



**Admission Appeal Defence Statement for entry into academic year
2027/2028
Holcombe Grammar 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.

Admission Appeal for students joining Year 7 in 2027/2028	
Name:	Date of Birth:
Published Admission Number:	
Number of Applications received:	
How many places were offered on national offer day and what is the position today:	

Places Offered – (<i>Please catalogue oversubscription criteria</i>)	Numbers
SEN/LAC	
Sibling link	
Trust Link	
Staff link	
Health and special access	
Distance	
Total number of pupils offered a place	
Rank position of last child offered a place	

Under which criteria was this child considered for admission
As your child has been successful at the Medway Test, they would have been considered for admission under the oversubscription criteria shown above.
They have not been given a place under the criteria of 'distance' which was calculated using the graphical information software used by School Admissions and Transport.
Distance of last child allocated a place was _____ metres from the school. Your distance from the school has been noted at _____ metres from the school.

One of the key issues in considering an appeal for a place where a student was successful at the Medway test but has not been awarded a place is whether there is the capacity to increase the number of students allocated to the school.

Currently (2027/2028) in each year group the numbers are as follows.

Year 7 – 180
Year 8 – 180
Year 9 – 180
Year 10 – 150
Year 11 – 150

The Governors are satisfied that places have been allocated correctly and in accordance with the school's over-subscription criteria.

The PAN for 2027/2028 has been agreed to be 180.

The school cannot admit more than 180 for year 7 2027/28 students into a year group for the following reasons:

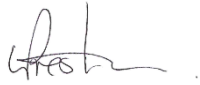
- The school considers that going beyond this figure would be detrimental to the education of others and would compromise the efficient use of resources. A figure of 180 would give 6 classes of 30 (with the exception of DT where for safety reasons we have classes of no more than 20 students) so any more than this would make accommodating students in classes highly challenging; 6 classes of 30 would not compromise the safety and education of existing students.
- The school had a phased building plan to increase capacity, but the COVID crisis removed funding for expansion to grammar schools, delaying the commencement of any building work which could allow for building renovations and expansion to accommodate larger numbers of students. No significant new building work is planned take place in the next 12 months. Without additional buildings the school cannot accommodate further increases in its PAN.
- To accommodate all 180 students in year 7 from Sept 2027 within specialist areas, the school is dependent on demanding timetabling to ensure that students are split across several subjects at the same time.
- The school is made up of a range of older buildings and additions of different designs over a long period of time. The buildings design has led to a number of smaller than average rooms, leaving tight spaces for 30 students and a teacher desk/area. These classrooms have to be designated to 6th form teaching, due to the typically smaller teaching groups at A Level.
- Newly built/converted classrooms have had to be constructed/renovated within the original footprint/building restrictions. This has resulted in a number of rooms including maths, humanities, some computer rooms, etc. failing to meet the space requirements of new build classrooms. Space is very limited and the majority of these classrooms have been converted to fit 15 double desks for

students and 1 teacher area/desk only. Therefore, we do not have sufficient space or furniture necessary to host over 30 in a class.

- IT classrooms have a maximum of 30 computers/desks in each and the age of the building means that we cannot accommodate additional power/data points.

In summary, whilst the school is sympathetic to the family's request for a place, it believes that the original decision not to offer a place based on distance was the correct one. This is in order that there is no prejudice the efficient use of resources and the education of the other children who have been allocated places.

Completed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Ash' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

Date: