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Sent: 06 February 2014 12:26
To: School Admissions
Subject: Admission Arrangements Consultation - September 2015 entry

Dear colleague

I am responding to your consultation on behalf of Cheshire East Admissions Authority.

We noted that your admission arrangements include admission at The Grange All Through Community School, where nursery enrolment guarantees admission to the infant school.

The OSA report from 2013 includes a finding that the practice of primary schools giving priority for admission to reception year is unfair to other applicants, and includes a recommendation that the DfE issues guidance to schools and LA's that this is not part of the admission arrangement.

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/o/osa%20annual%20report%201213%20final%20word%20version.pdf>

From your consultation:

THE GRANGE ALL THROUGH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The Grange is a designated all through community school, therefore children enrolled in the nursery at the closing date will automatically transfer from the nursery to infants, infants to juniors, and juniors to secondary within The Grange. Following the transfer of those children from the nursery to reception class the remaining places will be allocated in accordance with the admissions criteria as detailed in paragraph 9.1 above.

OSA report extract:

Main finding 5. The practice of some primary schools of giving priority for admission to the reception year to children who have attended particular nursery provision has been found to be unfair to other local children.

Action required. The Department for Education should consider issuing guidance for schools and local authorities so that there is fair access to schools for all children on reaching compulsory school age in order that children are not disadvantaged by any decisions their parents make about the care of their children prior to compulsory school age or by access to specific child care.

Please can you advise us if the above admission arrangement is lawful, in view of the above OSA findings, and if you can confirm this, advise us of what grounds this is the case. Similarly, this will apply to the guaranteeing of places when children move from junior to secondary school.

Thank you.

Regards

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