

# HARROW ADMISSIONS FORUM

## MINUTES

### 10 FEBRUARY 2010

<b>Chairman:</b>	* Reverend P Reece
<b>Councillors:</b>	* Mrs Anjana Patel*      Bill Stephenson
<b>Community School Representatives:</b>	<u>Governor</u> <u>Primary</u> <u>Secondary</u> (Vacancy) † Sue Jones      * Janice Howkins
<b>Jewish School Representative:</b>	* Mrs D Samuels
<b>Roman Catholic School Representative:</b>	† Mr M Murphy
<b>Church of England School Representative:</b>	(Vacancy)
<b>Krishna Avanti Primary School Representative:</b>	* Dr S Agarwal as Alternate Member for Dr Kamlesh Bahl
<b>Church of England Diocese Representative:</b>	* Reverend Paul Reece
<b>Catholic Schools Diocese Representative:</b>	* Miss M Ryan
<b>United Synagogue Representative:</b>	(Vacancy)
<b>I-Foundation Representative:</b>	* Mr Nitesh Gor

**Primary Elected Parent Governor Representative:** † Mrs D Speel

**Secondary Elected Parent Governor Representative:** \* Mr R Chauhan

**Harrow Council for Racial Equality Representative:** Julia Smith

**Early Years Development Partnership Representative:** \* Helena Tucker

**Children's Services Representative:** \* Farzana Aldridge

\* Denotes Member present  
† Denotes apologies received

## **RECOMMENDED ITEM**

### **154. Feedback From Consultation on Community School Admission Arrangements for 2011-2012**

In accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the Forum received a report of the Director Schools and Children's Development which was admitted late to the agenda to enable consideration of the responses to the consultation within the statutory timescale. The report had not been available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated in order to allow details of the consultation to be included.

The Forum, an independent body, considered the report, which set out the feedback received following consultation on admission arrangements for the 2011/12 academic year and the extension to the sibling link to sixth forms. An officer reported on the responses received to the consultation and identified those responses which had been added to the draft proposals. A representation was circulated at the meeting which supported the proposal to change the nursery tie-breaker to distance from home to nursery measured in a straight line.

The Forum discussed the response from the Governors of Nower Hill High School, which supported the oversubscription criteria for High School admission at Year 7 except for the exclusion of a sibling link to students in the sixth form. The view of the Forum was not to support the sibling link to the sixth form for the reasons outlined in the report.

Subsequent to discussion on the recommendations proposed in the report and following minor amendments the Forum agreed the report.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Cabinet) That**

- (1) the nursery criterion be amended as follows:

If more applications were received than there were places in a Nursery, places would be allocated to children in date of birth order, with older children being offered places before younger children, as follows:

- First Children, in date of birth order, who are Looked After by a local authority.
- Next Children, in date of birth order, referred by Harrow's Special Education Needs Assessment and Review Service.
- Next Other children, in date of birth order.

If, under any criterion, there were more children with the same date of birth than there were places remaining in the nursery, the available places would be offered to child(ren) who lived closest. Distance would be measured in a straight line from the home address to the entrance to the nursery. Home to school distance would be measured by Harrow's School Admissions Service.

Parents would only be able to apply to one nursery. However, all unsuccessful applicants be advised that their child's name could be added to the waiting list for any school.

In addition, and to ensure transparency and consistency across the borough, nursery class headteachers agree a protocol, including a timetable for nursery applications and ways of dealing with multiple applications to ensure each child is only offered one nursery place (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report).

- (2) nursery headteachers be requested to indicate in the offer letter that a place in the nursery did not give automatic entry to the school and that parents must make a separate application for Reception.
- (3) the admission arrangements including the amended oversubscription criteria for primary and high schools be adopted (as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report) to ensure twins and other multiple birth children could attend the same school, with the proviso that the School Admissions Code of Practice was changed to include twins and other multiple birth children, as exceptions for infant class sizes.
- (4) clarification of the medical criterion be agreed as follows:

For Primary and High School

In line with the guidance and framework already provided, the letter from the hospital consultant must provide compelling medical evidence, name the school and state why, in his/her view, this school was the most suitable to meet the child's / parent's medical needs.

If the school was not the closest to home, the consultant must set out in detail the wholly exceptional circumstances for attending this school and the difficulties if the child had to attend another school.

For High School only

Parental medical claims solely on the grounds of the young person's need to be accompanied on the journey to school will not be allowed.

Assessment of medical claims for parents

For parent(s) making a medical claim on mental health grounds independent advice be sought. Forum Members be updated on the arrangements put in place to assess other medical claims when this information was confirmed.

- (5) The proposed schemes of co-ordination for Primary admissions, Secondary transfer, Infant to Junior transfer, In-Year admissions be adopted.
- (6) In relation to Admission Arrangements 2010, the proposal to amend the nursery tie-breaker to distance from home to school for the 2010 nursery admissions round be agreed as follows:

If more applications were received than there were places in a Nursery, places would be allocated to children in date of birth order, with older children being offered places before younger children, as follows:

- First Children, in date of birth order, who are Looked After by a local authority.
- Next Children, in date of birth order, referred by Harrow's Special Education Needs Assessment and Review Service.
- Next Other children, in date of birth order.

If, under any criterion, there were more children with the same date of birth than there were places remaining in the nursery, then the available places would be offered to child(ren) who lived closest. Distance would be measured in a straight line from the home address to the entrance to the nursery. Home to school distance would be measured by Harrow's School Admissions Service.

- (7) the Fair Access Protocol be amended as follows:
  - a. To make it clear that through the Protocol Harrow may exceptionally require schools to admit children in excess of the published admission number in order to protect the interests of vulnerable children and those with challenging behaviour. These pupils would be shared equally among Harrow schools. Pupils placed through the Protocol would take priority over children on the waiting lists;

- b. To confirm that the principle underlying the whole protocol was that it applied only to children living in Harrow Council;
- c. To include that 'wherever possible children would be allocated to a school of their faith;
- d. To clarify that the protocol did not cover newly arrived children where a school place had been allocated but the parents had not taken up the place / the child had not started at the school;
- e. To clarify that, as far as was possible, primary pupils would be shared equally across the borough.

Reason for Decision: There is a requirement under the School Standards and Framework Act 1988 for admission authorities to determine admission arrangements by 15 April in the determination year (ie by 15 April 2010).