

**Admission Appeal Individual Defence Statement  
Secondary School – Rochester Grammar School  
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2026**

Please note that each parent who submits an appeal will receive a personalised defence statement which will be included as part of their case papers and information highlighted below will be updated by the school.

Pupils Name: <b>XXXXXXXXXX</b>
Date of Birth: <b>XXXXXX</b>
Published Admission Number for this year group: <b>205</b>
Number of Applications received: <b>838</b> (715 assessed as grammar)
How many places were offered on national offer day and what is the position today: <b>205</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</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
EHCP	<b>1</b>
1. Looked After Children	<b>0</b>
2. Pupils eligible for pupil premium funding	<b>16</b>
3. Children who have a sibling who attends RGS	<b>22</b>
4. Children who attend any of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust's Medway primary schools	<b>18</b>
5. Children of staff employed by the School	<b>0</b>
6. Child's health reasons	<b>0</b>
7. Children who live closest to the School	<b>148</b>
Total number of pupils offered a place;	<b>205</b>
Rank position of last child offered a place;	<b>512</b>
Rank position of this appellant ;	<b>XX</b>

<b>Under which criteria was this child considered for admission;</b> xxxxx was considered in the criterion "xxxxxxxx". The distance from xxxxx's home to the school is xxxxx metres.
<b>Distance of last child allocated a place (N/A if not applicable);</b> N/A or The last child allocated a place lives a distance of 18,311.80 metres from the school.

Since September 2020 the RGS Published Admission Number (PAN) has been 205. In September 2020, the school agreed to accept an additional 30 students over PAN (235). In September 2024 and September 2025, the school also offered places to an additional 30 students over PAN (235).

Therefore, having 7 groups in Year 7 with 30 students in each for September 2026 would be the maximum capacity and admitting more students would cause detriment to learning. This is something that we would want to avoid as RGS is a school that prides itself on giving its learners the best learning community.

From the school's perspective, 30 in a class is our absolute maximum for several key reasons. Firstly we have many classrooms in the school which are not large enough to hold a class of 30: B16, B59, several languages' classrooms, some English classrooms and all of our S Block rooms (7 classrooms) can only hold 25 and that is not a comfortable learning environment. This poses capacity and rooming challenges.

In some cases, e.g. Creative and Expressive subjects (e.g. Design and Technology and Food Technology which is delivered to all Year 7 students), 30 students would pose us with a big issue in regards to Health and Safety. The specialist classrooms for these subjects can only support smaller classes for Health and Safety. We have calculated that we can sustain smaller class sizes as we have the budget and staffing to accommodate splitting the year group into smaller groups. Any more than this would mean that an extra class will be needed which would cause financial restraint for the school – this, in itself, could mean that we have to reduce our curriculum offer as we do not have the budget to employ more specialist staff, nor do we have the number of specialist rooms needed for extra groups. Reducing the curriculum offer would obviously hinder the breadth of subjects that we could offer which is not conducive to students' holistic learning.

Our staffing model for September 2026 is designed for 7 teaching groups in Year 7. If more students were admitted to RGS this year that increased the teaching groups, we would not have the staffing capacity to timetable this.

We also do not have the staffing capacity to create an extra form tutor group.

It is also important to note that funding for Year 7s is lagged which means we do not receive the funding until the year after. This does have a significant impact on our educational resources for one year which can cause detriment to learning if we have to accommodate extra students without the funding.

Increased numbers of students mean interventions have had to increase. Class sizes are increasing at all levels across the school which has a detrimental effect on the interventions and support available within lessons.

We have one SENCO in the school and she also is the academic support for our Additional Educational Needs students. In total we have 95 students on the SEND register which the SENCO works with and she supports AEN students on an ad hoc basis. She does also have a teaching role so is a resource which is already stretched. We only have one member of non-teaching pastoral support staff and will have no TAs in the school.

Increased numbers of students mean we have to monitor and manage the number of students trying to access the hall at break as they enter to purchase snacks. At lunchtime we have to operate two sittings and this reduces the amount of time students are able to stay seated in the hall to eat their food. Due to the lack of indoor communal space and a shortage of space for seating during lunchtime we already have to put seating on the stage.

Assemblies are very difficult as a whole year group does not fit in certain areas. We run 3 whole school assembly sittings a week and where we have taken over PAN in other years we are at maximum capacity to sit all students in the Hall. If more students are admitted on appeal, this could compromise the health and safety of students in this space.

Increased numbers also have an impact during exam sessions. When we have full mocks or external exams we have to re-room classes. This is becoming more and more difficult as not all rooms can be used or hold 30 students.

Going beyond our temporarily increased PAN would mean that we would have to significantly increase the capacity of the pastoral teams, something that we cannot financially afford to do. Also, access to the Pastoral Team will become more limited if we have more than our expected number of students.

We do not have the resources or finance to accommodate more students. Admitting more students on appeal would be putting the school into a very difficult financial position, rooming position and health and safety position.

*If parents have raised any claims of admission arrangements not being correctly carried out, an explanation to the Panel as to why we believe they were will be included.*

Students on roll (1208): 26 February 2026

Year 7	223
Year 8	219
Year 9	208
Year 10	198
Year 11	185
Year 12	128
Year 13	47

Completed by: Mrs C Brinklow, Headteacher Date: 26 February 2026