

# Generic Defence Statement

## Walderslade Girls Secondary School

### Admission Appeals for Year 7 in September 2023

Published Admission Number: 160

#### Oversubscription criteria

**a) Looked after Children/Previously Looked After Children**

As defined in the School Admissions Arrangements 2021/22: Oversubscription Criteria Paragraph 1 and the Medway Co-ordinated Scheme for Secondary Admission Academic Year 2023/2024:

**School Admissions Arrangements**

1. Looked after children, and all previously looked after children. The school participates in the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme and all deadlines within that should be adhered to be applicants. As required by the Regulations of 2005 the school will give the top priority in their oversubscription criteria to applicants on behalf of looked after children (A 'child looked after' is a child who is (a) in the care of the 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) at the time of making the application to a school) and previously looked after children. Previously children looked after are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).

**Medway Co-ordinated Scheme for Secondary Admissions Academic Year 2023/24:**

Looked after children/Previously looked after children: Looked after children are children who are (i) in the care of a local authority, or (ii) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (as defined in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making the application for a school. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, Section 46) or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order (under the terms of the Children Act 1989, Section 8 and Section 14A). Please note that the Council will require a copy of the adoption/residence order to validate this criterion and evidence that the child was previously looked after.

- b) Children previously in Care outside of England** - Children who appear to Walderslade Girls school to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society

c) **Current family association** (a sibling in the school at the time of application and still attending in September 2023),  
*Sibling means children who live as brother/sister in the same house and includes natural siblings, adopted siblings, foster siblings and step siblings. Extended family, for example cousins, living in the same house do not qualify as siblings.*

d) **Children of a member of staff working at the school**  
Where the member of staff has been employed for two or more years.

e) **Historical Sibling** – Priority will be given to applicants with an older sibling who attended Walderslade Girls School but has now left within the past 5 years. Sibling means children who live as a brother/sister in the same house and includes natural siblings, adopted siblings, foster siblings and step siblings. Extended family, for example cousins, living in the same house do not qualify as siblings.

f) **Child's health reasons.**  
Medical evidence must be provided which demonstrates a specific health reason which requires a child to attend Greenacre as their preferred school.

g) **Residence in the Walderslade Girls School access area.**

h) **Nearness of children's homes and ease of access to schools** (In the event of a tie within any criterion, before the last criterion, places will be allocated to those living closest to the school measured by the shortest available walking route. 'Distances and routes calculated will represent the shortest route to school from the child's home address using roads and paths that are known to the graphical information software (GIS) utilised by School Admissions & Transport'). Evidence of residence may be required.

In the unlikely event that a tie breaker is required for oversubscription criteria 9 the relevant names will be issued with a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.

**In the last two Academic Years Walderslade Girls School has accommodated up to 10% above PAN to support the increased birth rate in Medway and therefore the Medway LA need for more school spaces to deal with increased demand. As a result Walderslade Girls School has more students that it can accommodate. To support this accommodation design and technology classes have been moved around the timetable to carry a maximum of 20 students per class, but so that all can experience these 'hands on' subjects. Classrooms have been reconfigured to cater for slightly larger than normal set sizes in year 7&8.**

**Walderslade Girls School is 160 students as it's PAN in the Academic Year 2023/24, however continues to offer increased numbers to its joint sixth form - PGW to ensure all students have access to further education.**

**Due to the size of the 1970's building and it's current state of repair we have no ability to create further Design and Technology rooms, which have a maximum occupancy of 20 students, due to health and safety protocols.**

**Due to the size of the site we currently have no funding or space to invest in new build areas. To take more students above the agreed 160 PAN would cause health and safety concerns and practical specialist subjects would be at risk of not being delivered.**

**The Governing body and Trust board have carefully considered Walderslade Girls School's oversubscription criteria. With the local arrangement in place with Medway LA for Walderslade Girls School to take extra students to support the lack of school places, we are already at maximum capacity and the Governors and Trust board feel that any further addition to the PAN would compromise the health and safety of the students already on roll.**