

Parents at Brydekirk Primary were left shocked this week following a decision by the Council to prevent a severely visually impaired child joining their rota.

Following the launch of the Parent Council's #BrydekirkPrimaryNeedsYou campaign to fight the updated school roll cap, a parent contacted the school to enquire about enrolling her son.

But the Council told her that the decision had already been made - and the school will be becoming a one-teacher school in August, so cannot take admissions outside of catchment.

And 6-year-old Luca, who is one of less than a hundred pupils with a rare genetic condition which has left him blind, was told that he wouldn't be able to join the school - in spite of Scottish Office legislation with regards to pupils with special educational needs.

Staff at the school were told that children are no longer allowed to enrol in schools outside of their catchment area, citing a alleged cut-off date of 15th March. But members of the Parent Council were unable to clarify this date in writing, and written evidence was not provided when requested.

Mum Heather Kirkpatrick said: 'Luca had previously attended Brydekirk Primary, and was excited to return. The school has two teachers and a maximum capacity of 75 pupils right now. We're devastated that the Council have seen fit to block our son attending the school.'

'Luca is registered blind, and Section 7 of the Council's published guidelines state that 'pupils with special educational needs must be placed in the best suited learning environment'.

'Luca thrived at Brydekirk, which is already adapted for visual impairments. It's abundantly clear that this is an attempt by the Council to meet their budgets at the expense of children's education.'

Vice Chair of Brydekirk Primary Council Jenny Allen, said 'This is a clear case of the Council moving the goalposts.'

'They're now telling parents that they can't send children to this school, directly ignoring our campaign, flying in the face of their own legislation and on extremely shaky legal ground.'

'We've tried to run our #BrydekirkPrimaryNeedsYou campaign as positively as possible from the outset, but the reaction of the Council has been disappointing to say the least.'

Meanwhile, other parents at the school now face a situation where their younger children will not be able to attend the same school as their siblings too.

To find out more about the #BrydekirkPrimaryNeedsYou campaign, visit the website at www.brydekirkprimaryneedsyou.org or search Facebook for the #BrydekirkPrimaryNeedsYou hashtag.