

## **Year 7 Admission Appeal Defence Statement**

The Robert Napier School is full and oversubscribed in this year group. It is a large and bustling campus with class sizes that average at 30.

Parts of The Robert Napier School were built over 90 years ago, and other parts have been built over the last 40 years. The latest block built was constructed in accordance with DfE regulations and all classrooms were of approved size at the time of being built. In 2018, 8 prefabricated classrooms were decommissioned due to their age and inefficiency of use. Classrooms are designed to take 30 pupils, and furniture and equipment provided accordingly. The capacity of the school historically has been 7 forms of entry, i.e. 210 in each Year Group, but with the reduction in classrooms, the school is now only fit for 6 forms of entry.

All practical rooms and practical teaching capacity are designed and constructed to take account of the Year Group of 180. To admit a significant number of additional pupils raises issues of Health and Safety in these areas, particularly in the design and technology subjects, where numbers must not exceed health and safety guidance.

During 2014, Medway Council determined the school's Indicated Admission Number (IAN) based on classroom capacity at 180 places. The Governors accepted this number as our Planned Admission Number (PAN). A survey carried out by Medway Council in 2005 indicated that many rooms within the school were now considered undersized.

Our over-subscription criteria are considered very carefully each year by the Admissions Authority. In 2018 and in 2019 we agreed to accept an additional 10 students, making a total of 190 students admitted into Year 7 for two consecutive years. In addition, in September 2020, September 2021 and September 2023, we agreed to accept an additional 30 students, to support Medway with the current bulge in population.

Whilst there are no immediate planned modifications to the school buildings to accommodate the increased numbers for the last four years, Governors have taken into account the school's ability to cope with the additional pupils admitted over the last 5 years, and would not wish to exceed the PAN of 210 set for September 2023, as it is felt any higher number might compromise the health and safety of the students already on roll, in respect of the points mentioned above.

In relation to our oversubscription criteria for admissions:

- a. The appellant isn't in care.
- b. The appellant has no family connection at the school.

Therefore, the appellant would fall into the last criteria of distance. The distance from the child's home to the school.

The Robert Napier School, regrettably, has to conclude that there is no compelling argument which, on balance, should allow the admission of this child.