

**Admission Appeal Individual Defence Statement  
Secondary School – Chilmington Green School  
Admission Appeal for Year X in September 2026**

Pupils Name: <b>xxxx</b>
Date of Birth: <b>xxxx</b>
Published Admission Number for this year group: <b>180</b>
Number of Applications received: <b>712</b>
How many places were offered on national offer day and what is the position today: <b>184</b>
Is this a late application? (did not name the school as a preference and applied after re-allocation) – <b>Yes/No</b>

<b>Places Offered on National Offer Day – (Please catalog your oversubscription criteria in each of the rows below - if the number of places offered is less than 5, please put &lt;5.)</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
1. Looked after children and previously looked after children	<b>xxx</b>
2. Sibling	<b>xxx</b>
3. Children of Staff	<b>xxx</b>
4. Health and Special Access	<b>xxx</b>
5. Children who live nearer to Chilmington Green School	<b>xxx</b>
6. Distance	<b>xxx</b>
Total number of pupils offered a place; (including ECHP)	<b>xxx</b>
Rank position of last child offered a place	<b>xxx</b>
Rank position of this appellant	<b>xxx</b>

<b>Under which criteria was this child considered for admission</b>
<b>xxx</b> was considered in the criterion “6”. The distance from <b>xxx</b> 's home to the school is <b>xxx</b> miles.
<b>Distance of last child allocated a place (N/A if not applicable)</b>
The last child allocated a place lives a distance of <b>xxx</b> miles from the school.

<b>CHILMINGTON GREEN SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEAL DEFFENCE STATEMENT</b>
In accordance with the published admission criteria, all places in all year groups have been offered to 635 students. To admit an additional student would prejudice the efficient provision for those already at Chilmington Green School for the following reasons:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For 2026/7, the school is resourced for 120 children in Year 10, 150 in Year 9 and 180 in Year 7 and 8. Any students admitted above the number for which the school receives resources means that there is correspondingly reduced access to facilities and learning materials for all students.</li> <li>2. The nationally accepted number of students in each class is 30. All classrooms have</li> </ol>

sufficient furniture and room for 30 students only. The Department for Education's Building Bulletin 103 recommends that secondary school general classrooms should be no smaller than 55 sq m for 30 children. It is anticipated that 7 of the 15 classrooms will be under this. To admit more than 30 to any class would compromise the ability to teach safely and effectively and would therefore prejudice the provision of cost-effective education.

3. As the entirety of the new school building is not yet in use, many of our corridors are overcrowded at lesson changeover times. While there have not been any serious accidents, this is only due to staff supervision and the sensible behaviour of the school's current students.
4. Going over the indicative number of 635 will impact on the teaching, learning and assessment of other students.
5. Any additional students admitted to any group would mean a reduced amount of teacher-contact time for each child and there would be an extra book for teachers to mark. It would also add to the pressures of lesson planning and preparation time.
6. The school would seriously be concerned for the wellbeing of all students if classes exceeded capacity impacting on space within the classroom and resources available. Exceeding 30 students per class would seriously impact on the effective and efficient delivery of these key aspects of student development.
7. All classrooms now contain computers and smart/white boards and other equipment. Adding an extra table and chair is not an option. Additionally, many classes have Teaching Assistants supporting vulnerable students.
8. Teachers no longer 'chalk and talk' or dictate during lessons. Today, all teachers offer differentiated learning. This is the process of tailoring lessons to meet each student's individual interests, needs, and strengths. It affords students choice and flexibility in how they learn. For a teacher to offer this personalised learning, it is essential that they can move around their classrooms and not be blocked by an additional desk or table.
9. The school prides itself on the pastoral support it can offer every student. To add even one more child would dilute the support that pastoral staff and form tutors are able to give to vulnerable children.
10. We are a fully inclusive school.
  - a. Approximately 7 % of our pupils have an Education Health Care Plan. This is 5% more than the national average of 2%.
  - b. 32 % of our pupils are on pupil premium who need additional support.
  - c. 10% of our pupils have English as an additional language
11. A significant number of our students have additional needs (including Learning Difficulties, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs, Speech and Language difficulties, and English as an additional language). As we have a legal obligation to ensure that these students' needs are met, having more students than our admissions number may well affect our ability to provide for all students at the school.
12. Science and technology rooms only have a set number of workplaces or stations. The sharing of gas taps or electrical sockets in science labs is a health and safety hazard. It is important for learning that all students are allowed to undertake practical lessons.
13. Taking more pupils into the year group will also have a negative impact on our school's ability to support Fair Access Protocol to admit vulnerable students during the academic year should the need arise.
14. Chilmington Green School's building is located in an area without established transport infrastructure. Many students are therefore driven to school. Additional students would increase the amount of traffic on site.
15. The school disagrees with the argument, presented by some parents, that the school would not be prejudiced by accepting a student above the published admission number. They point out that appeals have been successful in the past and the school has not imploded. The Governors would refer the panel to a Judicial Review, 'Havering v Kingsley (2007)' to counter that argument. In the review, Mr Justice Davis said, "An

ability to cope as best as one can in a class with too many pupils is not the same as saying there is no prejudice arising from the admission of one extra pupil”.

16. Our SEN provision is effective and is designed to meet the needs of the students who are either on roll or are expected to join the school in 2026. Further to this, our SEN provision and offer is in line with other local schools.

The long-term implications for future years, known as future prejudice.  
(i.e. what effect additional admissions would have on later year groups)

1. We are now in our permanent building. While we acknowledge that there is ‘spare’ accommodation in the new building in the short term, if we added more classes this year, we would have insufficient accommodation once the school reaches capacity.
2. We have a responsibility for our staff safety and wellbeing, which will be negatively affected by larger class sizes. Were we to take more than 30 pupils to a class, the impact would be felt by the year group over subsequent years at the school.
3. Mobility at the school is below average; pupils rarely leave.

### Conclusion

The success of Chilmington Green School is dependent on our ability to deliver our vision of an education worthy of the 21st century which encompasses both academic success and pupil well-being. The implementation of our vision would be negatively affected by the increase of students above 30 pupils in a class to the detriment of the pupils who have already been offered a place.

We would ask the appeal panel to give our case careful consideration when balancing the school’s case against those of parents.

Completed by:           Headteacher Jon Rutland

Date: xxx