

**Admission Appeal Generic Defence Statement  
Secondary School – The Malling School  
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2026**

Published Admission Number for Year 7: <b>183</b>
Number of Applications received: <b>620</b>
How many places were offered on national offer day: <b>Year Group PAN is 183, the PAN is made up of 159 Mainstream and 24 SRP spaces (Specialist Resource Provision)</b>  <b>150 mainstream places were offered on National Offer Day leaving 9 spaces for EHCP Mainstream students allocated through the SEN Team at KCC.</b>

<i>Places Offered – (Please catalog your oversubscription criteria in each of the rows below - if the number of places offered is less than 5, please put &lt;5. so individual children cannot be identified )</i>	<b>Numbers</b>
LAC	<b>&lt;5</b>
Sibling Link	<b>63</b>
Staff Children	<b>&lt;5</b>
Health & Special Access	<b>&lt;5</b>
Distance	<b>80</b>
Total number of pupils offered a place;	<b>150</b>

**Please set out below the reasons why to admit additional children would prejudice the provision of effective education or efficient use of resources.**

Our school is a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) school and is built with a capacity of 1000, confirmed by the PFI contract. Over capacity causes an issue with building use which is restricted by the PFI contract. The Malling School does not have the ability to amend or construct due to these restrictions.

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. 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.

There is also a capacity issue with sports changing rooms, dining areas and hall space. PE classes suffer with a lack of changing room facilities which again, because of the PFI element are a personal safety and wellbeing issue for these students.

Allowing more pupils than the net capacity of the school would cause danger to pupils should an emergency evacuation be required. Fire Marshals have previously expressed concern about the ability to evacuate when there were fewer pupils in the school and they would almost certainly not accept the risk associated with going above the net capacity.

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 typical 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. This has the effect of reducing the practical capacity of the school further and the school has spoken with the Local Authority about this issue but has been declined additional funding.

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.

The school already faces the prospect of having to significantly increase class sizes over the next few years because of the limited number of classrooms and even with this adjustment is already fearful that 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 is already facing future challenges in providing an appropriate education for many of its pupils and in ensuring pupil safety for all pupils. Any additional pressure would be irresponsible and unacceptable.

Additional Information

***Please provide details of the School Capacity***

Our school is a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) school and is built with a capacity of 1000, confirmed by the PFI contract. Over capacity causes an issue with building use which is restricted by the PFI contract. The Malling School does not have the ability to amend or construct due to these restrictions.

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

Year	Total
Year 7	183
Year 8	199
Year 9	198
Year 10	183
Year 11	192
Year 12	65
Year 13	67
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1087</b>

Please note that each parent who submits an appeal will receive a personalised defence statement, which will be included as part of their case papers.

Completed by: Mr John Vennart, Headteacher

Date: February 2026