

**Admission Appeal Generic Defence Statement
Secondary School – Wye School
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2025**

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: xxxx
Date of Birth: xxxx
Published Admission Number for Year 7: 90
Number of Applications received: 570
How many places were offered on national offer day and what is the position today: xxx places offered on national offers day. Wye School determined to admit an additional 30 students into Year 7 in September 2025. Current position is that xxx places have accepted including xxx EHCP students.

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

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

WYE SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEAL DEFENCE STATEMENT

Name of School: Wye School

Admission Appeals for Year 7 – Admission in **September 2025**

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 2025**, an increase to our normal **90**. There were **570** applications for xxx places and xxx places were allocated in accordance with the published admission criteria in priority order, including 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 2025** 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 because our site and location suit this relatively small size for a secondary school. 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 30 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