



Media release

16 April 2018

More primary school pupils offered their first choice

More than 97% of children across Kent will start their formal education in 2018 at one of their chosen Primary schools. 15,426 families were offered their first preference school, which accounts for almost 90% of all applications.

As a result, the fewest number of families ever will be allocated a school they did not name, with 390 children assigned a school by Kent County Council. This is a reduction of over half since 2012 when 818 children required a local authority allocation to a school with places.

Roger Gough, KCC's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, said: "Following a successful Secondary National Offer Day, officers have continued to work hard to ensure that as many pupils secured one of their preferred Primary schools and we are pleased to see the continued improvement in figures.

"While we are happy to announce that a record low number of pupils needed to be given an alternative school, some families will still be receiving unwelcome news today. These parents can be assured that National Offer Day is just the first stage of offers and many will go on to secure places through waiting lists in the reallocation process and via appeals. A specialist KCC team is on hand to help parents make the most of the options available to them."

Parents who applied online will receive an email after 4pm today (Monday, April 16), indicating which school they have been offered; the timing of the email will depend on their own email service provider. These parents can also log in after 5pm to view the offer online. Those who applied by paper application form will be sent notification by first class post today.

Parents can accept their school place offers or seek alternatives if they are not happy with their allocation. There are still places available at schools across Kent. This is a direct result of measures taken by the council to manage capacity in line with demand.

For more information on how to join a waiting list and/or appeal go to:

www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions or phone the admissions team on 0300 412121.

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Note to journalists:

1. Parents will have until Monday, May 14 to accept or refuse their offer and return waiting list forms.
2. Parents must also lodge any appeals for their named schools by Wednesday, May 16 to be heard on time.
3. KCC will reallocate places from schools' waiting lists, sending out a second round of offers on Friday, June 15.
4. From Friday, June 15, schools will maintain their own waiting lists and parents can apply to schools directly via the 'In Year Common Application Form' after this date to ask to be placed on the waiting list.
5. Please see the table below for additional preference information.

Offers to Kent Pupils	2018		2017	
	No. of pupils	%	No. of pupils	%
Offered a school named on the application form	16,843	97.74%	16,885	97.44%
Offered a first preference	15,426	89.51%	15,429	89.04%
Offered a second preference	1,093	6.34%	1,077	6.21%
Offered a third preference	324	1.88%	379	2.19%
Allocated by local authority	390	2.26%	444	2.56%
Total number of offers	17,233		17,329	