



KsENT Special Schools Admissions Guidance

Kent Special Schools specialise in one or more categories of need. Schools have one of the following as their main, designated need type: PSCN (Profound, Severe and Complex Needs), C and I (Communication and Interaction), SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health), PD (Physical Difficulties).

The C and I schools have a school for moderate and severe learning difficulties with C and I (Stone Bay) and three schools for pupils with moderate learning difficulties or no learning difficulties (Laleham Gap, Broomhill Bank, Grange Park and Snowfields Academy).

The SEMH schools comprise five all-age schools for SEMH and SEMH with LD (Learning Difficulties) in the Primary phase and SEMH with LD in the Secondary phase (Bower Grove, St Anthony's, Orchard, Rowhill and Elms). There are also two Secondary schools for SEMH with no LD (Goldwyn and Portal House).

One school in Kent specialises in meeting the needs of pupils with Physical Disabilities. Valence School is a mixed ability PD school.

Several schools meet the needs of pupils with PSC Needs. They are all-age and some include a Nursery provision. The PSCN schools are: Aspen 1, Aspen 2, The Beacon, Five Acre Wood, Foreland Fields, Ifield, Meadowfield, Milestone, Nexus, Oakley, St Nicholas and Wyvern.

C&I Needs

Pupils will have ASD or Speech and Language Disorder as their Primary SEND as documented in their EHC Plan. They may also have identified/diagnosed health needs such as Anxiety, Speech and Language difficulties, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, OCD, ADHD

Profound Needs

Pupils with Profound C&I needs will often benefit from the smaller classes and staff knowledge and expertise found in the county's PSCN schools (Aspen 1, Aspen 2, The Beacon, Fire Acre Wood, Foreland Fields, Ifield, Meadowfield, Milestone, Nexus, Oakley, St. Nicholas, Wyvern).

Severe Needs

Pupils with Severe C&I needs will often benefit from the smaller classes and staff knowledge and expertise found in the county's PSCN schools (Aspen 1, Aspen 2, The Beacon, Fire Acre Wood, Foreland Fields, Ifield, Meadowfield, Milestone, Nexus, Oakley, St. Nicholas, Wyvern).

Moderate and Complex Needs

Pupils with moderate and complex C&I needs will often benefit from the smaller classes and staff knowledge and expertise found in the county's C&I schools (Broomhill Bank, Grange Park, Laleham Gap and Stone Bay).

Pupils may have a need for routines and positive rewards. Pupils may have fixations with sensory stimuli or objects. Pupils are vulnerable to becoming isolated from peers due to lack of understanding regarding social rules. This may lead to increased anxiety and behaviour that challenges. Pupils may need adult support with games and social interaction. Spoken language may be limited to a small number of structured familiar phrases. Typically, pupils may appear to have good language skills but have limited functional language skills.

Laleham Gap School

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Email:	admissions@lgs.kent.sch.uk
School Type	Foundation Special School
Designation:	Communication and Interaction
Primary Need:	Speech Language and Communication, typically with Autism
Class structure:	Primary phase: mixed age, Secondary phase and Post 16: by year group
District Served:	Thanet
Area:	East Kent
Age range:	4-18

Description of the school

Pupils attending Laleham Gap School have an EHCP identifying Speech Language and Communication needs, typically with Autism and other co-conditions such as Generalised Anxiety Disorder, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, OCD, and ADHD

Our Primary phase consists of 6 mixed age classes. Our Secondary phase has 3 form entry totalling 15 classes. Nearly all our secondary pupils are grouped chronologically. We are absolute in our commitment to class sizes having a maximum of 10 children. Most children join at secondary transfer when the school naturally goes from one form entry to 3 form entry. The second most common age of admission is the reception / year 1 class. As the school is continually oversubscribed admissions are far more likely to be successful if requesting a September start.

Our school was designed and built in 2015 to meet the needs of children and young people with communication and interaction difficulties as their primary need type as defined by the Code of Practice and Building Bulletin 104. Focusing on this need type allows us to maintain our commitment to maximize our school capacity, whilst continuing to deliver high quality, specialist support to the children within our given designation.

Pupils who require a Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) curriculum pathway, would not currently have a peer group. To create a suitable curriculum pathway would require the loss of an existing curriculum subject area for all pupils. The appropriately reduced group size would result in a reduced capacity assessment for the school.

Pupils who require a Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) curriculum pathway, would not currently have a peer group. To create a suitable curriculum pathway would require the loss of an existing subject curriculum area for all pupils. The storage and hygiene suits required would further reduce the number of classrooms available. The appropriately reduced group size and modifications would result in a reduced capacity assessment for the school.

We are dedicated to being an inclusive environment and make reasonable adjustments for all students in our care. We welcome children and young people with other need types on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Local Authority. We will always consider children with other need types who may benefit from attending our school, whilst exploring the potential impact this may have on our existing pupils.

Please see the schools' welcome message on our website to further understand our vision and values.

