

Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School

SCHOOL DEFENCE STATEMENT

The school's published admission number (PAN) is 165. We have agreed with the Local Authority to exceed this number due to demand. The school has six forms of entry accommodating 27 or 28 students and into eight groups for certain practical subjects. As pressure has increased over the years the school have allowed class sizes to increase to 30 to meet the local demand for places. This is the absolute maximum number of students that we can accommodate with regards to desks, facilities and resources, and the number for whom the new school was designed and built. Even at this number we exceed our net capacity. This is evidenced by discussion with the Local Authority regarding adding additional space to the school to allow for a PAN of 180.

Accommodation

Most general classrooms in the school, and all practical rooms and spaces, including dining, were designed using BB103 for class sizes of 30 or fewer students and a PAN of 165. The size of classrooms and provision of furniture does not allow for more than 30 students in a class and the overall number of classrooms in the school, and designed size of larger areas such as the canteen and sports hall, means that it is not possible to expand a year group to beyond six form groups. At 180 students we function above our net capacity, but have made changes to ensure this is viable.

Aside from the space within classrooms, the communal spaces within the school are not designed to accommodate more students, particularly the pressure places on dining space – both with insufficient seating and area.

In practical subjects such as DT, art and textiles, where guidance is for smaller groups to facilitate effective health and safety, we split the year group into eight teaching groups. This puts 23 or 24 students in some groups to allow for adequate supervision within practical lessons.

Class Organisation

Breakdown of current roll numbers in each Year Group:

Year Group	Number
7	177
8	174
9	182
10	180
11	174

It would be detrimental to the education of all students if the number exceeds 30 in a class or 180 in a year group. To exceed more than 30 students in a class would seriously impact curriculum resources, planning and the delivery of teaching, as well as impact on the health and safety of students in overcrowded practical subjects.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, the school believes that it has already done all, and perhaps more, than it can reasonably be expected to do to help deal with the issue of the availability of grammar assessed places in the area and the admission of any girls in excess of the 180 would seriously prejudice the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources in the school.

Mr P Pollard
Headteacher

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