

Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Sunningdale

Minutes from the Admissions Committee Meeting held on 11th February 2021

Present by Microsoft Teams: Mr B Aherne, Mrs A Boaler, Mrs J Griffith, Mrs B Moss, Mrs S Lawson (Clerk)

In Attendance: Mr T Fettes,

Apologies: Mr P Grover, Rev J Hutchinson, Mrs A Williamson

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

In-Year Application

The committee considered an in-year application for Year 5. The application was refused on the basis that the year group is at the number agreed with the Local Authority. SL confirmed that three previous applicants had accepted places in Year 5 and would be starting once the school opens again.

Update on Numbers

SL advised the committee that all spaces have now been offered and accepted and school is potentially full with 241 pupils. This assumes applicants waiting to start do join the school roll once school is open again.

Reception Admissions Sept 2021

JG explained that there is a strong need for a pupil currently on roll in Reception year to rejoin the next Reception class in September 2021, as they will not be able to access the Year 1 curriculum. However, the RBWM admissions team have advised that a space cannot be held open for the pupil and 30 places will be allocated as usual (assuming enough applicants).

JG advised that should the pupil have an EHC Plan in place, the Admissions Committee could over-allocate with 31 pupils in Reception Class September 2021. However, the pupil has recently been turned down for an EHC Plan assessment, despite complex needs and the requirement for one to one support at all times. JG stated over allocation in this scenario is not desirable anyway due to pressures on resources and staff wellbeing. (NB the parents are likely to appeal the decision at a tribunal but this will take many weeks and even if successful, the EHC Plan assessment could take a further 20 weeks after the appeal decision, with a potential 40 week wait).

The RBWM Admissions team also suggested that the pupil could come off roll and reapply for Reception class September 2021 as a deferred entry (out of year group). However, the deadline for submitting Reception applications has now

passed and this would therefore be treated as a late application. In this scenario, the pupil may not be allocated a place at Holy Trinity which may not be a desirable outcome for the family.

JG suggested that at the moment, the only option for September 2021, is for the pupil to remain on roll in Year 1, but to be educated in the EYFS environment. With no extra funding or support, this will put tremendous pressure on the staff team as the class may well have 31 pupils and this pupil has exceptionally high needs for a mainstream setting.

JG also highlighted that this situation comes on top of RBWM refusing a request for financial support for another child due to join Year 5 with exceptionally high needs, in addition to a current Year 6 child also needing unfunded one to one support.

AB pointed out that other boroughs give access to temporary high needs funding to help support schools facing this kind of scenario, particularly to help bridge the gap between needs being identified and EHC Plans and extra funding being awarded, but RBWM does not have this type of funding available.

BA suggested school should reflect the need to fund support for all three pupils in the budget showing the deficit which will be incurred as a result. AB will add this to the agenda for the next Finance Meeting and the next Full Governors' Meeting. TF suggested school then write to RBWM to advise of the budget deficit as soon as this has been agreed by Governors.

In the meantime, the SENCO and Reception teacher will continue to advise the parents of the Reception pupil of the other options suggested by the RBWM Admissions team, as they appeal the EHC Plan decision.

Deferred Entry to Reception Class – September 2021

BM advised the committee that an applicant for deferred entry (out of year group) to Reception Class 2021 which had previously been turned down, had asked for the decision to be re-evaluated. After consulting the Diocesan Admissions Advisor, the RBWM Admissions team and especially in light of the child having attended little nursery provision, JG recommended that it would now be in the child's best interests to benefit from deferred entry to Reception Class 2021.

The Admissions Committee agreed to allow the applicant (child SL 9/7/16) to apply for a Reception place for September 2021 entry.

SL will notify the RBWM Admissions team of this decision.