

**Delayed Office Opening for
Employee Training**

*This Office will be closed from 8.45 am
– 11.00 am on the 1st Thursday of each
month*

W.A. Campbell
Chairperson, Fossoway Parent Council

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Our ref: AD/GI

Date 8 June 2010

Dear Mr Campbell,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the granting of placing requests at Fossoway P.S. for session 2010-2011.

I hope it will be helpful if I respond to your questions specifically rather than present a general response.

Question 1

Why has PKC granted placing requests to give a year group size which is out of proportion to other year group sizes within the school?

The authority response to placing requests is determined by the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000. The grounds on which a placing request can be refused are set out in this legislation; these are listed on pages 6 and 7 of the enclosed leaflet.

It is not uncommon to have an irregular intake profile across a school as intake is influenced by a number of factors which vary from year to year such as birth rate, house building in an area and employment opportunities. Each year's intake over the past several years has comprised both catchment and placing request places. With the exception of last August when only 16 came in as P1 pupils, the current profile across the school shows that an increase of three children in intake numbers year on year has been the norm since the current P5s were P1 intake pupils. Had last year maintained that trend then this year's statistics would have appeared to continue that 'plus three' rising trend.

As the population of Perth & Kinross continues to rise, across the authority as a whole P1 intake figures this year are higher than they have been over the past five years – at 1476 children, 5.3% higher than last session's intake.

Question 2

Why has PKC granted placing requests which appear to be taking pupils away from other cluster schools with small roles?

In accordance with legislation and within the placing request process in Perth & Kinross Council, parents' / carer's wishes are met wherever possible.

Currently the rolls of Cleish P.S. and Blairingone P.S. are projected to rise for August 2010. According to the records at the centre, currently only one placing request has been granted to a child for whom one of those is the catchment school.

Question 3

Does PKC consider the effect on the cluster of these placing requests and try to achieve a balance, and if so, under what circumstances would a request be refused?

Placing requests are granted once a wide range of factors have been considered and in consultation with the headteacher of the school.

Placing requests will only be refused when one or other of the reasons specified in the legislation can be cited for refusal. The placing request process must be carried out strictly in accordance with legislation; parents who are refused a placing request have the legal right of appeal.

I hope that the information provided above is helpful for the Parent Council at this time. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Dalziel