

**MINUTES OF TOWER HAMLETS ADMISSION FORUM**

**Thursday 18 June 2020 10am – 12 noon**

Via Zoom

**Members:**

1. Dee Bleach (DB) Primary Community Schools\*
2. Terry Bryan (TB) Service Head (Pupil Access and School Sufficiency**\***
3. Sue Ward (SW) Free/Academy Primary Schools\*
4. Penny Harvey (PH)The London Diocesan Board for Schools\*
5. Jenny Miller (JMi) Parents Advice Centre\*
6. Alex Nelson (AN) Voluntary Sector Children & Youth Forum
7. Lynn Cottle (LC) Nursery Schools\*
8. Shahanur Khan (SK) Collective of Bangladeshi Governors\*
9. Salma Mahbub (SM) Parent Governor Representative\*
10. Dennis Jenner (DJ) LA Education Appeal Panel Member
11. Shahana Begum (SB) Parent Carer Council Representative\*
12. Fathima Rofe (FR) Parent Carer Council Representative
13. Mary Ryan (MR) Archdiocese of Westminster
14. Sarah Counter (SC)/ Free/Academy Secondary Schools\*
15. Patrice Canavan (PC) Secondary Community Schools\*
16. Mafijur Rab (MRa) Council of Mosques
17. John Bradshaw (JB) Head of Pupil Referral Unit
18. Elizabeth Figueiredo (EF) Primary Voluntary Aided Schools\*
19. Richard Fitzgerald Secondary Voluntary Aided Schools\*

*\*indicates present at meeting*

**Observer:**

Paramjit Bhutta (PB) Secondary Free/Academy School\*

**Officers present:**

Mohammad Ahmed (MA) Primary Admissions Operations Manager

Kelly Mack (KM) - Clerk Secondary Admissions Operations Manager

**Actions**

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| **1.** | Apologies for Absence – Shahanur Khan | Clerk |
| **2.** | Declaration of Interest  This item gives opportunity for forum members to declare an interest in any agenda item which directly affects the school at which they are a governor, member of staff or which their children attend, or in which they might have a direct pecuniary interest. SW and SC, representatives from the Tower Trust and Canary Wharf College Group respectively, advised of their organisations interest in some of the potential sites for new schools. | Chair |

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| **3.** | Minutes of meeting held on 27 February 2020   * AN noted that she had sent apologies * DH asked for clarification on matters arising relating to item 7 on the agenda | Chair |
| **4.** | Matters Arising  None | Chair |
| **5.** | Pupil Place Planning Update  Primary Review Advisory Group (PRAG)  TB updated the forum on most recent School Organisation changes:  Guardian Angels and St Annes RC - Guardian Angel’s School building would close at the end of the school year, due to its amalgamation with St Anne’s. The amalgamated school would be renamed St Anne’s and Guardian Angels.  Redlands and Smithy – Redlands School would close that the end of the school year dues to its amalgamation with Smithy. The amalgamated school would be renamed Stepney Park Primary School.  Shapla - Governors have agreed to consult on a proposal for the School to close by the 31 August 2021 – currently at informal stage. Decision on Statutory Notice in Autumn and a final council decision in Feb/March 2021.  St Matthias – Governors and LDBS are considering whether to issue 1st stage consultation on proposal for school to close by end 2021. TB to provide update in Autumn.  Solebay – LA in discussion with the DfE and Paradigm Trust on possible relocation of Solebay Primary School and one of the sites under consideration in the new school development site at Wood Wharf.  Cubitt Town Infants and Juniors – Governors will be consulting, in Autumn, on the proposal for these separate infant and junior schools to become one primary school.  Mayflower – LA still looking at options to increase School in size from 1.5 FE to 2 FE, given projected pupil place demand in Poplar.  St Saviours – LA and LDBS also looking at potential for the expansion of School from 1FE to 2FE.  Secondary  Raines - An appeal was lodged to the Adjudicator relating to the decision to close the School. The Adjudicator confirmed that the consultation process was lawful and just and recognised that children’s education was at the forefront of the LA’s decision making.  Oaklands – as a result of the closure of Raines, Oaklands will expanded to 6FE (180) from September 2020 and will take on the accommodation of the former Raine’s Lower site. | TB |

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|  | Westferry – Canary Wharf College Crossharbour and George Green are both candidates to occupy this new site – no decisions made yet.  6th Form Provision – previously schools worked collaboratively but now there appears to be competition to fill places as TH students are applying to attend colleges/6th forms in other boroughs. To ensure sustainable provision we need to look at what is being offered and why the other boroughs are attracting our students.  Special Schools  Phoenix – New Upper School to be delivered later this year Oct/Nov, due to COVID.  Beatrice Tate – Expansion in progress with a view to completion by 2022.  Update on current capacity and surplus across primary and secondary – update from Mohammad Ahmed |  |
| **6.** | **Coordinated Admissions 2020**   * Secondary Transfer 2020 – KM talked through the September intakes for Y7 and the outcomes of the secondary transfer appeals which took place, very successfully, via Zoom * Reception – MA talked through the September intakes for Reception * Nursery – MA talked through the September intakes for Nursery |  |
| **7.** | Raines Foundation School – discussed in item 5 |  |
| **8.** | **Free Schools and Academies –** report showing the latest roll and vacancies tabled |  |
| **9.** | Report of the Schools Adjudicator – tabled  DJ had the following queries:  **Use of Child Benefit address to establish address of child** - pupil services use the address where the child resides for the majority of the week, which is fairer than where child benefit is paid  **In-year admission of vulnerable children** – pupil services prioritises the admission of vulnerable children and children who are unplaced.  **Problems establishing eligibility of Previously LAC children** – If a child is ‘looked after child’ in another country then we channel through the ‘exceptional medical/social circumstances’ process |  |

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| **10.** | AOB  LC noted that nursery headteachers still feel that coordinated admissions for nursery are a concern. TB replied that coordinated was introduced to ensure that we capture vulnerable children and families as early as possible and that falling numbers of nursery admissions are not the fault of the coordinated process but rather a result of reduction in the pupil population in certain areas of the borough. |  |
| **11.** | Date, time and venue for next meeting  **Tuesday 6 October 2020**  **Via Zoom** |  |