

**GOVERNOR RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2010**

| School             | Schemes of Co-ordination | Primary School Admission Arrangements | High School Admission Arrangements Medical | High School Admission Arrangements Siblings | High School Admission Arrangements Siblings 2010 | Change from linked school to distance | Comments                     |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aylward            |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Belmont First      |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Belmont Middle     |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Cannon Lane First  |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Cannon Lane Middle | YES                      |                                       |  |   |  | NO                                    | See comments at end of table |
| Cedars First       |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Cedars Middle      |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Earlsmead          |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Elmgrove First     |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Elmgrove Middle    | YES                      | YES                                   | YES  | YES   | YES  | YES                                   |                              |
| Glebe              |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Grange First       |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Grange Middle      |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |

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| Grimsdyke                           |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Kenmore Park First                  |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Kenmore Park Middle                 |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Little Stanmore                     |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Longfield First                     |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Longfield Middle                    |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Marlborough                         |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Newton Farm                         | YES                      | YES                                   | YES  | YES   | YES  | YES                                   |                              |
| Norbury                             | YES                      |                                       | YES  | YES   | YES  | YES                                   | Unanimously agreed           |
| Pinner Park First                   |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Pinner Park Middle                  |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Pinner Wood First                   |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Pinner Wood Middle                  |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Priestmead First and Middle Schools |                          | YES                                   | YES  | YES   |  |                                       | See comments at end of table |

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| Roxbourne First     |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Roxbourne Middle    |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Roxeth              | YES                      | NO                                    | YES  | YES   | YES  | NO                                    | See comments at end of table |
| Roxeth Manor First  |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Roxeth Manor Middle |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| St Bernadettes      |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| St John Fisher      |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| St Teresa's         |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Stag Lane First     |                          | YES                                   | YES  | YES   | YES  | YES*                                  | See comments at end of table |
| Stag Lane Middle    |                          |                                       |  |   |  | YES                                   | See comments at end of table |
| Stanburn First      |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Stanburn Middle     |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Vaughan             | YES                      | YES                                   | YES  | YES   | YES  | NO                                    | See comments at end of table |
| Weald First         |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Weald Middle        |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |

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| Welldon Park First  |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |          |
| Welldon Park Middle |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |          |
| West Lodge First    |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |          |
| West Lodge Middle   |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |          |
| Whitefriars         | YES                      | YES                                   | YES  | YES   | YES  | YES                                   |          |
| Whitchurch First    |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |          |
| Whitchurch Middle   |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |          |
| Alexandra           |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |          |
| Woodlands           |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |          |
| TOTAL IN FAVOUR     | 6                        | 7                                     | 8  | 8   | 7  | 7                                     |          |
| TOTAL AGAINST       |                          |                                       |  |   |  | 2                                     |          |

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| Bentley Wood |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Canons High  |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Harrow High  | YES                      | YES<br>(Provided schools agree)       | YES  | YES   | YES  | YES*                                  | See comments at end of table |
| Hatch End    |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Nower Hill   |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Park         |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Rooks Heath  |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Whitmore     |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Salvatorian  |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Sacred Heart |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Shaftesbury  |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| Kingsley     |                          |                                       |  |   |  |                                       |                              |
| TOTAL        | 1                        | 1                                     | 1  | 1   | 1  | 1                                     |                              |

## **COMMENTS FROM CANNON LANE GOVERNORS**

We wish to retain our link to Nower Hill High School which has worked very well and provided excellent continuity for the children. Feedback from parents indicates that the consultation document is confusing. Insufficient prominence has been given to the major issue of the proposal to change the link school system.

## **COMMENTS FROM PRIESTMEAD GOVERNORS**

“A major change proposed by the Local Authority was to abolish the existing linked school system, and instead, after the criteria outlined (above) have been applied, for admissions to consider pupils according to their distance from their home to the school as the crow flies. It was agreed that the impact of this on Priestmead could be marginal. However, it was thought that some parents apply for admission to Priestmead based on its current link to Park High. The change should not affect the existing relationship between the two schools. Feedback received from some parents was that they were shocked by the proposed change. Questions around how surrounding boroughs would be affected were raised and discussed, but we recognised that borough boundaries have no impact as distance is the criterion. All Governors agreed that the link between Priestmead and Park High was a good one, from which pupils at Priestmead had benefited a great deal. We are strongly committed to maintaining and enhancing the relationship with Park High. It was hoped that few pupils would be affected by the change. It was also hoped that Priestmead’s reputation as a very good school would continue to attract pupils to remain full in every year group.”

## **COMMENTS FROM ROXETH FIRST & MIDDLE SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

The Governing Body has communicated its feelings re this consultation previously expressing our concern that we were not approached prior to the consultation to discuss our plans to increase the PAN. We also feel that we are unable to comment on Elmgrove schools’ wishes. Please find attached our previous communication to the local authority.

Having now had the opportunity speak to ( ) re capital development we may well be able to increase class sizes with the support of the LA but that it is unlikely to be the position in 2010.

The Governing Body had a full discussion re this criterion (Sibling link) as the issues re why sixth form students may not have sibling link were not fully explained in the documents.

There remains some anxiety amongst parents that in the first year of change re age of transfer this may become more of an issue. This was not unanimously agreed by governors.

Governors and parents of Roxeth School were unanimously against the proposal to remove linked schools and use distance from home to school.

Whilst recognising that our successful links to Whitmore High may not be mirrored across the LA we feel that the close links to Whitmore and our other cluster schools have been an asset to the school.

The links give security to families- they are more than aware of the anxieties that exist in other London Boroughs around transition time. We also feel that the children benefit from the curriculum links we have created. The majority of our pupils move onto Whitmore High and some may still do after if the changes go ahead as the families do tend to live in close proximity to the schools.

Move to high school is often a stressful time for families and particularly some vulnerable children; having the opportunity to work closely with their feeder high school and knowing that the majority of your friends will join you at high school gives the children continuity and confidence for this transition.

### **COMMENTS FROM VAUGHAN FIRST & MIDDLE SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

Governors objected to changing \*Linked School' to 'Distance from School' for the following reasons:

- The vast majority of pupils have moved through the school knowing their linked High School is Whitmore. They gain security from this knowledge. This security is to be removed with the introduction of the 'Distance to school' criterion.
- The vast majority of pupils have expectations, understanding and knowledge (through former pupils' experiences) of the next school (Whitmore). This will be removed suddenly.
- Having spent the school careers learning to make the right choice, many will be faced with an admissions ruling about which they have no choice.
- Combined with the 'Age of Transfer' proposals, sudden uncertainty will impact on 28% of the school population, with the rest of the population affected thereafter.
- All Primary Schools will now have to nurture relationships with all Secondary Schools, increasing the pressures on all staff &, inevitably, decreasing the quality of transition planning & process.
- On top of the pressures already inherent in Year 6 due to SATs, the vast majority of pupils will be affected by the uncertainty of future school places. This uncertainty will pervade each year group as it progresses to Year 6, possibly leading to heightened anxiety & falling academic standards.
- High numbers of unsettled children will transfer to the Secondary sector, across the Borough, impeding smooth transition. On arrival at the secondary school, pupils not at a 'linked school' could easily become isolated, lacking 'familiar faces' in the higher year groups.
- Families wishing to legitimately re-locate to ensure admission to Whitmore do not have adequate time to achieve this. The current economic crisis prohibits many families from re-locating. The distance to school criterion increases the scope for abuses of the system.
- The proposals are sketchy & do not give adequate information regarding the mechanics of admissions, either for the measurement of distance, or the provision of sibling places.

Overall, the Governing Body does not support these proposals. The changes are detrimental to the continued education provision of the pupils of Vaughan School. An unrealistic time-frame has been suggested, and the expectations of pupils, parents & staff of the school are being mismanaged.

## **COMMENTS FROM STAG LANE FIRST GOVERNORS**

Distance from home to school measured in a straight line.\*

\*Mixed views

1. Pros for link schools – relationships and transfer link built up between pupils and staff are an advantage.
2. Depends on whether the reputation of the high school is considered 'good' or 'not'.

## **COMMENTS FROM STAG LANE MIDDLE GOVERNORS**

At the recent Governors' meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> January the Gobs discussed the latest consultation regarding links to high schools. The governors were in agreement although a couple of members also commented the linked school system had some good features i.e. relationships between the primary and high school.

## **COMMENTS FROM HARROW HIGH GOVERNORS**

We believe 'Linked School' system discriminates against Harrow High – which has only one linked school. The present system skews the admissions to Harrow High. The high pupil mobility within the school creates pressures and strains not experienced by moth other high school. Any system which will equalize admissions throughout the high school system will be welcome.