Dear Parents,

On behalf of all School Governors I am writing to you about the School’s Admissions Policy.

Following the unprecedented demand for places at Thurnham School in 2012, Governors want to improve the situation for families within the local community, and we have been working with Roseacre Junior School towards a common policy on sibling links between our two schools. This would apply to children starting school in September 2014.

As a Foundation School, Roseacre are able to set their own admissions criteria, whereas Kent County Council is the Admissions Authority for Thurnham. We have indicated to KCC that we want a consistent approach, and Roseacre fully agree. However we do need parental support for new arrangements. The formal consultation run by KCC is now open.

Comments should be made via e-mail to kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk with the subject line marked ‘Feedback to Thurnham Consultation.’

Alternatively write to, Scott Bagshaw (Head of Fair Access) in KCC at this address:

Scott Bagshaw
Head of Fair Access
Admissions and Transport Office
Room 2.24
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

The full Proposed Admissions Policy for Thurnham is on the school’s website (www.thurnham-infant.kent.sch.uk) in the ‘Latest News’ section on the home page.

There is also a consultation page on the Kent County Council website as well at: http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/school_education/applying_for_a_school_place/admissions_arrangements_2014.aspx

If you do not have internet access the school will print a copy for you on request. Ideally, responses should be sent to KCC by 15 January 2013, but any replies received by 1 February 2013 will be taken into account.

Yours sincerely,

John Wale
Chair of Governors
Thurnham C E Infant School Proposed Admissions Policy For 2014

Introduction

Thurnham C E Infant School will abide by the LA co-ordinated admissions scheme. The Published Admission Number (PAN) for entry into the Reception year will be 90 children. Children with a statement of special educational need which names Thurnham CE Infant School will be admitted and the admissions number reduced accordingly.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be used to determine which children are most eligible for the available places. Children will be ranked in the following order:

- **Children in Local Authority Care** – a child under the age of 18 years for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who ceased to be so because they were adopted immediately from care or who are the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act.

- **Current Family Association** - a brother or sister in Thurnham school at the time of entry where the family continue to live at the same address as when the sibling was admitted – or – if they have moved – live within 2 miles of the school, or have moved to a property that is nearer to the school than the previous property as defined by the ‘Nearness’ criterion (below). Thurnham Infant School is linked to Roseacre Junior School for the purpose of admissions and the schools are considered to be the same school for this criterion. A sibling link will also continue to apply for a year R application for Thurnham Infant School where a sibling is transferring from year 2 of Thurnham Infant School having applied for a place in year 3 at Roseacre Junior School and there is an expectation that the child will be taking up the place in year 3. In this context brother or sister means children who live as brother and sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters.

If siblings from multiple births (twins, triplets, etc) apply for a school and the school would reach its Published Admission Number (PAN) after admitting one or more, but before admitting all of those siblings, the LA will offer a place to each of the siblings, even if doing so takes the school above its PAN. If the admissions are to Year R, and so result in a breach of class size legislation, the additional pupil(s) will be treated as “excepted” pupils, as defined in the School Admissions Code.

- **Health and Special Access Reasons** – Medical, health, social and special access reasons will be applied in accordance with the school’s legal obligations, in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend Thurnham school. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents’/guardians’ physical or mental health or social needs mean that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular
school. Such claims will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and Thurnham school.

- **Priority Area** – In recognition of the traditional intake area and the additional school capacity available to the West and South of the Thurnham site, a priority catchment area will exist within Bearnsted Parish north of Ashford Road. An indicative map (available to view in large scale at the school) showing the priority area is attached. Children resident in this area will be given priority and ranked in straight line distance order as described below.

- **Nearness of children’s homes to school** - we use the distance between the child’s permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using Ordnance Survey address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child’s home to a point defined as within the school as specified by Ordnance Survey. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for Thurnham School, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant’s address is to the school.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

A pupil’s home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child’s only or main residence and not an address at which your child might sometimes stay or sleep due to individual domestic or special arrangements. The address must be the pupil’s home address on the day a parent completes an application form and which is either
- owned by the child’s parent, parents or guardian, or
- leased to or rented by the child’s parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement.

If parents live separately to a partner but share responsibility for a child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of weekdays.

A block of flats has a single address point reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from the school. In the unlikely event that two or more children live in the same block, and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the school, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.

After a place has been offered the school reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

- When a parent has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time; or
- When a parent has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
- The admission authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from the parent.
- All applications are required to be made on the Local Authority Common Application form – the CAF form, either on paper or online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola