
HARROW ADMISSIONS FORUM**21 MARCH 2005**

Chair:	* Councillor Stephenson		
Councillors:	* Janet Cowan * Ray		
Community School Representatives:	<u>Governor</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>
	* Mary Graham	* Sue Jones	Allan Jones
Jewish School Representative:	* Dr Ian Abrahams		
Roman Catholic School Representative:	† (Mike Murphy) * Mary Waplington (Reserve)		
Church of England School Representative:	* Mrs S Hinton		
Church of England Diocese Representative:	* Mrs K Uttley		
Catholic Schools Diocese Representative:	* Miss M Roe		
Primary Elected Parent Governor Representative:	† Mr H Epie		
Secondary Elected Parent Governor Representative:	† Mr R Sutcliffe		
Harrow Council for Racial Equality Representative:	† Prem Pawar		
Early Years Development Partnership Representative:	* Helena Tucker		
Social Services Representative:	(Vacancy)		

* Denotes Member present
† Denotes apologies received

RECOMMENDATION 1 - Feedback from Consultations on Community School Admission Arrangements for 2006 and on Voluntary Aided School Admission Arrangements for 2006

The Forum was asked to consider a report of the Director of Strategy, People First that contained a report to be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 14 April 2005 outlining the admission arrangements for the 2006/07 academic year. The Chair noted that the amendments to the 2005/06 admission arrangements agreed at the last meeting of the Forum on 19 October 2004 had, following consultation, been incorporated into this year's arrangements. Members raised the following points:

- (i) Medical claims – single sex/co-educational preference
Members felt that the wording suggested in the report was ambiguous as Bentley Wood High School was the only single sex school community school in Harrow, making the statement "provided this is the school nearest to home" redundant in relation to single sex schools.

Members suggested the following alternative wording:

"...parents will have the opportunity of choosing either co-educational schooling, provided this is the school nearest to home, or single sex schooling"

In response to questions from Members of the Forum, the Chair emphasized that if the above wording was agreed, then parents with appropriate medical claims, who had a preference for single sex education for their daughters, would have a very high admission priority to Bentley Wood High School.

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- (ii) Reduction to planned admission number for Rooks Heath High School
A Member of the Forum expressed concern that the Cabinet report did not refer to the school adjudicator's decision on the planned admission number for Rooks Heath High School. The Member also expressed concern that a number larger than the Forum's proposed admission number of 210 would result in class sizes greater than 30 in this school.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (To Cabinet)

(1) That the above amendment to the definition of medical claims in relation to parental preference for single sex or co-educational schooling be noted;

(2) that Members' concerns over the reduction to the planned admission number for Rooks Heath High School be noted.

REASON: After consultation, authorities are required to determine their admissions arrangements for 2006/07 by 15 April 2005.

(See also Minute 57).