

First choice secondary schools denied to students!

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Parents and children across the nation are being left without a secondary school due to being denied their first choice.

How is this affecting our children? After waiting for many months to receive an answer, students feel apprehensive the day they find out the results. Families across the country are struggling to find places within their local area. This can be deeply upsetting for both children and parents who truly believe they will be accepted into the school they know with close friends and possibly siblings only to be let down. According to High Peak MP Ruth George “Lots of parents in Glossop have contacted me, very upset that their child has not been allocated a place at Glossopdale School, in spite of their being in the catchment area.”

How did we reach this outcome? Experts have predicted that this year alone around 115,000 pupils would miss their first choice this year. The recent increase in applications and the development of new houses are causing children to be unable to get into their preferred choice of school.

We interviewed Mr Knapp, head teacher at Whitecross High School Hereford, about the current situation at Whitecross. He told us “Some schools are more popular than others. Parents will choose a good school for their children’s education. If they haven’t been offered their first choice an appeal will be ran and parents will explain why their child should have a place.

What can be done to tackle the problem? Mr Knapp answered: “Popular schools can increase their number of places, Whitecross increased the number of 180-189 they can also design more classrooms. Schools which do have places should become more popular.” So what can Whitecross do to help students be able to get an education in this school? Mr Knapp added: “Looking at more classrooms and increase the numbers of students coming to Whitecross.”

While March 2019 leaves a trail of sadness and frustration amongst students and parents, there is still hope for the future.