures.

The service pupil premium (SPP) was extended, such that any pupil in reception to year 11, who has been flagged as a service child since the 2016 autumn school census, will continue to receive the premium.

Ex service personnel should tell the school if they left the armed forces within the last 6 years. Under the DfE's 'ever 6' measure, schools will continue to receive SPP for up to 6 years for children whose parent(s) left the armed forces, provided the children were recorded as service children in a school census from 2016 onwards (prior to their parent(s) leaving the forces). The ever measure also applies when service parents divorce or separate or when a service parent dies in service.

Shared parenting

In instances where a child lives part of the week with one parent and the other part with another parent; the local authority will consider the address where the child mostly wakes up on school days.

If responsibility for the child is shared equally and there are legal arrangements in place to support this; the Trust will accept either address agreed by each parent. If no such legal arrangement exists and parents cannot come to an agreement regarding which address is to be used, the local authority will consider the home address as the one at which child benefit is paid.

Waiting Lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the first term after the beginning of the school year. This will be maintained by the admission authority and it will be open to any parent to ask for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application. Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves it.

Multiple births

Where a single place remains at a school and the application being considered is for twins or children from multiple births or same year group siblings the school will allocate above the Published Admission Number to accommodate each child.

Compulsory school age

All children are entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. There is a duty on parents to ensure that their child receives an efficient full-time education suitable to the

child's age, ability and aptitude when the child reaches compulsory school age. A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday (or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

Deferred entry to school/part-time schooling

Parents/Carers can defer the date their child is admitted to school until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or for children born between 1st April and 31st August, not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer is made. Where parents/carers wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Summer-born children

The Parents/Carers of a summer-born child (those born between 1st April and 31st August) may choose not to send their child to school until September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group (i.e. to Reception rather than Year 1).

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting on their schooling. All such requests will be considered on their merits and either agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The process for requesting such an admission is as follows: With the application, parents should request that the child is admitted to another year group (state which one), and the reasons for that request.

Parents will submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, headteacher etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include :

- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

The school will consider each case on its merits, taking into account the individual circumstances of the request and the child's best interests. We will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made, and the reason for any refusal. Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time.

Children of UK Service Personnel

Families of UK service personnel are subject to frequent movement within the UK and from abroad, often at relatively short notice. A school place can be allocated in advance of the confirmed posting, even if there is uncertainty about the exact future address. Infant age children admitted outside the normal admission round are 'excepted pupils' under the infant class size regulations.

The place can be held open until the family arrive in the UK or return to the area, and usually until the start of the following term, but could be longer in particular circumstances.

Fair Access Protocol

The Local Authority has a Fair Access Protocol in place to ensure that children who may have difficulties securing a school place are allocated a place as quickly as possible.

The Fair Access Protocol is designed to facilitate the school placement of the most vulnerable children and/or challenging children in the Borough. In doing so it aims to:

- acknowledge the real need of vulnerable children to be dealt with quickly, sympathetically and to be placed appropriately;
- reduce the time that such children spend out of education;
- ensure that schools admit children with challenging behaviour and behavioural needs on as fair and equitable basis as possible;
- ensure that the process is transparent and fair for all schools; and
- facilitate appropriate challenge where necessary.

There is no duty on an Admission Authority to comply with the parental preference when allocating a place through the Fair Access Protocol.

Children with behavioural difficulties

Where a child has been identified by the Fair Access Panel as having a history of behavioural difficulties; and the requested school has a high proportion of children with challenging behaviour or previously excluded children; the application may be refused even though places are available.

This does not apply to a looked after child, a previously looked after child or a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school in question as these children must be admitted.

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date and before the Rochdale Local Authority admission meeting will be placed last in the criteria in which they fall unless the [Admissions Authority] is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented the application from being submitted on time. Supporting evidence, including that provided by the required Supplementary Information Form, must also be supplied by the closing date for applications, unless it is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented it being submitted on time. In the absence of such supporting evidence, the allocation of places will be made on the basis of application alone.

In-Year admissions

From time to time a place becomes available further up the school. The allocation of places is in accordance with the admissions criteria. Preference will be given to children moving into the area from outside the Local Authority area who do not have a school place. Evidence will need to be provided that the child has recently moved in. In-year admissions should be made directly to Kentmere Academy School and Nursery office.

Appeals Procedure

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Appellants should contact Watergrove Trust / Kentmere Academy and Nursery, Kentmere Avenue, Smallbridge, Rochdale OL12 9EE within 31 days of the date of the letter refusing your child a place at the school for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on our website at <https://www.kentmereacademy.co.uk/parents/admissions-prospectus>

Published Admission Number - This is the number of pupils the school will accordingly admit for the relevant age group if sufficient applications are received. If the number of applications received is equal to or less than the admission number, all applicants will be admitted.

What3Words reference - What 3 Words is a website that has divided the world into 3 metre squares and given each square a unique combination of three words in order to identify and share exact locations. You can find the location of the school gate used to measure distances by searching the above three word reference on the What3Words website – www.what3words.com

Enquiries

Should be made to the school office at Kentmere Avenue, Smallbridge, Rochdale OL12 9EE.

Appendix A - location of school gate.

