

Council Question

13 October 2016

Public Question No. 7D

Kelly Hayman of Gillingham submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member), Councillor Mackness:

Due to the number of children that have been affected by the Medway Test and they've been underscored by your formula, but Medway state that the overall result is correct, there was a sudden surge of parents now wanting to send their child to Brompton Academy because it is the elite school in education after the grammar schools.

Therefore, my question is how will this affect children such as mine who didn't take the Medway Test, but took the fair banding test?

In my case, we already have a sibling there, however, I would like it clarified how this selection of pupils will now be done due to the sudden surge of panicking parents.

The Portfolio Holder for Educational Attainment and Improvement, Councillor Potter, on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member), Councillor Mackness, provided the following written response:

Medway Council can confirm that that the assessment outcome and the final score as published in all results letters were both correct. The individual scores for Verbal Reasoning and Maths were also correct. However, the Extended Writing score was incorrectly published in the letters for those assessed as non – selective (non-grammar). The Verbal Reasoning score was published in place of the Extended Writing score in error.

No pupil has been underscored by this publishing error and revised letters were sent out to all families affected on Monday 3 October.

Brompton Academy is an academy, independent of the Local Authority. This means it is its own admission authority and, therefore, responsible for setting its own admission arrangements. Medway Council has no involvement in the setting of their admission policy, other than responding to any consultation on changes they may publish.

Places at Brompton Academy will be allocated according to the academy's published over subscription criteria: All applicants who take the Fair Banding Test will be split into one of five ability bands, based upon their score against the national profile. Within each band these same applicants will be ranked in the following order:

1. Looked after or previously looked after children
2. Sibling links
3. Children of staff
4. Distance
5. Random selection.

Places will be offered to those eligible for a place in each of the 5 bands starting with those ranked with the highest priority. Applicants who have not taken the Test will be considered for a place only after places have been allocated across all five bands. Where bands are undersubscribed, places will roll over in to the next to be filled. Only a very few places have ever been offered to children who have not taken the Fair Banding Test.