

Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Sunningdale

Minutes from the Admissions Committee Meeting held on 18th December 2020

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

In Attendance: Mr P Grover

Apologies: Rev J Hutchinson, Mrs S Lawson (Clerk), Mrs A Williamson

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Request for Review of Deferred Entry to Reception Class 2021 – Out of Year

The Committee met via MT to further discuss and review the request for deferred entry to Reception Class 2021 (out of year) for Sebastian Loebel who is a summer born child, following a face to face meeting with the family.

JG reminded the Committee of the background and the process, confirming that the parents had been advised by letter on 2nd April 2020 by Co-Headteachers declining the request for deferred entry to Reception Class 2020. The Admissions Committee had met to discuss and review the evidence provided by the family on 20th April 2020 and 13th July 2020 and the parents had been advised by letter that the decision had been upheld but the school would be happy to meet with the family in the Autumn term when circumstances allowed.

This meeting with the parent (mother) and child took place on 15th December 2020. JG and SL met with the parent, while Mrs Tones spent 45 minutes with the child.

JG discussed with the parent the fact that her child was a summer born, physically small for his age, has hypermobility (no medical evidence, although this is not required), he has day naps, has sensory issues (no dirt or water). He is currently in nursery 2 days a week and not currently in school, although attends a Russian school on a Sunday. He is bilingual.

The family lives out of catchment and has been offered deferred places at 3 Surrey schools. JG discussed this with the parent and they felt that Holy Trinity was an impressive school and this is why they sought a place.

JG and parent spoke about the current waiting list for Reception 2020, on which they would currently be 8th and the waiting list for YR1 next year. JG made it clear that HT is not a feeder school for Charters.

Mrs Tomes reported that although physically small for his age, the child was happy to go to the reception classroom, the child played ably with toys, counted to 8, knew his own and fathers' birthdays, could name train carriages. He may have shown ASD traits, however the current staff are more than capable to deal with those needs, should they be required. The current Reception class has 14 summer born children and this child would not be significantly different in his needs to his peers.

After meeting with the parent and child and following feedback from ST, JG recommended to the Committee that there is no additional evidence to show that it would be beneficial for this child to be educated out of his peer group.

BM reminded the Committee that the legal position currently is that there should be strong evidence to show that it would be beneficial to a child to be educated outside their age group.

JG advised that Holy Trinity school has had many pupils that have moved schools both within and outside the UK, many with differing curriculums and languages and these pupils settle well with their peers and staff are used to managing these transitions.

The Committee unanimously agreed that the application be refused as school have now met the family and child and there is no significant evidence to suggest that deferring the reception place would be beneficial to the child.

BM will co-ordinate with JG to write a letter to the parents in time for the 15th January application deadline. The letter would advise the parents of the Committees decision and indicate that this will be the final communication on this matter.