

**Admission Appeal Generic Defence Statement
Secondary School – The Malling School
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2025**

Published Admission Number for Year 7: 183
Number of Applications received: 623
How many places were offered on national offer day: Year Group PAN is 183, the PAN is made up of 159 mainstream spaces and 24 SRP spaces (Specialist Resource Provision). 147 mainstream places were offered on national offer day leaving 12 spaces for EHCP Mainstream students allocated through the SEN Team at KCC.

Places Offered – (Please catalog oversubscription criteria along with the numbers allocated on National offer day for each catalog. If the numbers in each individual catalog is below 5, please state <5 so individual children cannot be identified)	Numbers
LAC	<5
Sibling Link	61
Staff Children	<5
Health & Special Access	<5
Distance	76
Total number of pupils offered a place;	147

Our school is a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) school and is built with a capacity of 1012, confirmed by the PFI contract. Over capacity causes an issue with building use which is restricted by the PFI contract.

We have two DT classrooms which provide a maximum usage of 20 students and we have run maximum numbers of rotations to provide our statutory responsibility within the curriculum across KS3 and KS4. The PFI contract does not allow for over-capacity in these rooms due to health & safety and keeping the students safe. The only solution is to reduce the access to DT for some students which would be discriminatory and would prevent them accessing the full curriculum.

All practical subjects across the school have limitations on student numbers due to these restrictions.

There is a capacity issue with sports changing rooms, dining areas and hall space, staggered lunch is in place to support with the dining areas. PE classes suffer with a lack of changing room facilities which again, is a personal safety and wellbeing issue for all students and particularly impacts on our ability to be inclusive of our DEI responsibilities.

Exceeding the net capacity numbers of the school creates a significant risk to pupils should an emergency evacuation or lockdown be required. The ability to evacuate safely with current student numbers creates moderate risk which would be exacerbated with increased student numbers.

The Malling School houses a large Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP), which has admitted 24 pupils in two classes, per year. Because of the nature of the pupils’ needs they need to be taught in small groups and classrooms in the Tydeman building are half the size of a standard classroom to reflect this. In KS4 when students from the SRP are taught within mainstream classes, the classrooms used normally by the SRP cannot be used by other classes as they are not large enough to accommodate the group sizes.

Because pupils from the Specialist Resource Provision are taught alongside their mainstream peers, the average class size in the school needs to be 26 in order to adequately cater for their needs. Increasing class sizes further would have a detrimental impact on the education of these pupils in particular but would also affect the learning of other pupils. The school cannot simply put on additional classes in order to adjust the

class size as it has insufficient classrooms and this would require us to appoint additional teachers beyond which our budget would allow. Due to the nature of the students admitted to the SRP often with 1:1 TA support we have to accommodate additional adults in each class which reduces student capacity in the classroom.

The school faces the prospect of having to significantly increase class sizes over the next few years due to limited capacity and even with this adjustment it is likely it will run out of classroom space. It would therefore be irresponsible to admit further children to make this problem worse. If additional pupils are agreed at appeal it is likely that the school will have to reduce its PAN in the future. This would be inefficient use of resources and would also provide additional pressure on a school system that already needs additional secondary school places in the future.

In short, the school faces future challenges due to increased cohort sizes. Providing an appropriate education for all of our current pupils and ensuring pupil wellbeing and safety is paramount. Increased admission sizes would place additional pressure on our ability to maintain the high standards at The Malling School.

Additional information:

- *Please provide details of the School Capacity;*
Net capacity is 1012.

- *Number of pupils on role in each year group;*

Based on current numbers in each year group this is how the numbers for September 2025

Year	Total
Year 7	183
Year 8	198
Year 9	187
Year 10	191
Year 11	164
Year 12	80
Year 13	76
Totals	1079

- *Number of teaching groups for the year 7; and*

The mainstream timetable runs with 2 bands with 3 classes in each band. The SRP timetable runs with 1 band with 2 classes.

- *How the school organizes its classes*

The mainstream timetable runs with 2 bands with 3 classes in each band. The SRP timetable runs with 1 band with 2 classes.

- *Room sizes being taught in*

- *32 classrooms that can seat 30*
- *7 technology rooms that can seat 20*
- *10 classrooms that can seat 12 which are used to accommodate our SRP*
- *1 Drama Studio*
- *1 Dance Studio*
- *1 Gym*
- *1 Sports Hall*

Please be advised that each parent who lodges an appeal will have a personalised defence statement forwarded to them as part of their case papers.