

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

Published Admission Number for Year 7: 183 PAN is made up of 159 mainstream, 24 Specialist Resource Provision (SRP)
Number of Applications received: 693
How many places were offered on national offer day: 159 mainstream places offered on national offer day leaving 0 spaces for EHCP Mainstream students allocated through County of which we expect to admit at least 2. (Full PAN is 159 mainstream, 24 Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) places. Total School Year Group PAN is 183)

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	06
Sibling	75
Staff Child	<5
Health & Special Access	<5
Distance	75
Total number of pupils offered a place;	159

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.

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 in;*
 - *Based on current numbers in each year group this is how the numbers will look in September*

Year	Total
Year 7	183
Year 8	194
Year 9	195
Year 10	166
Year 11	168
Year 12	90
Year 13	86
Totals	1082

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

Completed by: Mr John Vennart, Headteacher Date: February 2024