

# Kendrick School

## Admission Policies for Entry in September 2020

### Consultation Feedback



Kendrick School was successful in the Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF) application as announced on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018, and, following feedback received during the expansion consultation between 7<sup>th</sup> June to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and the criteria of the SSEF application, changes were proposed to all of the Admission Policies for Entry in September 2020.

The key requirements of the bid were to:

- Meet the need for additional secondary school places in the local area and a demand from parents for more selective places.
- Increase access for disadvantaged students.

The minimum requirements for admission arrangements in the bid were:

1. Prioritising students eligible for pupil premium funding in admission oversubscription criteria for September 2020.
2. Designing the school's wider admission arrangements to prioritise access for students eligible for the pupil premium for September 2020.

Advice from the DfE given for point 2 above included:

- a. lowering the pass-mark in the test for pupil premium pupils where it finds that few pupil premium children, who are of the grammar standard, are admitted;
- b. prioritising pupil premium children from a catchment area or catchment areas with a high number of disadvantaged child residents.

The changes to Kendrick School Year 7 Admission Policy for 2020 entry addressed these requirements by:

1. Lowering the qualifying score for pupil premium pupils
2. Introducing Priority Area 1 which has areas identified as having higher deprivation using information from the Local Authority and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) data.

Therefore the key changes to Kendrick School admission policies for 2020 entry are as follows:

#### **Year 7**

- Addition of 32 places in Year 7
- Introduction of a lower qualifying score for Categories 1 and 2 in the oversubscription criteria
- Introduction of Priority Area 1 designated area

For Year 7 admissions, it is important to note that the first 96 places, after offering places to candidates in Categories 1 and 2, will still be offered to candidates who reside in the original wider designated area as per previous admission policies. The additional 32 places will be offered to those candidates in Priority Area 1, according to the ranked order, and then, if these places are not filled, the remaining places will be offered to those in Priority Area 2, according to the ranked order.

#### **Year 12**

- Introduction of Priority Area 1 designated area

#### **Non Routine**

- Introduction of Priority Area 1 designated area

Consultation commenced on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018** and ended on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019**. The policies were distributed for comment to:

- Kendrick School parents/carers (1339 people)
- Kendrick School Staff (86 people)
- Kendrick School Governors (17 people)
- General Public via Kendrick School website, a press release and social media
- Primary Schools in the area (277 schools) with a request to share with their school community
- Secondary Schools in the area (73 schools) with a request to share with their school community
- Local Authority (LA's) School Admission Teams:
  - Reading Borough Council
  - Wokingham Borough Council
  - West Berkshire Council
  - Bracknell Forest Council
  - Oxfordshire County Council
- Paul Wagstaff, Head of Education at Reading Borough Council (RBC)
- Ashley Pearce, Local Counsellor for Education
- Local MPs with a request to share with their constituents:
  - Theresa May (Maidenhead)
  - Matt Rodda (East Reading)
  - Alok Sharma (West Reading)
  - John Redwood (Wokingham)
  - John Howell (Henley)

## **Admission into Year 7 in September 2020**

A total of 93 email responses were received to the consultation.

- 33 of the email respondents also signed one of two petitions which had a total of 112 (hand written) and 172 (online) signatures regarding RG6 3 and RG6 4 not being included in Priority Area 1.
- A few individuals had signed both petitions.
- 19% of the signatures from the online petition were from individuals who do not reside in either Priority Area 1 or Priority Area 2 or who lived outside of the UK.

## **Proposal - Addition of 32 Places in Year 7 commencing September 2020**

- 33 responses were received that supported this change. The feedback was that it is excellent news that Kendrick is able to extend its capacity to offer an excellent education to local girls, fulfilling the needs of the local community and offering more equality of grammar school places to girls in the area.
- There were no comments received which disagreed with the overall addition of the 32 places.
- One response was received that objected to the introduction of the policy in September 2020 and wanted it to be introduced in September 2021. The feedback was that many pupils and parents have already financially invested and will increase their investment over the next six months in extra classes, tutoring and various learning resources to give their child the best opportunity to gain a place.

## **School Response**

- The change to the admission policy for entry in September 2020 was based on the timeframe outlined in the SSEF bid.

**Governing Body Decision:** The Governors made the decision to implement this change to the admission policy for entry into Year 7 in September 2020 to be within the timeframe stipulated.

## **Proposed Change 1 – Introduction of a qualifying score of up to 5 points lower for candidates in Categories 1 and 2 of the oversubscription criteria**

- 7 responses were received that supported this change. Feedback was that this is a very positive step towards supporting disadvantaged students with the aim of increasing the numbers of Pupil Premium (PP) students applying and potentially gaining a place at Kendrick School. It was felt that this supports the ethos of the grammar school system.
- 6 responses were received that disagreed with this change. The feedback was that it was felt that all candidates should be treated equally and that standards could drop if candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds were admitted with a lower qualifying score.

### **School Response**

- Addressing social mobility and access to grammar schools from disadvantaged pupils was a key requirement of the Selective School Expansion Fund (SSEF) application.
- Kendrick School supports the government's and the Local Authority's aims to improve social mobility and life chances for the young people in the local area. Kendrick School is well placed to meet some of this demand and extend more opportunities to families and students from disadvantaged backgrounds who may benefit from the educational experience it can offer.
- Progress of students currently in Categories 1 and 2 at Kendrick School has indicated that lowering the qualifying score for this group will not affect standards.

**Governing Body Decision:** The Governors made the decision to implement this change to the admission policy for entry into Year 7 in September 2020.

- One response was received that determining the qualifying score and the phrase 'up to 5 marks lower' was too vague.

### **School Response**

- The Governors reviewed this comment and agreed to clarify the phrase 'up to 5 marks lower' to '5 marks lower'.

**Governing Body Decision:** The Governors made the decision to implement this change to the admission policy for entry into Year 7 in September 2020.

## **Proposed Change 2 – Introduction of Priority Area 1 Designated Area**

- 8 responses were received that supported the introduction of a Priority Area 1. Feedback received was that this was a very positive step for the local community.
- One response was received that thought a smaller percentage of the additional 32 places should be prioritised to Priority Area 1 as it was felt that this was unfair to candidates who reside in the wider designated area.
- One response received was that Priority Area 1 could be made smaller still.
- 10 responses were received that did not support the introduction of a Priority Area 1 as it was felt it was unfair to those candidates who have RG postcodes but were not included in Priority Area 1.
- 60 email responses and two petitions, one with 112 (hand written) and one with 172 (online) signatures were received regarding RG6 3 and RG6 4 not being included in Priority Area 1. 33 who signed a petition also sent an email response. A few individuals had signed both petitions. 19% of the signatures from the online petition were from individuals who do not reside in either Priority Area 1 or Priority Area 2 or who lived outside of the UK. Feedback received was that it was felt that equal opportunity was not given to the candidates living in these areas compared to those living in RG6 5, RG6 6 and RG6 7.
- 21 responses were received mentioning specific postcodes including RG2 9, RG7, RG10, RG12, RG26, RG27, RG40 and RG41. Feedback received was that students in these areas should have equal opportunity to others in Priority Area 1.

## School Response

- Priority Area 1 covers areas of higher social deprivation and areas where there is a need for more secondary school places. This was a requirement in the application to the Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF).
- Priority Area 1 is made up of postcodes from four Local Authority areas: Reading Borough Council, West Berkshire Council, Wokingham Borough Council and Oxfordshire County Council.
- Postcode sectors (for example RG2 8) are included in their entirety to aid address identification.

**Governing Body Decision:** Taking all this into consideration, the Governing Body has taken the decision to include Priority Area 1 in the admission policy for entry into Year 7 in September 2020

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## Admission into Year 12 in September 2020

### Proposed Change 1 – Introduction of Priority Area 1 Designated Area

No responses received.

**Governing Body Decision:** The Governors made the decision to implement the updated admission policy for entry into Year 12 in September 2020.

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## Non Routine Admissions for 2020/2021

### Proposed Change 1 – Introduction of Priority Area 1 Designated Area

No responses received.

**Governing Body Decision:** The Governors made the decision to implement the updated admission policy for non-routine admission in September 2020/21.

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## Summary

Taking all the consultation responses into account, the Learning & Teaching Committee, as delegated by the Full Governing Body, ratified the Year 7, 12 and non-routine admission policies for entry in 2020 at their meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The policies will be published on the school's website before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.



**Mrs Jan Nowecki**  
Chair of the Governing Body



**Ms Christine Kattirtzi**  
Headteacher

29<sup>th</sup> January 2019