

Time Commenced: 10.08am

Time Finished: 10.35am

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM 10 MARCH 2010

Present:	David Keys	Brackensdale Junior School Governor (in the Chair)
	Robin Constable	Solicitor
	Daniel Cooper	Constitutional Services Officer
	Cathy Dobb	Head of Admissions and Awards
	Roger Shipton	Merrill College Head Teacher
In Attendance	Rachael Seal	Rolls Royce Plc

### 08/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Brown, Edward Hayes, Forrest, Fiona McLaughlin, Stephen Whiteley and Alison Woodhouse.

### 09/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

### 10/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 11/09 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2009 were confirmed as a correct record subject to David Key's role on the Forum being amended to read: 'Brackensdale Junior School Governor.'

### 12/09 Response of the Department for Children, Schools and Families to a request for clarification of the School Admissions Code

Members considered a report of the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services informing the Forum of the Department for Children, Schools and Families response to a request for clarification of the School Admissions Code at the previous meeting.

The Head of Admissions and Awards, Cathy Dobb, expressed concern that the changes to the current admissions scheme to accommodate Rolls Royce employees' children would create a number of problems. She stated that there were unanswered questions in terms of residents having second homes, residents working abroad and verifying fraudulent applications. She informed

members that the authority has methods in place to help those children returning from abroad.

The Chair asked if places could be reserved for children returning from abroad. Robin Constable, Solicitor, stated that places could not be reserved and the only families who could receive preferential treatment were members of the armed forces. The Chair asked if Rolls Royce could arrange for the family to return in time to submit an application on time. Rachael Seal, of Rolls Royce, said that this would be very difficult as an overseas assignment would not necessarily finish by the application deadline. This could result in a family being separated. Overseas assignments are intended to allow the whole family to experience life abroad. The Head of Admissions and Awards suggested that so long as a family was in residence in Derby at the time of application and admission to a school then this would satisfy the legal requirements. Rachael Seal stated that this would be difficult to arrange as many families rent their Derby property to qualify for insurance purposes.

**Resolved to note the response of the Department for Children, Schools and Families and to express sympathy with the situation of Rolls Royce employees. The School Admissions Forum hoped that this could be conveyed to future School Admissions Appeal Panels considering an appeal by Rolls Royce employees in these circumstances.**

## 13/09      Determination of Admission Arrangements 2011-12

The Forum received a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People informing members of the authority's stance on the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Derby and the admission arrangements for foundation and voluntary aided schools in the city.

The Head of Admissions and Awards informed members that no comments were received regarding the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. West Park, a Foundation School, has reduced their Published Admission Number from 250 to 240 and this may reduce the opportunity for parental preference to be expressed. The authority is considering an objection to the Schools Adjudicator. West Park has until 14 April 2010 to finalise its admission arrangements. Wren Park Primary School has requested not to reduce their published admission number and therefore it will be kept at 54.

**Resolved to note and support the Authority's stance on the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Derby and to note the admission arrangements for Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools in the City**

## 14/09      Date of the next meeting

**Resolved to next meet on 29 September 2010 at 10am.**

MINUTES END