

MINUTES OF TOWER HAMLETS ADMISSION FORUM
Tuesday 6 October 2020 10am – 12pm

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 (RF)	Secondary Voluntary Aided Schools

**indicates present at meeting*

Observer:

Paramjit Bhutta (PB)	Secondary Free/Academy School
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Officers present:

Mohammad Ahmed (MA)	Head of School Admissions*
Kelly Mack (KM) - Clerk	Secondary Admissions Operations Manager
Bernadette Ogazi (BO)	Senior Transition Support Officer*

		Actions by
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Paramjeet (PB) and Dennis Jenner (DJ)</p>	MA
2.	<p>Declaration of Interest:</p> <p>Sarah Counter (SC) – interest in Westferry Printworks</p>	MA
3.	<p>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</p> <p>MA invited nominations for the role of Chair and Vice Chair: Dee Bleach (DB) was once again nominated for the position of Chair and Sue Ward (SW) for the position of Vice Chair.</p> <p>Resolved: DB was elected Chair and SW was elected Vice Chair.</p>	MA
4.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2020</p> <p>Alex Nelson was present at the last meeting. Rest of minutes agreed.</p>	MA
5.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>None.</p>	Chair
6.	<p><u>Pupil Place Planning Update</u></p> <p>TB updated the forum on planned developments and school organisation changes:</p> <p>Mulberry London Dock - Originally due to open in September 2022, but this has been put back a year due to COVID and is now expected to open in September 2023.</p> <p>Westferry Printworks – The LA and DfE have agreed for this site to be used of the purpose of providing permanent accommodation for Canary Wharf College. Timeframe for development of the site has not yet agreed.</p> <p>George Green’s – The decisions relating to Mulberry London Dock and Westferry Printworks have ensure there will be sufficient resources available for a rebuild of George Greens, which the Council aims to complete by 2023/24. Feasibility looking at rebuilding on site without decanting students.</p> <p>Oaklands - LA has acquired the lease for the former Raine’s lower site to enable the expansion of Oaklands from 4FE to 6FE.</p>	TB

	<p><u>Primary Review</u></p> <p>Shapla School – Initial consultation on school closure completed, Report to cabinet seeking a statutory notice to be issued in October 2020, for closure by August 2021.</p> <p>St Matthias School – Informal consultation ongoing. Once completed, school governors will decide how to proceed with formal consultation and if they want to move to the stage of statutory notice. Report will be sent to Cabinet with a decision to be made later this year.</p> <p>Cubitt Town School – Cubitt Town infant and junior schools have agreed to consult on the proposal for the schools to amalgamate by April 2022. Report will go to Cabinet later in October for a decision on the issuing of the statutory notice.</p> <p>Stepney Park- Redlands and Smithy have amalgamated and have been operating as Stepney Park from September.</p> <p>Guardian Angels and St Anne’s- Both schools have amalgamated on the St Anne’s site from September. School renamed St Anne’s and Guardian Angels.</p> <p>Cherry Trees School – Proposal for the to close by August 2021, following Ofsted ‘inadequate’ rating and conclusion that this small provision is no longer financially sustainable. LA looking to establish new SEMH provision within Ben Jonson School, which will be supported by Bowden House Special School.</p> <p>Update on current capacity and surplus across primary and secondary schools</p> <p>MA unable to provide reports due to system/reporting issues. Will provide reports at next meeting.</p>	<p>MA</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Consultation on changes to the School Admissions Code</p> <p>Discussed and responses to questions agreed, with the following recommendation given by the forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirement to notify parents of the outcome of their application within 10 school days should only be in place for children out of school or those where an immediate transfer is necessary for exceptional reasons. 	<p>MA</p>

	MA to write up consultation response and send to the forum for any final comments.	
8.	<p>Report on the Previous Year's School Admissions Out-turn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary Transfer 2020 – report tabled and MA provided updates on offers at each Tower Hamlets school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers for Bishop has gone down for both boys and girls - Low numbers for Wapping High and London Enterprise Academy - SW and SC to look into developing a forum for academy representatives to me. Admissions Forum and Schools Forum will feedback to this group • Reception Transfer 2020 – report tabled and MA provided updates on offers at each Tower Hamlets school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low number of offers for St Johns and St Elizabeth - Malmesbury with a blip class this year and Olga kept at 90 PAN due to increase in number of applications from Bow catchment area - Only 2 places available in Isle of Dogs catchment area - Numbers in Bethnal Green and Stepney catchment areas staying the same or slightly dropping - Wapping – no significant changes other than Shapla and falling numbers at Canon Barnett • Nursery Transfer 2020 – report tabled and MA provided updates on offers at each Tower Hamlets school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Figures to be monitored to see how they translate into reception - MA to collate data from census information to see what the figures look like across the borough 	MA
9.	<p>Free Schools and Academies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to be tabled at next Forum meeting. 	MA
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>None.</p>	
11.	<p style="text-align: center;">Date, time and venue for next meeting Wednesday 9 December 2020 Via Zoom</p>	