

KENT MESSENGER

First choice, education and the 11+

10.8.06

Parents will welcome the news that secondary schools in Kent will no longer be able to discriminate against children who put a grammar school as their first choice, but then subsequently fail the 11 plus.

In the past this rule has meant that some parents who genuinely felt their children were of a grammar school standard, and who sometimes saw those children fail the 11 plus by a very small margin, were then refused access to the non-selective secondary school of their choice, because they did not put that particular school down as their first choice. This judgement will stop that discrimination.

But although I welcome this decision I will only be fully satisfied when the rules are changed to allow families to nominate the school of their choice *after* the results of the 11 plus are known.