

Admissions Policy



Governing Body Approval and Categories

Date of Last Review / Scrutiny	2 nd October 2023
Date (Month / Year) of Next Review /Scrutiny	2 nd October 2026
Date Policy was Ratified	22 nd November 2023
Category of the Policy	General
Named Lead for Writing the Policy	Headteacher
Named Governor for Scrutiny	Chair of Learning and Development
Approval Body	Full Governing Body
Display on Main Web Site	Yes

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Foreland Fields School is a Rights Respecting School and thereby this policy ensures that the following rights are acknowledged:



Article 5 (parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities) - Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and carers to provide guidance and direction to their child as they grow up, so that they fully enjoy their rights.

Article 12 (respect for the views of the child) - Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

Article 23 (children with a disability) - A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community.

Article 28 (right to education) - Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child.

Foreland Fields School Admissions Policy

Related Guidance and Documents

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0 – 25 Years 2015
- Equality Act 2010
- School Admissions Code September 2021
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions 2015

Related School Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Discipline and Conduct Policy
- Dignity and respect at Work Policy
- Prevent Policy
- Registration Policy

School Designation

Foreland Fields School is a Foundation Special School in the Thanet area which provides for pupils/students aged 3 to 19 who have Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN). Some of these pupils/students have additional difficulties arising from physical disabilities or sensory impairments (visual and hearing difficulties) or Autistic Spectrum Disorder / Communication & Interaction Difficulties.

Pupils/students can be admitted to Foreland Fields School on a part-time basis to the First Leap Nursery from age 3 and on a full-time basis to the Infant Department from age 4/5, to the Junior Department from age 7, to the Secondary Department from age 11 and to the Sixth Form from age 16. Technically, transition from each department occurs in the academic year after they become this age.

Foreland Fields School has joined other Kent Special Schools in a shared charitable co-operative trust named The Kent Special Educational Needs Trust (KsENT). Foreland Fields School has committed to working as an equal partner with the other schools in order to ensure our pupils and students benefit from a sustainable educational partnership.

Admissions

All pupils/students of statutory school age at Foreland Fields School must have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

In order to be admitted to Foreland Fields School a pupil will have described needs that fall within one of the school's designated categories of need.

Pupils/Students with Profound or Severe needs will exhibit many of the following:

- A severe developmental delay or severe learning difficulty.
- An uneven profile of abilities with the majority of abilities within the severe learning difficulties level.

- Prediction of a high level of dependency throughout his/her life.
- Severe under-functioning in most aspects of school and social life, with some abilities at a higher level.
- Requirement for multi-agency input from both Health and Social Services with access to after-school respite care.

Pupils/Students with Complex needs will have:

- An uneven profile with higher levels of attainment and functioning in some curricular areas. These pupils/students will have 'complex' needs which are the result of two or more combinations of need in addition to cognition and learning (i.e. physical, sensory, medical, communication and interaction) and would experience considerable difficulty in accessing mainstream school.

The school has additional provision for pupils/students with:

- Severe Communication and Interaction Needs and Learning Difficulties.
- Autism and Severe Cognitive Impairment.

Pupils/Students with severe communication and / or interaction needs associated with a combination of autism and learning difficulty will present with many of the following:

- A diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder or pervasive developmental disorder.
- A learning difficulty.
- Severe impairment in reciprocal social interaction and in communication.
- Restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behaviour, interests, movements and activities. A specific interest in non-functional objects (such as their smell or feel); and there may be a resistance/fear of changes in routine or in details of the personal environment (such as the movement of ornaments or furniture in the family home).
- In addition to these diagnostic features, the pupil may exhibit a range of other non-specific problems such as fear/phobias, sleeping and eating disturbances and aggression. Self-injury (e.g. by wrist biting) may also be evident

Pupils/students may also have a specific language impairment (specific speech and/or language disorder) as opposed to a language delay. Pupils/Students will have long-term severe speech and language difficulties that cause substantial and extensive barriers to learning. The pupil will present with many of the following:

- Measurable speech and language behaviours which are long term and significantly below those of (mainstream) peers.
- Speech production that severely limits participation in classroom activities.
- Extensive difficulties in meeting the language demands of ordinary learning difficulties.
- Severe difficulties in communication with peers, leading to social isolation and apparent behaviour difficulties.
- A high level of frustration caused by inability to participate in the classroom or interact with peers.

Admissions Criteria

Pupils/Students can have uneven profiles of ability, but will generally be working at, or below the following:

- Admission into Key Stage 1: Below or at pre-Key Stage 1 standards
- Admission into Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4): Below or at pre-Key Stage 1 standards.
- Admission into Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6): Below or at pre-Key Stage 2 standards.
- Admission into Key Stage 3: Below or at pre-Key Stage 2 standards.
- Admission into Key Stage 4: Typically working within KS2 standards or below.

Although this is the stated criteria of the local authority (LA), the Governors of Foreland Fields School consider that it is not possible to provide a full curriculum entitlement to pupils/students working at Level 3 or above in a PSCN school. Placement for such pupils/students would either require shared placement with, or inclusion into another school, or an alternative placement. Issues are discussed on an individual basis at Secondary Transfer.

First Leap Nursery

First Leap Nursery is Foreland Fields School's specialist nursery provision.

First Leap Nursery provides a safe, secure environment for children aged from 3 to 4 years of age. The children who access the nursery receive specialist intervention which is planned and targeted to allow staff to understand each child's needs and plan suitable strategies for developing each child's skills. Specialist interventions are time limited and take place either in the nursery or by First Leap's specialist nursery staff seeing children at their existing nursery.

Children in each group will usually attend for two or three sessions per week, either mornings or afternoons. The children access the setting in needs-led groups and benefit from a play-based curriculum. Staff are experienced in assessing the children's needs and delivering individualised support based on each child's current progress and any existing therapy programmes.

Pupils in First Leap Nursery are encouraged, whenever possible, to attend mainstream nurseries or playgroups during the time that they are not at First Leap Nursery. The specialist nursery team provide regular advice and support to settings working with our pupils in order to ensure consistency of approach, effective strategies and realistic expectations. The mainstream and specialist nursery liaise regularly and staff visits are exchanged.

Initially, places in First Leap Nursery are technically 12-week observation and assessment places, during which time pupils will be assessed as to whether First Leap Nursery is the most appropriate placement for them. It is also decided during this period whether an Education, Health and Care Plan will need to be requested and, as a result, whether the placement should be extended. During this time and process much liaison with parents and carers, as well as other involved professionals, takes place so that a future school placement, in whichever setting is deemed most appropriate, can be planned for.

The Nursery works closely with parents to ensure that children move on to an appropriate full-time school placement. Whilst many pupils in First Leap Nursery go on to attend the Infant Department at

Foreland Fields School, there are no guarantees of transfer. The kind of provision recommended is that which is the most appropriate to meet the needs of each individual. A few pupils do go on to other schools, in which case staff at First Leap Nursery liaise with the receiving school.

The pupils are admitted to First Leap Nursery using broadly the same admissions criteria as the main school, being referred in the first instance via multi-agency planning meetings.

Admission Procedures for First Leap Nursery and Foreland Fields School

Pupils/students become known to Foreland Fields School as prospective pupils via a number of routes:

Informal Enquiries from Parents/Carers

Parents are welcome to phone or visit the school in order to help them decide on the type of special school provision that may be suitable, and that they may prefer for their child. All are advised however that if they wish to formally request a placement, this must be done through the area office.

Formal Requests from the LA

Nursery pupils are considered at the Local Authority Multi Agency Planning (MAP) Meetings which are held termly. The Nursery Manager of First Leap Nursery attends all MAP meetings.

For school age pupils/students, papers are sent direct to the school for consideration. As well as those who are being considered for admission to Foreland Fields School as their first school placement (Year R), requests are also made for pupils/students who have either recently moved into the area, or who are, for whatever reason, needing a change of school placement.

Wherever possible, the school would prefer to meet a pupil prior to considering his or her suitability for placement, i.e. as well as reading reports, assessments, etc. This can be achieved either by the pupil visiting Foreland Fields School or by a member of the Leadership Team visiting the pupil in their current placement, or in their home.

All requests for, or expressions of interest in, placements are recorded by the school. No offer of a place can be made until an official referral has been sent to the school through the Local Authority. These are then considered by the Headteacher and the Leadership Team. The Headteacher will then advise Local Authority Officers as to whether the school is suitable and also whether there are any places available in an appropriate class.

The decision of the school may result in further discussion with the Local Authority, or at times in a 'direction to take' from the LA. The School Admissions Code (2021) makes clear that the LA has the power to 'direct' a maintained school for which it is not the admissions authority (i.e. foundation and voluntary aided schools, and academy trusts), to admit a child in the area, even if the school is full.

Before directing a school to admit, the LA must consult the Governing Body, the parent of the child and the child themselves if the pupil is over compulsory school age. If the LA decide to give a direction following consultation, it must notify the Governing Body and Headteacher of the school concerned but the Governing Body may appeal the decision to the Schools Adjudicator within 15 days. If it does this, the Governing Body must tell the local authority. The local authority must not make a direction until the 15 days have passed and the case has not been referred.

School Accommodation and Impact on Pupil Numbers

There is considerable pressure on the school's accommodation due to rising numbers. Foreland Fields School, in February 2017, moved from an old site in Broadstairs to its new purpose-built accommodation in Ramsgate. Whereas the old school had provision for approximately 160 pupils/students, the new school has been built to accommodate around 200 pupils/students. Should the school receive referrals which would take pupil numbers above this number, even if they meet the admissions criteria of the school, regrettably they may have to be turned down, unless a 'direction' is received from the LA.

In line with the requirements of the SEN and D Code of Practice (2015) Foreland Fields School will '*use their best endeavours to make sure that a child with SEN gets the support they need – this means doing everything they can to meet children and young people's SEN*'.

Entry Arrangements

Once an admission has been formally agreed with the LA, a letter of confirmation will be written by the LA to the pupil's parents/carers. This is closely followed by a letter from the school including a set of admission and consent forms for parents/carers to complete and return to the school.

Parents/carers are required to bring an original copy of the pupil/students' birth certificate to the school office prior to admission.

If the admission is for September, the parents/carers will be invited to an Open Morning, Afternoon or Evening in the preceding July for the relevant Key Stage of the school, where there will be a chance to meet the staff (Teachers and Teaching Assistants) who will be working with the pupil, hear about the organisation and expectations of the Key Stage, and visit the classroom where the pupil will be based.

Secondary Transfer

Key Stage 2 Pupils attending Foreland Fields School

Whilst a high percentage of pupils who have been through Key Stages 1 and 2 at Foreland Fields School remain at the school for Key Stages 3 and 4, this is not assumed. At the pupils' Annual Review in Year 5, secondary transfer will be discussed with parents/carers and parents will be asked to express their choice of secondary school for their child. As a result of this discussion it may be relevant for parents/carers to visit other local provision to support their expression of choice. In order to alert parents that this decision will be needed, Foreland Fields School will write to parents of pupils in Year 5 in the Autumn Term stating that they will be asked to make their choice of secondary education at their child's forthcoming EHCP review.

Parents of pupils already at Foreland Fields School who express a wish for their child to remain, can usually expect a place to be granted in the school's Secondary Department (Key Stages 3 and 4) as long as it is best suited to continue to meet the child's needs.

The decision is ratified by the LA at the Secondary Transfer Panel for the school – usually held in November of the year in which the pupil is in Year 6. The LA will write to all parents to confirm this.

Key Stage 2 Pupils attending schools other than Foreland Fields School

The same process applies to pupils in other schools, in that if they have an EHCP, their placement and provision will be reviewed annually, but in particular during Year 5. If another placement is to be considered, parents are encouraged to visit other possible schools and express their preferences via

the annual review process. These choices will be considered at the LA's Secondary Transfer Panel, offers made and, if accepted, amendments made to the EHCP. If a place at Foreland Fields School is offered, contact will be made with the parents and the pupils' current school, to discuss transition support arrangements.

Entry to the School's 6th Form

As in secondary transition, the majority of students already at Foreland Fields School in Year 11 transfer to the 6th Form. This is not assumed however, but considered and planned for from the students' Transition Review in Year 9. Students will then usually remain in the 6th Form for 3 years, leaving at the end of Year 14, the year in which they reach their 19th birthday. This again is not assumed, but discussed at each Annual Review. Occasionally students leave before the end of Year 14, if alternative or more suitable post-school placements are available before this point. Again, as with secondary transfer, parents of students in Year 10 will be asked to express their choice for their child's ongoing educational provision. The school will write to parents in the autumn of the year to give advance notice that this decision will be needed.

Post 16 placement of students in Year 11 in other schools should again be considered through Annual Review systems, in particular from Transition in Year 9 onwards. Any requests for alternative placement, e.g. at Foreland Fields School, must then go through the LA, and be made as a formal referral to the school. As at all other stages, informal visits to Foreland Fields School to look at provision (in order to help make placement decisions), are welcomed.

Our School Curriculum

The Majority of pupils in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 follow the Foundation Pathway which is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. In addition to this we have chosen to develop 4 distinct pathways to reflect the wide range of abilities and needs of our pupils/students.

Pupils/students will follow a personalised route along one of these pathways. Each pathway will provide an appropriate and challenging curriculum, which meets the unique and diverse needs of all our pupils/students.

Details of the curriculum pathways can be found on the school website: www.foreland.kent.sch.uk



KsENT Special Schools: Admissions Guidance

Foreland Fields School



Name of school	Foreland Fields School
Address:	Newlands Lane, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6RH
Tel:	01843 863891
Email:	foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk
School Type:	Foundation Special School
Designation:	PSCN (Primary, Secondary and 6 th Form) plus O&A Nursery Provision
Primary Need:	<p>Broadly speaking, most pupils/students admitted to Foreland Fields School would have;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profound and severe physical disabilities with associated learning difficulties. • Severe Communication and interaction needs and learning difficulties. • Autism and severe cognitive impairment. <p>Pupils/students may also have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe learning difficulties as identified by cognitive assessments. • Hearing Impairment / Deafness with additional special educational needs.
Class structure	Age bands/needs led
District Served:	Thanet and outlying areas
Area:	South East Kent
Age range:	2 - 19

Description of the school

- Initially places within First Leap Nursery are 12-week observation and assessment placements.
- The school is divided into age-banded departments with needs-led classes following one of 5 distinct curriculum pathways, which ensure that the child is at the centre of all learning.
- The majority of pupils in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 follow the Foundation Pathway which is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.
- From Key Stage 2, pupils/students follow 4 distinct pathways to reflect the wide range of abilities and needs. Some pupils with more complex needs within Year R and Key Stage 1 also follow one of these pathways; either the Explorers or Adventurers Pathways.
- Each pathway provides an appropriate and challenging curriculum, which meets the unique and diverse needs of all our pupils/students. Details of the curriculum pathways can be found on the school website.
- The school operates satellite provision in a nearby Primary School, Secondary Academy and nearby College. Pupils/Students attending our satellite provision follow our Pioneers' Pathway which is designed for pupils/students who are working within National Curriculum levels, but at a lower level than their chronological peers.

Website: www.foreland.kent.sch.uk