

**Admission Appeal Generic Defence Statement
Secondary School – Northfleet School for Girls
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2024**

Published Admission Number for Year 7: 210
Number of Applications received: 599
How many places were offered on national offer day: 220

Places Offered – (Please catalog oversubscription criteria along with the numbers allocated on National offer day for each catalog. If the numbers in each individual catalog is below 5, please state <5 (so individual children cannot be identified)	Numbers
EHCP	4
LAC	0
Siblings	50
All Remaining Children	166
Total number of pupils offered a place;	220

Admissions appeals 2024

Statement of Headteacher

Northfleet School for Girls continues to develop in popularity over the last 6 years, having seen a 54% increase in overall population growth. This year was no exception with 599 overall applications and 394 1st/2nd choice applications for 210 places. For Year 7 September 2024 entry we worked with KCC to take a temporary additional 10 students to support very high local demand, however this now means that our school is at absolute capacity. We are unable to take any more students for the following reasons;

- We have already committed to parents, students and staff that we will not go over 30 students for mainstream classes. Taking additional students would mean having to break this promise. Each year group has two smaller classes which are designed for students with SEN and high emotional needs, taking any more students in these classes would be a significant detriment to the students already in the classes.
- Most classrooms are only of a size capable of taking 30 students, additional desks/chairs would pose a health and safety risk. We do not have any spare additional classrooms.
- Our general school site is at complete capacity and any more students would raise health and safety concerns, particularly around swift evacuation of the building in the event of a fire.
- We have already had to move to multiple split breaks and lunches to accommodate increased students, any more would mean further increased

canteen waits and lack of seating provision for current students.

- Pastoral and SEN structures are operating at full capacity and additional students will mean reduced provision for existing students. In addition, we have seen a rising number of students with significant mental health and SEN needs who need to be prioritised.
- We operate a substantial waiting list for in year admissions (currently 47 in Year 7 and 87 in total) and need to ensure this is fairly applied based on our admission criteria. We are concerned that any appeals may circumnavigate our clear admissions procedures in this area.

Whilst we appreciate parents desire to join our school along with the local pressure on places we have to prioritise quality for our current students. Additional students will impact through reduced quality of education and health and safety risks. We will continue to admit students according to our waiting list criteria as soon as any places become available.

Please be advised that each parent who lodges an appeal will have a personalised defence statement forwarded to them as part of their case papers

Completed by: Headteacher Mr Norwood Date: 3.3.24