



**Edmund Waller
Primary School**

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Headteacher: Anne Rennie
Chair of Governors: Arjun Medhi
Business Manager: Gareth Hudson

15th June 2021

To the appeal committee,

Edmund Waller Primary School is unable to admit children above the school's published number of 60. I should be grateful if you would take the following points into consideration when determining the outcome of admissions appeals for this school.

The published number for each year group is 60 in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and 90 in Year 6.

From September 2021 the school will be able to accommodate:

Year Group	Number of places
Reception	60
Year 1	60
Year 2	60
Year 3	60
Year 4	60
Year 5	60
Year 6	90

Large classes result in teaching staff being unable to give the children the same amount of individual attention. Less time can be spent in hearing individual children read or giving them support with areas of difficulty. Teachers have more preparation, marking and assessments to carry out where there are more than 30 children in one class. These factors detract from the quality of teaching and learning.

Children taught in larger classes can have difficulty in learning basic subjects. They need a great deal of individual attention as they learn to form letters, practice writing and improve reading, literacy and numeracy and in developing their social skills. A young child's attention span is short and teachers need to spend a great deal of time with each one. Younger children can feel lost in large numbers and have a disappointing start to their education.

It will be impractical to fit additional furniture into class rooms, including more tables and chairs and computer trolleys for a larger number of children in a small classroom. For example, the children cannot sit comfortably or be positioned to see the interactive class screen. Limited space means that it can be difficult for members of staff to move between the furniture to circulate amongst the children to support them and to monitor their work.

*At Edmund Waller we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
We expect all staff, parents, visitors and volunteers to share this commitment.*



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Every Reception and KS1 class should have many large pieces of equipment to allow for play-based learning. There should be a literacy area with cushions for quiet reading, a writing table, a science corner for pupils to investigate, a maths corner, sand and water provision and area for art and model making. There needs to be a role play area for dressing up and encouraging imaginative play. There should be topic areas and interactive displays. Young children are active learners and need space in order to learn effectively. Additional pupils require additional furniture, impacting on the space available and reducing these important areas of learning, and thereby lowering the quality of education that can be provided.

At lunchtime our hall is full to capacity, there is no room for additional seating. The introduction of free school meals for all KS1 children has increased demand and further limits space in the dinner hall. Classes of children already eat their lunch on a rota basis over 3 sittings (and over 2 hours) because space is extremely limited. Accommodating additional children may mean that it will be difficult for members of staff to move between lunch tables to support the children as they eat. Health & safety may be compromised if there were additional children carrying plates of food, with increased potential for spillage and therefore slip hazards.

There are no classes containing mixed ages because the National Curriculum differs for each year group and the school must ensure that each child is taught the age appropriate curriculum.

Changes in government policy from September 2001 mean that no 5, 6, or 7 year old should be in a class of more than 30 children for an ordinary teaching session with a single teacher. If extra children are admitted above our published admission numbers an additional teacher would have to be employed. Our already overcrowded playground space would be additionally compromised, causing problems at playtime with large numbers of children crowded into a smaller area. Accidents would inevitably increase. The cost of employing an extra teacher and teaching assistant or nursery nurse would place an intolerable strain upon the school budget.

For the reasons listed above, the Governing Body does not wish to increase the problems we face by taking additional children. Our aim is to give every child the best possible start to their education, this becomes increasingly difficult if class sizes grow.

Yours sincerely,

**Anne Rennie
Headteacher**