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To: Resources and Infrastructure - Children, Families & Education Policy Overview Committee

Date: 29 November 2010

Subject: 11+ Selection in West Kent

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report supplies information requested at the last meeting about the numbers of children assessed suitable for admission to grammar school in the Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks areas in the academic year 2009-2010, and the schools they entered in September 2010.

Introduction

1. (1) For many years there has been more demand for places in the grammar schools in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells than can be met. Changes in legislation intended to manage school admissions fairly and consistently (in particular the School Admissions Code 2010), have highlighted problems faced by those Kent children who cannot be offered a place at their nearest Kent grammar school on National Offer Day, which falls at the beginning of March. The Local Authority (LA) is obliged to offer one school place to every Y6 mainstream pupil on National Offer Day, and we have received adverse publicity in previous years by the offering of available places at grammar schools in other parts of Kent, some a long way from applicants' homes. Last year, children who could not be offered a grammar school place were instead offered places at local schools and academies which do not select their intake.

(2) Recently, parents resident in Sevenoaks complained to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) that the admissions policies of certain grammar schools, which gave priority to the highest scoring applicants, were reducing access to their closest grammar schools, as places were allocated to children without regard to where they lived. The LA supported these complaints with its own objections to the admission arrangements of The Judd, Skinners and Tonbridge Grammar Schools. The OSA did not uphold any of these objections. Among the points considered was the fact that waiting list and appeal processes mean that children initially turned away from these schools in March may, nevertheless, have obtained places by the start of the new academic year in September.

Position in West Kent

2. (1) **Numbers of Children Assessed suitable for Grammar School**

- The information held on the PESE database uses school returns, rather than individual pupil addresses, and does not distinguish between Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks, so it may be of limited usefulness, but is provided as an indication of approximate figures.
- In the 2010 round, 395 boys (38% of the local cohort) and 428 girls (42% of the local cohort) were assessed suitable for grammar school on the basis of their test results. In total, this is 823 children, or 50% of the local cohort. The cohort figure is likely to be higher than stated because reliable year group figures for Independent Schools are not available, so the percentage figure is slightly inflated.
- After the Headteacher Assessment stage, a further six boys and 17 girls from WK “inner” schools were assessed suitable for grammar school – 23 pupils in all, bringing the totals to 401 boys and 445 girls, 846 children, or 41% of the local cohort.
- In this context, the third question asked about the number of children who obtained grammar school places is taken to refer to the number of WK “inner” children with high school assessments offered a grammar school place on appeal. Seventeen children meet this description, one boy and 16 girls, bringing the totals to 402 boys and 471 girls.

(2) **Number of Grammar School Places**

- The Published Admission Numbers (PANs) of the local grammar schools are:

WEST KENT	
Judd School (Boys)	125
Tonbridge Grammar School (Girls)	140
Weald of Kent Grammar School (Girls)	150
Skinner's School (Boys)	115
Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School	140
Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys	180

- There are 850 places, 420 for boys and 430 for girls

(3) **Numbers Entering the WK Grammar Schools in September 2010**

- The following figures were supplied by Management Information from the Year 7 count taken in October 2010.

School Name	PAN	Roll Oct 2010
Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School	140	154
Weald of Kent Grammar School	150	171
Tonbridge Grammar School	140	152
Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys	180	180
The Judd School	125	126
The Skinner's School	115	123
Total	850	906

(4) **Proportions of Intake from Outside the Normal Intake Area**

- The following table is based on information provided to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) as background to the complaints against the admissions arrangements of the West Kent Grammar Schools, which give priority to high scoring pupils. Figures take account of the primary school attended by the pupils rather than their home address, so are indicative rather than exact. (Schools which give priority to local candidates may still admit children from further a field if they also give priority to siblings.)

School Name	WK Inners	%	Other Kent	%	OOC	%	Total
Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School	100	65	54	35	0	0	154
Weald of Kent Grammar School	103	60	68	40	0	0	171
Tonbridge Grammar School	48	32	86	57	18	12	152
Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys	115	54	62	34	3	2	180
The Judd School	39	31	77	61	10	8	126
The Skinners' School	36	29	72	59	15	12	123
Total	441	49	419	46	46	5	906

**The figures quoted for "Other Kent" include primary schools inside the PESE scheme (e.g., Maidstone), but not in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells or Sevenoaks South, and primary schools in areas served by comprehensive schools (e.g., Paddock Wood).*

(5) **Grammar Assessed Pupils from West Kent Not Attending Local Grammars**

- As at 1 March 2010, there were 27 pupils from the primary schools in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks South who had not been offered local grammar school places. Of these, 18 were offered places in schools which do not select their intake, including church comprehensives, and nine were offered places in grammar schools outside West Kent (one in a grammar school outside Kent).
- From the appeal information available, two girls originally offered non-selective places subsequently gained local grammar school places on appeal, and one in a girl opted for a place in the Independent Sector. It is possible that some children have also been accommodated through waiting lists, but if so, the LA has not been advised of this.
- Many places offered on appeal went to pupils with grammar assessment who lived outside the WK "PESE" area.

Recommendations:

3. Members are asked TO NOTE the information and identify any other information required.

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Background Documents:
None

Other Useful Information
None