



# Alkerden

Church of England Academy

## Registered Office

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## Admission Arrangements at Alkerden

In 2023, the Aletheia Academies Trust published and consulted on a set of draft admissions criteria for the new Alkerden Church of England Academy, opening in September 2025. The Trust had previously worked with Kent County Council (KCC) to ensure that the criteria were appropriate and legal. The 6-week consultation concluded and the result was that the Trustees subsequently approved the admissions criteria in January 2024.

The Trust and KCC have been made aware that there is a considerable amount of concern about the admission criteria that has been adopted for the new Alkerden School. Some parents feel that there appears to be less opportunity for local Year 6 children to be offered a place, in favour of children from further afield. The Trust and KCC, cognisant of the level of the concerns raised concluded there was sufficient reason for the Trust to look again at the admission criteria.

Following several weeks of discussion, AAT and KCC have agreed to increase the intake for September 2025, from 120 to 150 and all parties agreed on the following revised oversubscription criteria for the Admissions Policy (**additional criterion 4 and 5**).

The revised criteria, and the order they are considered, will be as follows:

1. Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care – a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. A looked-after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted.
2. Children who are currently attending Alkerden C of E Academy in year 6.
3. Children with a sibling or step or half-siblings, including fostered and adopted siblings living at the same home address, attend Alkerden C of E Academy at the time of admission. The school reserves the right to ask for proof of relationship.
4. **Children resident in Alkerden, Castle Hill, Ashmere and Ebbsfleet Green, who have a Post Code starting with DA10 1, followed by any two letters, e.g. DA10 1ZZ.**

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5. **Children with a medical, health, social and special access reasons to attend Alkerden CE Academy, 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 Alkerden CE Academy.**
6. Children of members of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application is made; or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
7. Children who attend an Aletheia Academies Trust (AAT) primary school throughout years 5 and 6.
8. All other applicants.

If there are more applicants than places remaining within a particular criterion, priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point.

As a Trust we do acknowledge that residents of Swanscombe and Greenhithe, who live very close to the new Alkerden CE Academy, but are not included in criteria 4, may have concerns that their child may not be able to secure a place within the new school. There is never a guarantee of a place in a particular school, but due to the increase in the PAN, the nature of parental preference and travel to school patterns, it is anticipated that places for these children will be offered under criteria 8.

Even though the new school is being provided because it was believed that the number of houses in the area would necessitate the introduction of a new 8FE Non-Selective Secondary School, the diversity of education provision in Kent means that not every child within the Ebbsfleet Garden City will require a place at Alkerden CE Academy. Many will seek places within the Selective (Grammar) schools, private schools, specialist schools or other faith-based education providers. This means we anticipate that students who reside outside of the DA10 1 postcode area, would have the opportunity to attend Alkerden CE Academy.

According to KCC analysis, the increase in the PAN from 120 to 150, will help facilitate the opportunity for places being available to students that are resident in Swanscombe village, and perhaps even further afield, and supports the local authority's statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient Secondary School places available across the wider Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Area. It is, of course, necessary to state that, as is the case with all schools across Kent, there is no guarantee of a place being available, particularly if the school is popular or, as is the case here, a new provision.

There will be no further changes to the Admissions Policy for 2025.

Aletheia Academies Trust will consult on the Admissions Policy for 2026 in December 2024.

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