

Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Sunningdale

Minutes from the Admissions Committee Meeting held on 7th September 2022

Present by Microsoft Teams: Mr B Aherne, Mr T Fettes, Mrs J Griffith, Mrs A Williamson, Mrs S Lawson (Clerk)

In Attendance: n/a

Apologies: Rev J Hutchinson, Mrs B Moss

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

New In-Year Applications for academic year 2022/23

The committee considered eight new applications for academic year 2022/2023. All applications for KS1 were refused on the basis that classes are already at the maximum infant class size. All applications for KS2 were refused on the basis that all classes are already at the maximum number agreed with the local authority.

Possible Exception to Infant Class Size Legislation

The committee discussed a possible exception to Infant Class Size legislation. This was with reference to a sibling application for Year 2. The circumstances were as follows:

- A place is available in Y3 (KS2).
- An appeal is going ahead for a catchment family for Year 3 and Year 2.
- The Year 2 appeal is an Infant Class Size Appeal as this is KS1. The class size of 30 is a legal limit with a very few exceptions that can be made and these are detailed in the code. An Infant Class Size Appeal considers only two things 1) Is our Admissions Policy in line with the Admissions Code and 2) did we properly apply our Admissions Policy when refusing the place. Even if the answer to one of these questions is no, a place would only be awarded if the mistake meant the child was denied a place as a direct result. These appeals, therefore, are almost never if ever successful.
- The grounds for appeal and family circumstances are not heard in an Infant Class Size Appeal.
- The grounds in this case are that a single parent has been housed here by RBWM from Maidenhead with both the children placed in Cheapside school as the school had places at the time. The parent has no car and last term walked the children to Cheapside school each day and back. The walk is too long to be practical on a daily basis and much of

the route doesn't have adequate pavements and could be considered unsafe.

- The Year 3 child has been offered the place available here at Holy Trinity – but this doesn't help the parent who would still have to walk the Y2 child to Cheapside.
- I checked the exceptions for Infant Class Sizes and found the following clause:

e) children who move into the area outside the normal admissions round for whom there is no other available school within reasonable distance;

7.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), a child admitted to the school outside a normal admission round—

(a) in relation to whom the school is the only school (apart from any school to which the child has already been refused admission or from which the child has been permanently excluded) which—

(i) is within a reasonable distance from the child's home, and

(ii) provides suitable education; and

(b) who did not, at the relevant time, ordinarily reside at a place which was within a reasonable distance from the school.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1)(b) "the relevant time"—

(a) in relation to a child to whom regulation 2(3) applies, means the time when the majority of pupils in the age group in which the child falls were admitted to the school; and

(b) in relation to a child to whom regulation 2(4) applies, means the time referred to in sub-paragraph (c) of that paragraph.

(3) A child is not an excepted child under this paragraph unless the local authority who maintain the school have confirmed in writing that they are satisfied the child fulfils the criteria listed in sub-paragraph (1)(a).

- SL consulted RBWM Admissions Team who said that for a child under 8, 'reasonable distance' is determined as 2 miles. They mapped three routes from the house to Cheapside with distances of 2, 2.3 and 2.4 miles. (The children walk this twice a day, the parent 4 times).
- They said under the circumstances, they would support an increase in infant class size to support this family if:

- the headteacher believes education for the other children in class 2 would not be prejudiced
- the child is top of the waiting list for the year (the parent has accepted the Y3 place in writing making the Y2 child top of the list as a Cat 3)
- the parent could provide a housing letter showing they were housed by RBWM (which they have done).

RBWM Admissions Team confirmed their support in writing as follows:

'As discussed, under section 2.16 (e) of the School Admissions Code 2021 where it states that children who move into the area outside the normal admissions round for whom there is no other available school within reasonable distance will remain an 'excepted pupil' for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit, it could be reasonable to assume that given the distance to Cheapside Primary School and unsafe walking route, the child in question could be counted as an exception.

The Code does not state that there is a separate process that needs to be followed in order to count the child as an exception, however, please use your discretion to ascertain that you, as a school, have sufficient resources available to accommodate the child and that they are currently number 1 on the waiting list before offering a place in order to ensure that no other children is being disadvantaged. Please also ensure that you have evidence that the family has been housed by the council for your records. '

AW asked JG for her view of the impact on the other pupils in Year 2. JG said an extra pupil will involve more workload but felt that on balance the school should try to serve the family under these unusual circumstances.

The Committee agreed to admit the Y2 sibling as an exception to Infant Class Size Regulations.

SL to advise the parent and offer the place.

SL to advise Gordon Joyner at the Diocese that the appeal will not be required.

JG to make a courtesy call to the headteacher at Cheapside Primary School.

Any Other Business

There was no further business.