

## RIDGEWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL CONSULTATION ADMISSIONS 2027 INFORMATION SHEET

Ridgeway Secondary School is consulting on admissions criteria for 2027. The proposal to name Inkberrow Primary School as a feeder has received some challenges. As a result of this feedback, we have extended the consultation process until 3pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026. In addition, we have produced this information sheet to support further understanding of the rationale for the proposal and so that any further comments can be further informed, linked to our reasoning.

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### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Until 2022, Ridgeway was a 'middle' school accepting pupils into year 5. Pupils from Inkberrow have historically fed into Ridgeway as part of the old 3 tier (First, Middle and High Schools) model. Now that Ridgeway is a secondary school and Inkberrow Primary has converted to become a primary school it seems reasonable to support parental choice within a 'newly' established system by providing more than one secondary alternative for parents and their children. The main route for children from Inkberrow is Pershore High, and this remains the case. The naming of Inkberrow Primary as a feeder to Ridgeway does not change anything about how they choose a secondary school, other than giving them a greater choice of options and greater chance of accessing a secondary school place (following primary school) rather than having to go back into a 3-tier system if a secondary place were unavailable.

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### GEOGRAPHY & TRANSPORT

Inkberrow is only 3.3 miles from Astwood Bank and sits 7.2 miles from Pershore. For some families the journey to and from Ridgeway could be a factor in choosing a school. It seems reasonable to enable further choice for parents linked to a school that is close by. There are transport links from Inkberrow to Ridgeway Secondary with pupils transported as part of the Worcestershire LA offer. School transport is provided to eligible pupils.

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### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Ridgeway is a small, village based, secondary school with a capacity for 500-600 pupils. It offers a small, academic and nurturing environment, which for some parents and children provides an alternative to a large secondary school. Again, facilitating choice for children who have attended primary schools seems a reasonable decision, preventing additional transition points within the local 3-tier offer.

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## IMPACT & STABILITY

Children from Inkberrow have already been accessing secondary education at Ridgeway Secondary School and whilst we could continue to accept those pupils under the current admissions criteria, we believe that by naming Inkberrow Primary School as a feeder it gives further clarity and more consistency to families in understanding the possible routes through a complex and mixed 2/3 tier system. It also offers greater stability to the existing 3 tier system in Redditch as fewer pupils would move 'mid phase' from middle school into secondary as pupils attending local primary schools would have greater priority.

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## FEEDER SCHOOL DETAILS

Ridgeway Secondary School currently names 3 other feeder schools linked to the 2 tier (primary then secondary) system in Redditch. These schools have 135 year 6 pupils on roll. They currently split between Ridgeway Secondary and Studley High School with a minority of pupil entering the 3-tier system, grammar or private routes. Just as they currently do, Inkberrow children would benefit from some of the spaces at Ridgeway Secondary School, if they were to choose it as a secondary offer. The 'main' route currently offered to Inkberrow pupils, through to Pershore High would still exist and be separate from any links with Ridgeway. The only difference to the current situation with admissions is that naming Inkberrow Primary would prioritise children attending local primary schools to access local secondary schools, giving them further choice and increased certainty.

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## PARENTAL CHOICE

We also believe that parental choice should play a part in decisions made by public sector educational establishments. Clearly, there is a willingness for some families to want to access a smaller secondary school as they believe it suits the needs of their children well. In naming Inkberrow Primary we support clarity for parents, we offer choice to parents, and we also help stabilise in year movements from the Redditch area 3-tier system. These are valuable reasons to make the change.

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## POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PERSHORE HIGH

There is the possibility that in naming Inkberrow Primary some pupils could choose Ridgeway over Pershore High. We understand that this could cause some shift in the local route through to Pershore High and we have considered this carefully. The fact is that pupils already make those choices, irrespective of 'feeder' status, and some come to Ridgeway and some go to Pershore. We understand there could be some impact, but we are of the view this impact already occurs anyway. In addition, when weighed against the benefits to public choice, clarity for parents and alternative options for children, the overall benefit, hence the proposal, is to name Inkberrow as a feeder school.

The points above represent the main justification for naming Inkberrow as a feeder school. Factors including geography, local context, parental choice/preference and the 2 tier/3 tier complexity in our area have led us to this proposal. However, we understand there may be different views to those we present. If you would like to comment on the proposed Ridgeway Admissions policy 2027 then please send your response in writing for the attention of Mrs H Rea, either by post (Ridgeway Secondary School, Evesham Road, Astwood Bank, Redditch, Worcestershire, B96 6BD) or email to [hrea@rss.shiresmat.org.uk](mailto:hrea@rss.shiresmat.org.uk).