



**RYECROFT C. E. ( C ) MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**POLICY STATEMENT**

**ADMISSIONS**

Approved by Governors: Autumn 2017

Review Date: Autumn 2018 (unless there are any prior changes)

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Governors annually review the school pupil admission number. This policy contains details on how priorities are given to parents seeking a place for their child at Ryecroft.

## **2. MAXIMUM ADMISSION LIMIT**

The school's Pupil Admission Number (PAN) currently stands at 60.

The Governors have also expressed their desire that the school should remain an attractive option to parents living outside the school's catchment area, particularly in order to ensure the financial and academic viability of the school.

## **3. CATCHMENT AREA**

Ryecroft attracts a significant percentage of pupils from outside its current catchment areas.

As it stands at the present, the school's defined catchment area is very extensive and encompasses a number of villages and hamlets. Its rural nature means that despite the relatively small number on roll, most pupils have to travel some distance to school by a variety of means. Four First schools feed pupils into Ryecroft - All Saints First School, Denstone; the Dove First School, Rocester; St. Peter's First School, Alton and The Henry Prince First School, Mayfield.

Parents of all pupils wishing to enter Ryecroft, other than at normal intake, are asked to apply to the Headteacher and then apply to Staffordshire County Council. If the pupil lives outside the school's catchment area, a form, issued by the LA's Pupil Support Unit is also completed, a copy of which is forwarded to the Education Offices. Only parents living within the school's catchment area are entitled to free school transport within the distance limits set down by the LA.

## **4. ACCELERATED TRANSFER OF PUPILS**

The procedure for accelerated transfer is lengthy and exhaustive and involves the Education Psychological Services. Applications for accelerated transfer should be addressed to the Chief Education Officer's Allocations Department.

The position adopted by Ryecroft is consistent. It is most improbable the school would have any knowledge of the individual pupil in question and could not therefore comment on the child's intellectual, physical or social maturity and whether he/she would benefit or otherwise from early transfer. Such views must be left to those who know the child well, in particular staff at the child's current school. The following points are, however, consistently made. Regard must be given to future implications for the child being in a Year group above his/her chronological age in such matters as

- i) participation in team sporting activities,
- ii) representing the school in sports teams
- iii) physical growth in later years compared with peer group
- iv) development of social skills being maintained
- v) the recognition that the whole process of assessment must be undertaken again at the next point of school transfer.

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**5. OVER-AGE RETENTION**

Occasionally, pupils remain an additional year in a particular Year group which then dictates they will remain a year behind their chronological age throughout their education. The same procedures apply as for accelerated admission.

**6. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS**

If the number of pupils seeking admission to the school exceeds the number of places available, then the following order of priority will be used:

- a) Pupils living within the catchment area of the school;
- b) Pupils who at the time of the application have an elder brother or sister in attendance at the school who will still be attending at the proposed admission date.
- c) Pupils who have elected to pursue their primary education at a major contributory school. These are: All Saints First School, Denstone; the Dove First School, Rocester; St. Peter's First School, Alton and Henry Prince First School, Mayfield.
- d) Pupils who satisfy both of the following tests or by other exceptional circumstances.
  - i) Medical grounds must be supported by a medical report (obtained by the parents). It must clearly justify for health reasons only why it is better for the child to attend the preferred school rather than any other school. Exceptional circumstances must relate to the choice of school i.e. the circumstance of the child and not the economic or social circumstance of the parents and be supported by a professional report e.g. Social Worker, justifying why it is better for the child to attend the preferred school rather than any other school.
  - ii) They would suffer hardship if they were unable to attend the school.
- e) Other pupils arranged in order of priority according to how near their home addresses are to the school. Distance is measured by the nearest practical walking route and is determined by the use of the computerised system.

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Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:

Chair.....

Date.....