

**Admission Appeal Generic Defence Statement
Secondary School – The Royal Harbour Academy
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2024**

Published Admission Number for Year 7: 220 Our official PAN remains at 200, however we have agreed to take 20 over PAN for September 2024 = 220
Number of Applications received: 374
How many places were offered on national offer day: 220

Places Offered – (Please catalogue oversubscription criteria along with the numbers allocated on National offer day for each catalogue. If the numbers in each individual catalogue is below 5, please state <5 (so individual children cannot be identified)	Numbers
EHCP places offered by KCC SEN (outside normal admission process)	13
Looked After Children	1
Siblings (incl 1 with EHCP)	52
Distance	154
Total number of pupils offered a place;	220

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?

What resources would be pressured, what is the current situation with staffing, perhaps detail deadlines for being able to employ staff members etc.

In terms of space, what are your current class sizes (diagrams can be provided), how do you organize year 7, are there pinch points in terms of Science labs, computers etc.

Are there issues with corridor sizes, are lunch breaks staggered. What do your other year groups look like, when the year 7 moves up if the panel were minded to put additional students in, what issues would that cause either moving up or for future years.

The Royal Harbour Academy is an academy within the Coastal Academies Trust. The school is part of the Kent County Council Co-ordinated Admission Process who manage the school's admissions process.

The school wishes to refuse a place on the grounds that admitting any children above the numbers already accepted, 'would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.' School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 86(2). The school community has a great level of need that requires a lot of support

and adding additional students where we are full will mean that we will be unable to give the support necessary for our students to thrive and achieve.

The school has a PAN of 200. The current Year 7 cohort has 205 students with 15 students on a waiting list and the current Year 8 cohort has 206 with 10 students on a waiting list. The school has agreed, with additional funding, to take an extra 20 students above PAN for the September 2024 intake.

In general the school cohorts have a high level of need with significant numbers of students with SEND or who are classed as disadvantaged. The school has 46% of all the current Year 8 students with EHCPs in secondary schools in the local area of Thanet and 25% of all the current Year 7 students with EHCPs in Thanet secondary schools. Roughly between 40% and 50% of students in Years 7 and 8 have an identified SEND need. The national figure for SEND status in schools is 12.5%.

Our SEND students rightly require a high level of support and means that we need to keep our groups as small as possible to support them. Due to budget restraints we have had to reduce our number of teaching groups resulting in many classes being 32 students against a national average class size of 22.4. Adding more students to an already over-PAN year group will further reduce the support we can give each student and prejudice all our students' education as well as presenting an increased health and safety risk in our practical subjects such as Design Technology and Food Technology. The school serves some areas of high deprivation and as a result has a pupil premium figure of 59% within the current Year 8 cohort and 58% in the current Year 7 cohort. The national figure for pupil premium is around 25%. As is widely acknowledged students receiving the pupil premium grant make less progress than non-pupil premium students and as a result require more support. Adding more students to an already over-PAN year group which has a high level of need and requires significant support will reduce the life chances of all the other students.

The school expects that the incoming Year 7 cohort will have the same characteristics as our current Year 7 and 8 year groups and feels that the admission of any additional students above PAN would be detrimental to other students in the year group and would prejudice the efficient provision of education to those students already in the school.

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

Completed by: Mr Simon Pullen: Headteacher Date: 29.02.24