



Typical movement in the Waiting List

Dear Parent Guardian,

For the last number of years, the school has been heavily over-subscribed for places at the start of first year. Typically, there will be 250-300 applications for the 54 places available. However, these figures do not give an accurate representation of the actual demand for places at the school. Many families apply for places in several schools which means that the waiting lists for all of these school are artificially inflated. Over the past number of years, a clear pattern has emerged in relation to the actual uptake of places at the Grammar School. Applicants fall into four broad categories which can be summarised as follows:

- 1) Children who are in three or four priority categories and whose applications typically receive 30+ points (which often includes a lot of siblings). Generally, all of these children will accept the offer *and* take up a place in the school the following September.
- 2) Children who are in two or three priority categories and whose applications typically receive 20+ points (which often includes local children from local feeder schools). Generally, all of these children will accept an initial offer but **25%** of them will also accept an offer in another school and will **not** take up a place in the Grammar School the following September.
- 3) Children who are in one or two priority categories and whose applications typically receive between 10 and 20 points. Not all of these applicants will receive an initial offer but, even when subsequent offers are made, nearly **half** of these applicants will also secure a place in another school and will **not** take up a place in the Grammar School.
- 4) Children who are in only one (or no) priority category. Most of these applicants will not receive an initial offer. However, even after an offer is made, **up to 80%** of them will not accept the offer and will **not** take up a place in the Grammar School. This is because the offers are often made in July/August when they have, understandably, already settled on the idea of starting in a different school.

We generally find that **most applicants for whom the Grammar School is genuinely their first preference will eventually be offered a place**. Especially if they are prepared to accept a late offer in July/August. Every year, the last child to be offered a place would initially have been well down the waiting list.

The whole system would, of course, be a lot simpler and a lot less stressful for everyone if all parents & guardians would only accept one offer from one school and would withdraw applications from the other schools that they may have applied for. So, in the interest of fairness, we would appeal to everyone to keep us informed when they accept an offer of a place in a different school.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Gill, Principal