
Craig Pratt <craigpratt@warwickshire.gov.uk>

5 July 2013 at 16:54

To: Peter Kent <headmaster@lawrencesherriffschool.com>

Cc: Liz Holt/ED/WarksCC <lizholt@warwickshire.gov.uk>, Sarah Callaghan <sarahcallaghan@warwickshire.gov.uk>, Fay Ford/CL/WarksCC <fayford@warwickshire.gov.uk>, Susan Kirk/ED/WarksCC <susankirk@warwickshire.gov.uk>, Collette Naven-Jones/ED/WarksCC <collettenavenjones@warwickshire.gov.uk>

Dear Peter,

I am writing to you following the meeting held on Wednesday 03 July to discuss the above matter.

In summary, the Governing Body of the school are concerned about the application for a school place made in respect of [redacted]. The main concerns are around the address used as the basis of this application. The address used is in Rugby while Mr [redacted] currently lives in Coventry. A place has been offered to [redacted] on the basis of a move to the Rugby address. The Governing Body of the school are of the view that Mr [redacted] has never intended to move to this address which was also used to apply for a place for an older child. The Governing Body therefore consider the application to be fraudulent or misleading and are considering withdrawing the place.

I have previously set out the Local Authority's view on this matter in a letter sent around 14 June 2013. The view of the Local Authority in that letter was that that should the Governing Body decide to withdraw the place (for whatever reason) then the application would need to be considered afresh - as is required by the School Admissions Code. Due to the score [redacted] achieved in the 11+ test he would be top of the school's waiting list for Year 7 entry and as there would then be a vacancy at the school (based on current numbers and waiting list) [redacted] would need to be re-offered the place.

[redacted] score in the test was also at a level which would have seen him secure a place at the school regardless of the address used by his father to make the application for a school place. The admission authority would need to consider this fact very carefully when considering the application afresh should the place be withdrawn.

At the meeting held earlier this week you requested that I re-consider the advice previously given. I have now done this and have considered all the papers available, Lawrence Sheriff's admission arrangements, and the way the Local Authority have handled similar applications from other parents

While very much understanding the school's concerns regarding this matter the Local Authority has previously taken legal advice on this matter. Since this advice was received the material facts of this case have not changed. Mr [redacted] has provided proof of a property he owns, has given the current tenants notice to leave this property, and has confirmed he will move to this address if required. [redacted] scored at such a level in the 11+ test that he would have been offered a place at the school regardless of the address used for the application.

For applications to schools where the Local Authority is the admission authority the proof provided by Mr [redacted] satisfies the requirements of our admissions arrangements. However, where there is any doubt about whether or not a parent will move to a particular address, and whether or not an address does satisfy the local authority's requirements, we always reserve the right to monitor the situation, even when a child has started at a school.

I can confirm though that the advice set out in my letter sent around 14 June remains unchanged.

In summary, should the Governing Body of the school decide to withdraw the place then we will of course action this decision on your behalf. This will be carried out as part of our duties under the system of coordinated admissions. As set out above though, it is the view of the Local Authority that the place would need to be re-offered to [redacted] when the application is considered afresh unless there is a relevant change (for example [redacted] no longer being top of the school's waiting list).

If you do wish for us to withdraw the place you will need to provide the reasons for this decision, instructions as to how you will be considering the application afresh, and how this affect's Mr [redacted] application. You will also need to provided details (if relevant) as to how Mr [redacted] can appeal the Governing Body's decision should this result in [redacted] no longer having a place at Lawrence Sheriff School.

In closing, I do understand that this is a difficult situation, and I want to reassure you that the Local Authority is committed to operating a robust admissions system. However, any actions need to be in line with the relevant admission arrangements and need to take account of the legal advice we receive.



Collette Naven-Jones <collettenavenjones@warwickshire.gov.uk>

(no subject)

1 message

5 July 2013 at 12:24

Craig Pratt <craigpratt@warwickshire.gov.uk>
To: Liz Holt/ED/WarksCC <lizholt@warwickshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Collette Naven-Jones/ED/WarksCC <collettenavenjones@warwickshire.gov.uk>

Hi Liz,

On a separate note I attended quite a difficult meeting at Lawrence Sheriff the other day (Collete was also there) regarding a matter we have previously discussed. I believe the school are determined to withdraw the place offered and are considering all options available - including scenarios where the place could be withdraw and not subsequently re-offered.

They have asked we (I) review our position and I don't see anything has changed since I first provided a view. I have also spoken with Fay and she has cleared the response I will send to the school today (and copy to you). I will also email and confirm we are still awaiting instructions and make sure Julie Quinn, Harpeet, Susan, etc are copied in.

Kind regards,
Craig.

Craig Pratt

Lead Officer for Pupil and Student Services

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