

**Admission Appeal Defence Statement
Secondary School – The Maplesden Noakes School
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2021**

Published Admission Number: 180
Number of Applications received: 1,126
How many places were offered on national offer day: 240

Places Offered – (Please catalog oversubscription criteria)	Numbers
EHCP	3
Current/previous Local Authority Care (LAC) student	1
Sibling Link	64
Distance to school	172
Total number of pupils offered a place;	240
Rank position of last child offered a place;	767

Distance of last child allocated a place (N/A if not applicable); The last child allocated lives a distance of 2.906 miles from the school.

<p><i>Please set out below the reasons why to admit additional children would prejudice the provision of effective education or efficient use of resources. What are the implications for the school in delivering the curriculum if additional children were offered a place?</i></p> <p><i>Additional information such as Threshold Statements, Scheme Statements, Secondary Transfer, Oversubscription Criteria to be attached if applicable.</i></p> <p><i>Additional information:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Please provide details of the School Capacity;</i> • <i>Number of pupils on role in each year group;</i> • <i>Number of teaching groups for the year 7; and</i> • <i>How the school organizes its classes</i> • <i>Room sizes being taught in</i> <p>Since September 2005 the school's planned admission number (PAN) has been 180 students per year group in the main school. Our net capacity has been 1064 (900 in main school plus students in years 12 and 13) and this figure takes account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teaching space in the school • The size, purpose and intensity of use of each space • The number of teaching staff/resources • Other local schools and their planned admission numbers <p>In September 2021 our new build will be complete and our net capacity will then</p>
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increase to 1500 (1200 students in Years 7 – 11 plus 300 in our sixth form).

Whilst the Governors and I are sympathetic to your appeal, I hope you can appreciate that this year group is oversubscribed and that there are simply not enough classrooms and specialist accommodation to admit any more students. KCC have asked the school to take an additional 60 students this year, and these students have already been allocated places raising the year group to 240 students, effectively a 'bulge year'. Our PAN remains 180. It is likely that we will be taking 60 students above our PAN in subsequent years and that our PAN will ultimately rise to 240 in the very near future. This means that additional students being added to our roll by an Appeals Committee where it is assumed that we initially have more space, would be disastrous for us as these additional students would end up being 'on top' of the likely 240 (additional 60 above PAN) each year going forward.

Our utilisation of rooms is very high; we do not have spare capacity in the school, or the funding for additional buildings. The building work currently being completed allows for an additional 60 students, who have already been allocated places and we have no room beyond this. As the school has already been allocated 240 year 7 students for September 2021, these students will be organised into 8 classes each having 30 students. The vast majority of teaching will take place in these groups.

A number of students will be on the AEN registers and will therefore require additional support and resources. We currently have 34 students on the external AEN register (plus an additional 3 students joining us in Year 7 this September). There are currently an additional 181 students on the internal AEN register. All of these students have a variety of needs, many of which are complex and as such require additional support and resources. If more students were admitted to the year group it would have a significant detrimental impact on the teaching and learning of those students who have currently been allocated a place with us and those students who already attend the school.

We are particularly concerned about specialist Technology and Science rooms. Technology rooms were designed for 23 students and numbers above this cause real danger, particularly in Resistant Materials rooms and the Food Room as these contain heavy cutting equipment and ovens. We are also extremely concerned that additional students would cause a health and safety issue in Science. Science rooms are particularly dangerous with chemicals involved in practicals becoming impossible to use safely should the school be directed to take more students. This would mean that an essential part of the Science curriculum would become unobtainable to students in Year 7. Additional students added to this year group will pose a real danger to the health and safety of all students and we would have to take measures that would involve a lack of access to the curriculum culminating in a poor education. We simply cannot continue to take more students without a serious risk to the welfare and personal safety of everyone in the school.

We are also concerned that other year groups are oversubscribed or full. In September 2021 our numbers for the main school will be:

Year 7	240
Year 8	210
Year 9	211
Year 10	211

Adding more students will impact on the management of students through stairwells and corridors. There is a very real concern that Health and Safety will be compromised should the school be directed to take additional students on appeal.

For information, in the event of over subscription, the following criteria are used in priority order:

1) Where the student is in local authority care or previously in Local Authority Care. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. A looked after child 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).

2) Sibling link: where a brother or sister attends the school when the child starts. In this context brother or sister means children who live as brother and sister in the same house, including natural brothers and sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

3) Proximity of the student's permanent residence to Maplesden Noakes School, measured in a straight line using National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point data, with those living nearest being accorded the highest priority. The school uses measurements provided by the Local Authority to calculate this distance. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody.