

SCHOOL PLACEMENT PANEL MINUTES

20 NOVEMBER 2013

- Chairman:** * Councillor Mrs Camilla Bath
- Councillors:** * Raj Ray
- Co-optees:** * Ms L Rowlands – Canons High School
* Mrs A Winstrom – Whitchurch First School

* Denotes Member present

388. Attendance by Reserve Members

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.

389. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

Agenda Item 8 – Admission to County Schools

Councillor Mrs Camilla Bath declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a governor of Whitchurch First and Nursery School, St George's RC Primary School and Harrow High Academy. She would remain in the room for the consideration of any cases relating to these schools.

Councillor Raj Ray declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a governor of Kingsley Primary School and Shaftesbury High School. He would remain in the room for the consideration of any cases relating to these schools.

Mrs A Winstrom declared a pecuniary interest in that she was Headteacher at Whitchurch First School and Nursery. She would leave the room during the consideration of any cases relating to the school.

390. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 25 September 2013 and 6 November 2013, be taken as read and signed as correct records.

391. Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were put, or petitions or deputations received at this meeting.

392. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item for the reason set out below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reason</u>
8.	Admission to County Schools	Information under paragraph 1 (contains information relating to any individual).

393. Admission to County Schools

(1) In accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, cases P636-P681 were admitted late to the agenda to allow the Panel to allocate an appropriate place to the applicants. It was noted that case numbers P635, P636, P637, P638, P640, P641, P643, P645, P660, P661, P662, P663, P671, P672, P677 and P678 had been withdrawn as these pupils had been offered school places prior to the hearing.

A grid which set out the home to school distance for each pupil was circulated at the meeting. In addition, a number of letters from the headteachers of various schools which set out information about pupil numbers at their schools were circulated to the Panel for consideration.

On 20 November 2013, there were 31 children for whom admissions staff could make no reasonable offer of a school place. The School Placement Panel was requested to recommend to the Corporate Director of Children and Families to authorise the admission of these pupils to a school where no places existed in the relevant year group.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to the Corporate Director of Children and Families)

That offers of admission to schools be made as follows:

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Admitting School</u>
P639	Reception	Longfield Primary School
P642	Reception	Glebe Primary School
P644	Reception	Stanburn First School
P646	1	Whitefriars Community School
P647	1	Elmgrove Primary School and Nursery
P648	1	Camrose Primary School with Nursery
P649	1	Stanburn First School
P650	2	Grange Primary School
P651	2	Welldon Park Infant and Nursery School
P652	2	Earlsmead Primary School
P653	2	Elmgrove Primary School and Nursery
P654	2	Cannon Lane Primary School
P655	2	Aylward Primary School
P656	2	Belmont School
P657	2	Aylward Primary School
P658	2	Weald Infant and Nursery School
P659	2	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
P664	3	Pinner Wood School
P665	3	Cedars Manor School
P666	4	Cannon Lane Primary School
P667	5	Norbury School
P668	5	St Anselm's Catholic Primary School
P669	5	Elmgrove Primary School and Nursery
P670	5	Whitefriars Community School
P673	5	Pinner Wood School
P674	5	Kenmore Park Junior School
P675	5	Kenmore Park Junior School
P676	5	Camrose Primary School with Nursery
P679	6	Elmgrove Primary School and Nursery
P680	6	Cedars Manor School
P681	6	Aylward Primary School

- (2) At the conclusion of the item, the Headteacher representatives expressed their concern at regularly having to place pupils in classes that were already exceeding the maximum class size of 30. They expressed a view that a new system was required as it was not fair on students who were already allocated a place at the respective schools. Concern was also expressed about the infrastructure to support those children moving into the borough who required a school place.

Officers responded that this was an issue facing many other London Councils. Pressure on school places was continuous and some Headteachers had investigated introducing satellite classes to alleviate the issues. Schools would be asked to take a bulge class in January 2014 to accommodate the additional pupils. Funding was available for bulge classes although it was recognised that this sometimes did not cover all relevant costs for teachers, resources etc.

The Headteacher representatives stated that they would be discussing the issues further at a meeting involving all Headteachers across the borough. The Chair stated that she would liaise with the Headteacher representatives and officers to attempt to resolve the issues.

RESOLVED: That the comments be noted.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 10.05 am, closed at 11.30 am).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR MRS CAMILLA BATH
Chairman