

Committee:	Harrow Admissions Forum.
Date:	14 July 2009
Subject:	Measurement of Distance from Home to School
Responsible Officer:	Heather Clements, Director Schools and Children's Development
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Anjana Patel
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	No

Section 1 – Summary

To advise Forum members on current arrangements in place for measuring distance from home address to school

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Following concerns raised by parents who were unsuccessful in gaining a place at Newton Farm School about the positioning of school gates, the following information is provided for clarification:

For children starting school in September 2009, the published admission criteria state that distance is measured in a straight line from home to school, using a computerised mapping system based on ordnance survey data. Harrow community schools are mapped onto the system including all the official entry points. The journey is measured from the address point for the home address to the closest school entrance. Once the admissions rules have been determined by the Council, officers are required to follow these rigorously.

The entry points used are those defined by the school. In September 2004, each school in Harrow was sent a map asking them to check the details and confirm if there had been any changes to the entrances that pupils can use. A copy of the map sent to Newton Farm is attached as appendix 1.. We received a response (copy attached as appendix 2) from the schools confirming “no changes”. We wrote to schools again in 2007, sending the same information and asking if there were any changes or new entrances. The response from the school was there were no new entrances in use at Newton Farm.

Since the allocation of school places for 2009, all schools have been asked to confirm the official gates/entry points for the purposes of a new facility that will enable parents to calculate their own home to school distance. This will apply for the 2010 admissions round. In their response the school has confirmed that the main entrance is correct but have indicated they wish to change the Drake Road entry as indicated on the attached map.

All schools have been asked to confirm which entry points they would like used for 2010/2011 and maps showing the gates defined by schools will be available on the council website.

Section 3 – Further Information

N/A

Section 4 – Financial Implications

None

Name: Emma Stabler.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date:8/7/09.....		

Section 5 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Madeleine Hitchens, Manager, Place Planning & Admissions –
020 8424 1398

Background Papers: N/A