

**Admission Appeal Generic Defence Statement  
Secondary School – Wye School  
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2024**

*Please be advised that each parent who lodges an appeal will have a personalised defence statement forwarded to them as part of their case papers.*

Pupils Name: <b>xxxx</b>
Date of Birth: <b>xxxx</b>
Published Admission Number for Year 7: <b>90</b>
Number of Applications received: <b>630</b>
How many places were offered on national offer day and what is the position today: <b>xxx</b> places offered on national offers day. Wye School determined to admit an additional 30 students into Year 7 in September 2024. Current position is that <b>xxx</b> places have accepted including <b>xxx</b> EHCP students.

<b>Places Offered</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
1. Looked after children and previously looked after children	<b>xxx</b>
2. Sibling	<b>xxx</b>
3. Children of Staff	<b>xxx</b>
4. Health and Special Access	<b>xxx</b>
5. Children who live nearer to Wye School	<b>xxx</b>
6. Distance	<b>xxx</b>
Total number of pupils offered a place; (including EHCP)	<b>xxx</b>
Rank position of last child offered a place	<b>xxx</b>
Rank position of this appellant	<b>xxx</b>

<b>Under which criteria was this child considered for admission</b>
<b>xxx</b> was considered in the criterion “6”. The distance from <b>xxx</b> 's home to the school is <b>xxx</b> miles.
<b>Distance of last child allocated a place (N/A if not applicable)</b>
The last child allocated lives a distance of <b>xxx</b> miles from the school.

## WYE SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEAL DEFENCE STATEMENT

Name of School: Wye School

Admission Appeals for Year 7 – Admission in **September 2024**

Student Named in Appeal: xxx

PAN: 90

The number of Year 7 places offered, set with regard to the capacity assessment for the school, is 120 for **September 2024**, an increase to our normal 90. There were 630 applications for xxx places and xxx places were allocated in accordance with the published admission criteria in priority order, plus xxx places for EHCPs. Our current position is that all the available xxx places have been accepted. We will continue to offer places as and when they become available according to our waiting list criteria.

In line with our admissions criteria, xxx was not offered a place because s/he:

- Does not have an Educational Health Care Plan
- Is not a Looked After Child (including adopted)
- Does not have a sibling at the school
- Did not have the required evidence for health and special access reasons
- Does not have Wye School as his/her nearest school

Lives xxx miles from Wye School which is further away than the last child who was offered a place, who lives xxx miles from Wye School.

We are contesting this appeal as we have filled our places for **September 2024** and any placement above this will inevitably take resources, physical and human, away from the xxx children who have already been offered a place. We were set up to be a school for 600 including 6th Form because our site and location suit this small size. We fill our available rooming and because of this we would not be able to reduce class sizes by adding another form of entry and this means that the challenges of being above 120 would continue through subsequent years. As it is xxx students in 4 form entry means average class sizes of 32 which is already the absolute maximum we can fit in rooms.

As an oversubscribed school in years 7-11 we are at full capacity and class sizes are at maximum as a result, meaning our capacity to take any additional students is zero. Evidence is clear about the detrimental effect on the provision of education as class sizes increase. The extensive research by the Institution of Education pointed most notably to reduced active interaction and teacher attention, decreased engagement and increased behaviour problems. These effects were particularly profound for those with the most complex learning and medical needs, and we would have considerable concern for these students on our roll should there be any attempt to increase our class sizes.

The classrooms are built and resourced for 30 students. We have no spare classrooms. We have very restricted dining space. Parents drop off facilities are very limited. We only have one computer room designed for 30 students. Our Science and Food rooms are already at maximum usage and designed ideally for 28 students. Our building has rooms designed to take 30 students, adding more students would make rooms hard to use, preventing teacher circulation, reducing/removing the ability of disabled students from moving around the room, reducing the ability of the teacher to teach lessons in any active or group-based way. As we have disabled and SEN students in each year group, most classes need access for a Teaching Assistant or more than one depending on need. Having more than 30 students in the class makes it very difficult for a Teaching Assistant to accompany their assigned students.

Overall, we do feel keenly for all students who wish to take up a place at Wye School and have sympathy for individual cases. However, we also have a strong obligation to those students and their parents who have gained a place through a fair admissions process and operate a strict policy of offering places in order of the waiting list, in line with our policy.

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Completed by: Headteacher Luke Magee

Date: xxx