Secondary Admissions 2027

Presentation for parent/carers

Education Access
Medway Council

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Why are we here now?

- The admission processes for September 2027 started on 18 May 2026
- The first thing you will think about and decide is whether you want your child to sit the Medway Test in September 2026
- The aim of this presentation is to help you understand the processes and to answer any questions you may have
- We encourage you to use this presentation, the admissions information on our website (www.medway.gov.uk/admissions) and contact with schools to help you make the most informed decision about which schools to apply for
- Details of all 19 Medway secondary schools can be found in our online directory
- The directory also provides you with details of their published admission number, oversubscription criteria and other useful information including the dates and times for their planned open sessions

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Key Dates for Parent/Carers

Monday 18 May 2026	**Online registration for the Medway Test open**
Friday 12 June 2026	**Closing date for Medway Test registration**
Monday 22 June 2026	**Closing date for access/special arrangement requests**
Tuesday 1 September 2026	**School applications open**
Tues 15 / Wed 16 & Sat 19 / Sun 20 September 2026	**Medway Test days**
Wednesday 14 October 2026	**Assessment decisions notified to parents/carers**
Saturday 31 October 2026	**Closing date for secondary school applications *National Closing Date***
Monday 1 March 2027	**Secondary school offers notified to parents/carers *National Offer Day***
By Friday 12 March 2027	**Places must be accepted/refused and requests to go on a waiting list and appeals must be submitted**
w/c 19 April 2027 until 31 August 2027	**The Council re-allocates any places that have become available to those who have asked to go on the waiting lists for each school**

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The Medway Test
and
other testing arrangements

Should there be any unexpected events, changes to government guidance or restrictions that will change the test arrangements after you have received your invite, Medway Council will email all families with an update nearer the test dates.

The Medway Test is for Medway grammar schools only.

The Kent Test is for Kent grammar schools only.*

*Please note that Chatham Grammar also considers children who have passed the Kent Test.

The Medway Test is for the following schools:

In Medway, we have 6 grammar secondary schools. These are:

- Chatham Grammar (mixed from September 2026's Year 7)
- Fort Pitt Grammar School (mixed from September 2026's Year 7)
- Holcombe Grammar School (mixed from September 2026's Year 7)
- Rainham Mark Grammar School (mixed)
- Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School (boys)
- The Rochester Grammar School (girls)

In addition, The Howard School (boys only) can accept children who have been assessed as grammar into their grammar section, as they are a 'bi-lateral school'.

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Should my child sit the Medway Test?

- We would strongly recommend you discuss with your child's class teacher or Headteacher, in the first instance, whether a grammar school may be the right place for your child.

- Medway operates a 'testing before preference' system.

  This means that your child will sit the Medway Test and receive their assessment decision before the closing date for school applications. This is so you can make the most informed decision possible when selecting which schools to name on your application.

Can my child sit grammar school tests in more than one area?

- You can register your child for as many tests as you wish if you are considering schools in more than one local authority.
- We recommend that your child only takes tests in areas where you are seriously considering the school for them to attend. We do not advise children sitting a test unnecessarily.
- We advise that you contact the local authorities concerned to register for their tests.
- **There is no opportunity to change your Medway Test date if it clashes with another area**.

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When and where is the Medway Test being held?

Tuesday 15 / Wednesday 16 September 2026

- For children attending Medway primary/junior schools testing will take place in your child's current school.

Thursday 17 / Friday 18 September 2026

- For children attending Medway primary/junior schools and have been granted special arrangement and the school has opted to host the test over 4 days in school. Speak to your headteacher for further information.

Saturday 19 / Sunday 20 September 2026

- For children attending schools from outside of Medway testing will take place in in larger test centres.
- The test day usually runs between 8.30am and 1.30pm.
- The larger test centres will be Medway secondary schools that have agreed to be host venues for the test day.
- The Medway Test team will always try to allocate all children from the same primary school to sit the test in the same test centre.

Late Arrivals

- It is essential that the timetable is strictly adhered to. Once the test process has started there are strictly no interruptions.
- If your child is late for test registration you will not be allowed to sit the test.

This is the only opportunity for your child to sit the Medway Test. There is no opportunity to register for or sit the Medway Test at a later date

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How do I register my child to sit the Medway Test?

- Registration is open from **Monday 18 May 2026 until Friday 12 June 2026.** You can register your child:

Online at: **www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions**

or

On a paper registration form. Contact medwaytest@medway.gov.uk or call us on 01634 331110 for a paper form. Completed paper forms must be returned to the Medway Test Team by the closing date. We do not acknowledge receipt of paper forms.

After I have registered my child for the test what happens next?

- After you have registered with Medway Council, we will send you an invitation nearer the time of the test confirming when and where your child is due to sit the test and giving you information about the test day.

I live outside of Medway, how do I register?

- If you live in another authority but wish your child to sit the Medway Test, then you can register your child in either of the ways mentioned above.

I live in Medway, but want my child to sit a grammar test in another area. What do I do?

- You must contact the local authority concerned to find out how and when to register for their test.

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My child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Can they sit the Medway Test?

- The Medway Test is open to all children currently in Year 5 who wish to be considered for a Medway grammar school place
- You need to discuss with the SEN Team which schools you wish your child to be considered for
- If these include Medway grammar schools, then you need to ensure that your child is registered to sit the test
- Your child's assessment decision will be taken into account when being considered for schools through the SEN processes
- If you have any questions about the SEN processes, please contact the Medway SEN team on:

seneducationteam@medway.gov.uk

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I think my child may need special arrangements for the Test. What can I do?

- Once you have registered your child for testing, you will need to discuss this with your child's Headteacher. Your Headteacher will need to notify the Medway Test team of any special arrangements requests by completing a request form following the guidance published on the website.
- All requests submitted by the deadline will be considered objectively with the supporting evidence received by the Special Arrangements Panel. There is no guarantee that all or some requests will be granted.
- The provision of special arrangements for the Medway Test is not a statutory process and the decision made by the panel is final. There is no right of appeal, and we cannot accept any additional documentation for further review.
- Parent/carers and schools must ensure that any specialist equipment is provided for your child (e.g. sloping boards, colour overlays, etc.). Medway Council do not accept any responsibility for the provision of such equipment.
- There is no further opportunity to sit the test if the specialist equipment has not been made available to your child on test day. However, your child is still able to sit the test on test-day without their equipment.

We can only accept requests directly from schools, not from parent/carers.

Any request must be received by the Medway Test team from the school by Monday 22 June 2026.
Late requests cannot be considered.

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What does the Medway Test consist of?

- The Medway Test consists of three separate tests. All tests are multiple choice. English and Mathematics are continuous tests.
- These tests are specifically written for Medway and are designed to select 26% of the Medway year 6 cohort to be assessed suitable for grammar school
- If your child is sitting the test with special arrangements or at another time without other pupils in their school, your child will still sit the same Medway test papers as everybody else. There are no changes to the layout, number or sequence of questions, or order your child sits the test papers in.

Standard test timing and test structure

Test paper	English	Mathematics	Reasoning
Number of practice questions	3	2	• Spatial Reasoning/ Non-Verbal Reasoning: 4 • Verbal Reasoning: 2
Time taken to answer practice questions	5 minutes	2 minutes	• Spatial Reasoning/ Non-Verbal Reasoning: 30 seconds each. • Verbal Reasoning: 2 minutes
Overall duration of the timed test that is marked (excluding administration and practice questions)	30 minutes	50 minutes	• Spatial Reasoning/ Non-Verbal Reasoning: 20 minutes • Verbal Reasoning: 25 minutes Total timed test: 45 minutes
Test elements	• Comprehension • Punctuation • Grammar	• Mathematical elements	• Spatial Reasoning • Non-Verbal Reasoning • Verbal Reasoning
Timed sections?	No. The whole test must be completed in the 30 minutes.	No. The whole test must be completed in the 50 minutes.	Yes. Four timed sections for Spatial Reasoning/ Non-Verbal Reasoning and one timed section for Verbal Reasoning.

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Sitting the Medway Test

- You will be sent your Medway Test invitation by the end of August 2026.
- If you registered through parent portal your invitation is sent by email only.
- If you registered in any other way, you will receive your invitation by post.
- Check your junk or spam folders if you have not received your invite. If you have not received your invitation by the end of August 2026, please email medwaytest@medway.gov.uk.
- Your invitation will tell you where and when your child is due to sit the test. Your child must only attend the test at their allocated venue and on their allocated day.
- Multiple birth (twins, triplets etc) children will sit their test on the same day, regardless if one or more sibling has been granted special arrangements.
- If your child is ill on the day they are due to sit the Medway Test, you must email medwaytest@medway.gov.uk.

All parents and carers must read the test day information sheet before the test.

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Sitting the Medway Test

Permitted Items:
Your child can bring in a clear pencil case/clear bag

- HB grade pencils
- an eraser/rubber
- a pencil sharpener

Further information about what to bring will be sent with your invitation by the end of August.

Items not allowed in the test room are listed on the test day information sheet

- If these items are found with your child they will be confiscated, and your child may be disqualified from the Medway Test.

- Any Smart technology and mobile phones are not allowed in the test room. They must be switched off during the test and kept outside the test room.

If your child records their answer somewhere other than where they are instructed, for example, in the question booklet or in the wrong place on the answer sheet, it will not be added to the correct place. Instructions are given on what your child should do if they make a mistake.

All parents and carers must read the test day information sheet before the test.

Sitting the Medway Test

You will receive the test day information sheet with your child's invite at the end of August.

The testing environment

- Medway Council expects all children to follow good behaviour in the test environment. This is so all candidates have a calm and safe environment available.
- Distracting, disruptive, aiding or assisting behaviour during the test day at the test venue will not be allowed.
- A child will only be given one warning for any behaviour that is distracting or disruptive during the test day.
- If the behaviour continues after their warning, the invigilation team has the authority to remove children from the test day. If this behaviour occurs, it is likely the child will be asked to leave. You will be contacted by phone and your child will not be allowed to complete the test.

All parents and carers must read the test day information sheet before the test.

How is the Medway test marked?

- Each paper is marked based on the number of questions answered correctly. These marks provide the raw scores. These scores are then standardised. This means that the scores are weighted to reflect the child's age at the time of taking the test.
- Each year, a minimum score is set to determine those assessed as grammar. This score is set to select 26% of the children in the year group and differs from year-to-year dependent on the size of the year group.
- Medway Council will not know what this score will be for 2027 admissions until after all test papers have been marked and standardised.

For 2026 admissions, the minimum score required was 481
For 2025 admissions, the minimum score required was 482
For 2024 admissions, the minimum score required was 492

To calculate the total weighted score, the following calculation is used:

English	= standardised score x 2
Mathematics	= standardised score x 2
Reasoning	= standardised score x 1

The standardisation is copyrighted and undertaken by our test provider. Medway Council are unable to provide information about their formula for doing this.

When will I receive my child's test results?

- For **ALL** children who registered on time to sit the Medway Test, assessment decisions will be notified to parents/carers on **14 October 2026**
- Those families that registered online, and provided an e-mail address, will be sent an e-mail **after 4pm** on this day. (Medway Council cannot guarantee exactly when emails will be received, as the time taken to deliver the email is down to the individual email providers)
- Please check your junk and spam folders in case you have not received your email in your inbox
- Families that have registered by paper form will be sent an assessment decision notification by letter on results day via Royal Mail. (Medway Council are not responsible for Royal Mail delays)
- The correspondence you receive will include details of what to do next

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My child has been assessed non-grammar but I would like them to attend a grammar school, what are my next steps?

There is no resit or remarking of any Medway Test papers. There is no appeal process for a remark of any paper. There is no academic review process.

Option 1:

- Include grammar preferences on your child's application and you will be given the right of appeal for each school you apply for which doesn't offer you a place on national offer day.
- We won’t be able to offer your child a place at a grammar school on offer day, so you should name grammar AND non-grammar schools on your application.
- After offer day, you can then appeal for each of the grammar schools you name on your application.

Option 2:

- Apply as an in-year admission directly with the Medway grammar schools in September 2027 once the 2027 admissions scheme has ended. The grammar school(s) will then follow their in-year admissions process to determine whether a place can be offered.

You can follow Option 1, Option 2 or both.

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What happens if I miss the closing date for Medway Test registration?

- There is **no late registration for the Medway Test** and there is **no late test.**

The following options are available to you:

- Name a grammar preference on your child's school application by 31 October 2026 to have the opportunity for the right of appeal.

- Apply as an in-year admission directly with the Medway grammar schools in September 2027 once the 2027 admissions scheme has ended. The school will invite your child to sit a CATs test.

- Each grammar school has their own CATs test. If you wish to apply for more than one grammar school your child will have to sit each grammar school CATs test and/or review their schoolwork to determine whether they meet the entrance requirements.

Any registration received after the closing date will not be accepted.

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Are there any other testing arrangements for Medway secondary schools?

Brompton Academy requires all applicants to sit a '**Fair Banding Test**':

- A **'Fair Banding Test'** is used to assess a child's level of ability. It is not a 'pass' or 'fail' test or a selection test, it is used to ensure that students from across the ability range are admitted
- If you are thinking of applying for Brompton Academy, you need to ensure you have registered your child to sit the
- More details can be found on Brompton Academy's website
- If you do not register your child for the Fair Banding Test, they will be considered after all other children who have sat the test (even if there are siblings in the school, etc.) so it is very unlikely you will be offered a place at Brompton Academy.

Brompton Academy runs the Fair Banding Test itself.

If you are considering applying for Brompton Academy, you must register your child for the test via the academy's website.

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The secondary school application and offer process

When can I apply?

- Medway residents can apply from 1 September 2026
- Applications close 31 October 2026

Who do I apply to?

- If you live in Medway, you apply to Medway Council
- If you do not live in Medway, you must apply to your home local authority (e.g. if you live in Kent, you apply to Kent County Council).

What schools can I apply for?

- You can apply for any secondary schools you wish (apart from special schools) irrespective of where they are. The important thing is that you must apply to your home local authority.

How do I apply?

Medway residents can apply online at
www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions

Online admissions is the quickest, easiest and safest way to apply for your secondary school place. If you provide your email address when applying online you will:

- Receive confirmation your application has been received
- Receive details of the school offered on the offer day.

or

Please contact us at admissions@medway.gov.uk if you require a paper application form

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How many schools can I apply for?

- **Medway residents** can name up to 6 preferences
- You do not have to name 6, but it is important to understand that the more schools you name the more chance you've got of receiving the offer of a school place for one of your preferences
- Naming only one school does not give you a greater chance of gaining a place

Is my preference order important?

- Medway operates an equal preference scheme
- The order of your preferences is between the council and you
- Schools will not be told which preference you name them at the time of application or offer. They may need a copy of the application for any subsequent appeal
- Medway will look to offer your child a place at the highest named school that can offer a place and for which you child is eligible
- No school places are offered because the school is named as first preference
- All places are offered based on the oversubscription criteria for the school.

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What happens if I miss the closing date?

All applications received after 31 October will be processed after 19 April 2027 as part of the reallocation of vacant places after national offer day.

When will I find out my child's school offer?

Medway residents:

- Secondary school places are offered on **Monday 1 March 2027**
- Medway residents who have applied on time will be advised of their offer by Medway Council at this time
- Medway residents who apply online, and provide an e-mail address will be sent an e-mail **after 4pm on the offer day**
- Those that apply on paper will be sent a letter on this date
- The correspondence you receive will include details of what to do next.

Non-Medway residents:

- If you live outside of Medway, and apply for a Medway schools, you will receive your offer from your home local authority
- After the offer date, you will be able to obtain information on what you can do next regarding Medway schools from the Medway Council website.

How do Medway work out what priority my child has for a place at the schools I have named?

- All school places are offered in accordance with the individual school's published oversubscription criteria
- School Services work in partnership with each school to ensure that all applicants are prioritised (ranked) correctly against the published oversubscription criteria
- No school places are offered based on which preference the school is named.

How do Medway work out which school is to be offered to my child?

- Medway operates an equal preference scheme, which means that school places are not offered based on which preference you name the school
- Your application will be considered and prioritised against the named school's oversubscription criteria
- When school places are being offered, Medway Council will look to offer your child a place at the highest named school where a place can be offered and for which they are eligible
- You will only receive the offer of one school on 1 March 2027.

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Will I definitely be offered a named preference?

- We cannot guarantee that we can offer a place at one of your named schools
- It will depend on how oversubscribed the schools named are and where your child is prioritised against the schools over-subscription criteria
- For 2026 admissions on 2 March 2026:
  ~ 96% of Medway children received the offer at a school named on their application
  ~ 80% received the offer of a place at their first preference school.

If my child is grammar, will I definitely be offered a grammar school?

Every effort is made to ensure that a grammar assessed child is offered a grammar school. However, this is not always possible because either:

- A non-grammar school is offered because it is a higher named preference
  Or
- There were more applicants than places available at your preferred schools and other children had a higher priority for those places

- If your child is assessed as grammar, we **<u>strongly recommend</u>** that you name all the grammar schools that are available to them

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What happens if you can't offer my child at a school named on my application?

The council has a duty to ensure that a school place is offered on 1 March 2027 to every Medway child who has applied on time for a school place.

If we are not able to offer a place at one of your preferences, we will allocate place at the nearest 'appropriate' school to your home address that has vacancies.

'Appropriate' *in this process means a Medway grammar school for children assessed as grammar (if there are grammar school places available) and a Medway non-grammar school for children assessed as non-grammar.*

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Do I need to accept or refuse the school place offered?

- You must accept or refuse the place offered on 1 March 2027 by **Friday 12 March 2027.**
- Details of how to do this will be advised at the time of offer.

If I am not happy with the school place offered, what can I do?

- Full details of the next steps you can take following the school offer made on 1 March 2027 will be available at that time. There are various options available. These are:

- To go on the waiting list for any of the schools named on your original application*

- To request to be considered for a Medway school for the first time (via the waiting list process)

- To lodge an appeal for any of the schools named on your application but not offered. This includes Medway grammar schools, even if your child has not been assessed as grammar. Appeals are considered by an Independent Appeal Panel (not the school itself).

**Please note that you can only request to go on the waiting list for a Medway grammar school if your child has been assessed as grammar under the Medway Test procedures.*

All of this information and much more can be found in the **Secondary Admissions Digital Information Guide** on our website:

www.medway.gov.uk/admissions
click on the secondary admissions link

Answers to most queries you might have can be found on our website. However, if you would like to speak with us, our contact details are:

Education Access
Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
Kent

admissions@medway.gov.uk
or
medwaytest@medway.gov.uk
01634 331110

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