

FOX LANE RESIDENTS MEETING – APRIL 2013

Response to Question to Enfield Council

1. ADMISSIONS

Question/s	Response
1. What can be done about the rules that allow parents to move in temporarily to ensure that their children and future siblings get places at Walker School?	<p>Parents that have a tenancy or own a property who are able to produce the relevant documents are not acting unlawfully and are within the admissions code.</p> <p>Where the council are made aware of any person acting fraudulent by claiming they are full time residents in a property where they are clearly not, it will take appropriate action.</p> <p>There have been cases where places have been withdrawn in the past.</p>
2. Can the admissions criteria be changed to discourage this behaviour?	<p>Despite suggestion at the residents meeting there have been very few cases discovered/reported.</p> <p>If any person suspects a parent of acting fraudulently they should contact the Council. Very little evidence is being provided from within the local community to substantiate claims that the activity is prevalent.</p> <p>The Council is not intending to change the admissions criteria and the rules around siblings. There are considerable benefits to parents to having their children in the same school. Despite the suggestion that parents are purposely getting a first child in to Walker School with the intention of moving away, allowing other siblings to come to the school, there is no evidence that this is the case.</p> <p>Many parents across the borough have mobility issues and the Council has to take the wider community into account.</p>

Question/s	Response
3. What are the options for parents that cannot get into Walker School?	<p>The Council's current expansion programme will ensure that Parents will continue to be offered a place within a school in the borough and this year.</p> <p>Across the borough a large majority of parents obtained a preferred place.</p> <p>We understand it is very disappointing not to get the school of preference and parents also look at other boroughs and at schools not maintained by us. We would encourage parents to put the maximum number of preferences on their applications form.</p> <p>Schools such as St Monica's, De Bohun, St Andrews, Garfield, West Grove and Hazelwood are all options for parents in the Fox Lane area.</p> <p>There is an on-going dialogue with Walker School and the Council and governors have not ruled out expansion in the future.</p>

2. PUPIL DISTANCES FROM WALKER SCHOOL

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4. What is the current Walker catchment and how has this changed in recent years?	<p>The Council does not operate catchment areas. The admissions criterion determines how places are allocated. Old catchment areas resulted in problems such as children living very close to a school but not being in its catchment.</p> <p>Once places are allocated the Council are able to produce admissions data on distances from school that pupils live.</p> <p>For September 2013 the distance for new reception intake will be 0.327m. The following shows the reception admissions over the last 6 years.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Distance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>0.327m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>0.175m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>0.320m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>0.286m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>0.326m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>0.364m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>These figures do not include siblings (see 6. Below)</p> <p>Free schools and academies skew catchment as they are not under council control for admissions.</p>	Year	Distance	2013	0.327m	2012	0.175m	2011	0.320m	2010	0.286m	2009	0.326m	2008	0.364m
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<p>5. Does the catchment include Barnet?</p>	<p>Yes, lawfully the Council is not allowed to take into account the borough boundary.</p> <p>This works for both boroughs so children from Enfield can apply and are getting into Osidge, for instance.</p>
<p>6. How many siblings currently live in the catchment area?</p>	<p>Of the 24 siblings allocated places for 2013. The majority (16) live within 0.5 miles of the school only one pupil lives over a mile away.</p>
<p>7. On current trends where does the council expect the boundary to be if the school could be expanded (and if not)?</p>	<p>It is impossible to predict where the boundary will be in the future as there are too many external factors involved (e.g. impact of school expansions, free schools, migration, etc.). However, given the current trends it is likely that the boundary will increase slightly.</p>
<p>8. Please explain the purpose of priority zones and why these are used at other school but not Walker?</p>	<p>Priority zones are normally areas in which families who ask for admission live some distance from the school concerned, but who cannot be reasonably offered an alternative community school. Five primary schools and two secondary schools have priority zones. In the case of the primary schools, the priority zones were created following the Authority's move away from using predetermined catchment areas as part of its admission arrangements. It was clear, though, that families living in these areas still needed to be given some protection in relation to admissions in order to ensure that children could access a school within a reasonable distance of their home. Examples of the priority zones are provided within the admissions booklet.</p> <p>In many areas, the pattern of admissions and the overall demand for places changes on an annual basis and the creation of a priority zones does not ease the pressure on schools.</p> <p>The provision of additional places at Hazelwood last year and the provision of additional places at both Garfield and Highfield have meant that families on the Lakes Estate have access to schools that are within a reasonable distance of the area. In addition to this, West Grove would also have been an option for many families living in the Lakes Estate area.</p>

3. FINANCING EXPANSION

Question/s	Response
<p>9. What has happened to the money allocated for the expansion of Walker School?</p>	<p>The Council has not allocated any of the designated funding for expansion to Walker School. Funds remain in the Central PEP Budget and is being utilised to fund expansion across the programme.</p>
<p>10. Is the school to receive any funding over and above its normal allocation as a result of wider expansion in the borough?</p>	<p>The school will only receive funding if there is an agreement to expand.</p>
<p>11. What funding is available for school expansion generally (from central government and locally)?</p>	<p>Where schools are expanding additional funds have been allocated through the Primary Expansion Programme. The Council has supplemented this funding by disposing of its own assets.</p>
<p>12. What is the strategy for providing places in this area over the coming years?</p>	<p>For future expansions (places from Sept 2014) the Council has bid for additional targeted basic needs funding from central government.</p>
<p>13. How does the strategy relate to both primary and secondary education?</p>	<p>Decisions will be taken on a school by school basis, depending on funding bids. If this targeted funding is not made available the Council will consider further disposal of asset or borrowing to ensure that places are delivered.</p>
<p>14. What account is being taken of residential development and changes in the area?</p>	<p>The council has a number of options that it is pursuing, these include continuing a dialogue with Walker School, exploring the options to build a new school and it has made a commitment to the rebuilding of Garfield School.</p>
<p>14. What account is being taken of residential development and changes in the area?</p>	<p>Further information on proposals for the area will be considered at the Cabinet Meeting on the 19th June (a report is available on the Council website).</p>
<p>13. How does the strategy relate to both primary and secondary education?</p>	<p>Although the current focus is on primary education (as there is an immediate need for places) it is not seen in isolation as there is a continuum of need year on year as children progress through the school years). The Council's strategy has to consider all ages and phases of schooling.</p>
<p>14. What account is being taken of residential development and changes in the area?</p>	<p>Central Government Policy on Academies and Free Schools makes it difficult to confidently predict the number of additional places that will be needed in the borough (and where) at this time.</p>
<p>14. What account is being taken of residential development and changes in the area?</p>	<p>Population figures are generally based on information provided by the Greater London Authority. The Council has undertaken additional work to take into account alternative data sources. This work is on-going and will consider housing development in the borough.</p>

4. FUTURE STRATEGY TO PROVIDE PLACES

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15. What schools are currently being expanded?	Plans are in place to expand the following schools over the next couple of years;																		
16. What is the current performance of these schools (Ofsted)?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Ofsted</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chesterfield</td> <td>Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edmonton County*</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garfield</td> <td>Satisfactory</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Spicer</td> <td>Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grange Park</td> <td>Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highfield</td> <td>Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prince of Wales</td> <td>Satisfactory</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Worcesters</td> <td>Outstanding</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*currently no primary provisions</p> <p>The Council will be considering proposals for futures school expansions at its Cabinet meeting on the 19th June.</p>	School	Ofsted	Chesterfield	Good	Edmonton County*	n/a	Garfield	Satisfactory	George Spicer	Good	Grange Park	Good	Highfield	Good	Prince of Wales	Satisfactory	Worcesters	Outstanding
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17. What's the number (per school) of children who do not complete the school year in these schools?	<p>The data is not collected in this way. Mobility figures are calculated as an overall percentage for each school and not per year group.</p> <p>There are many reasons why pupils move school during the year and include parental choice (e.g. for a preferred school), moving to a different part of the borough and moving out of the borough altogether. The location of the school (i.e. close to a borough boundary) also affects this percentage.</p>																		
18. Why aren't the Council building new schools?	Central Government Policy is to support the development of Free Schools and Academies. Funding new school development is difficult and there is limited scope for the Council to do this across the borough.																		

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<p>19. Why has Broomfield House not been considered as a site for a new school?</p>	<p>There are several reasons why Broomfield House is not currently being considered as a school site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There has been local opposition to developing the building for this use; b) It is a Grade II listed building and therefore there are likely to be restriction on how the building could be developed; c) Given the building's current state any work to restore the building and convert its use is likely to be very expensive (especially when considered against other options); d) The building is situated near Metropolitan Open Land which will make development and access challenging, in terms of obtaining planning permission.
<p>20. Is land being set aside to build schools (as opposed to housing)?</p>	<p>Land is not been directly set aside to build schools (see 18. above). However, the Council is considering all options for providing places in the future.</p>
<p>21. What is the Council's position on Free Schools?</p>	<p>The Council wants all Enfield children to attend high quality schools and is open to the development of Free Schools in the borough. The decision on Free Schools lies with the Secretary of State for Education.</p>
<p>22. Have there been any approaches to set up Free Schools?</p>	<p>Enfield already has 3 free schools (3 primary) and another 2 (1 secondary and 1 all through) are opening this September. The Secretary of State has just announced that 2 further free schools have been successful in their bids to proceed to a pre-opening stage (1 primary and 1 all through).</p>