

SCHOOL ADMISSION FORUM

25 JUNE 2008

SECONDARY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

SUMMARY

This report informs Members of the latest situation regarding the number of school places vacant for this September and the number of Kingston children currently without a place for September 2008.

ACTION FOR THE FORUM

The Forum is asked to note this report and offer any views.

BACKGROUND

1. The initial offers for September 2008 were made to parents on 3 March for secondary schools in the borough. Parents were given two weeks in which to reply to the Authority to accept or decline the place offered.
2. Following the initial allocation, waiting lists have been maintained for all over-subscribed schools, and further offers of places at these schools have been made as parents refuse initial offers for a more preferred school.
3. Parental appeals for places at community secondary schools have now all been heard, and those for places at voluntary-aided (VA) and foundation (F) schools have either been heard or will be heard shortly.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

4. Seven of the ten secondary schools are currently full for Year 7 admissions in September 2008 and have waiting lists.
5. There is still movement on the waiting lists, and as places are being refused, further offers are continuing to be made for community, foundation and Voluntary Aided schools.
6. On 3 March 2008, 60% of RBK parents received an offer of a place at their first preferred secondary school. 93% of parents have received an offer of one of their preferred schools.
7. On 3 March 2008, Kingston parents who did not receive an offer for any of the secondary schools which they named as their preference were offered a place at their nearest Kingston school with a vacancy.
8. As at 5 June 2008, there are 22 children (10 girls and 12 boys) Kingston children without a known destination of a school in September 2008. Letters have been sent on 5 June asking these parents to inform the Authority by 20

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June which school their child will be attending in September 2008. The letter advises parents of which schools in Kingston and the neighbouring authorities still have vacancies for September 2008.

9. In comparison, on 7 June 2007 there were 44 children without a known destination for September 2007.

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LA booklets for parents on primary and secondary school admissions for Sept 2008

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM

25 JUNE 2008

PRIMARY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

SUMMARY

This report informs Members of the latest situation regarding the primary admissions for September 2008 and the number of Kingston children currently without a Reception place for September 2008.

ACTION FOR THE FORUM

The Forum is asked to note this report and offer any views.

BACKGROUND

1. This year Kingston's primary schools received 1824 applications for 1575 places by the allocation date of 22 April 2008. 1540 offers were made on allocation day and 284 children were not offered a school place. This number includes Kingston and out borough resident applicants. A total of 1643 Kingston children made an application and 226 were not offered a school place on 22 April.
2. The extent of the increased demand for places was not anticipated as it was not reflected in the planning data based on local birth rates and housing developments. There is evidence of a similar trend across London, including locally in Richmond, Elmbridge, Merton and Sutton. Kingston is liaising with neighbouring local authorities to monitor the situation carefully and plan for future years.
3. The planning of school places is complex and there is no simple correlation between any of the variables that can affect the number of children needing a school place (the local birth rate, nursery places, housing developments, the capacity of the independent sector or economic context).
4. The number of places required is a consequence of the interaction of all of these variables (and several other factors, which include the popularity of Kingston's schools, migration in and out of the borough, and the impact of all of these variables in each and all of our neighbouring Authorities).
5. Following the initial allocation, waiting lists have been maintained for 27 over-subscribed schools, and further offers of places at these schools have been made as parents refused initial offers for a more preferred school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

6. In response to the unprecedented demand for places, the Local Authority has consulted with schools and has identified seven schools across the borough where 30 additional places have been added at each school. The schools are Alexander Infant, Burlington Infant and Nursery, Coombe Hill Infant,

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Christchurch C of E Primary (Surbiton), Fernhill Primary, Lovelace Primary and Maple Infant School.

7. On 4 June 193 additional places have been offered from waiting lists in accordance with published admissions criteria. There are 72 unplaced children and 49 vacancies as at 5 June. 42 of the parents who were offered a place on 4 June are already holding a lower preference RBK school offer, and a further 12 parents have both a Kingston offer and one from another authority or an independent sector school.
8. Therefore there are more than enough places for all 72 unplaced children and once those 54 holding double offers respond, this will be added to the 49 existing vacancies. Parents have until 16 June to respond to this latest offer and further offers will be made as and when refusals are received.
9. Over the coming weeks, parents without a current offer of a school place will either receive an offer of a preferred school or be able to apply for a school with vacancies. It is anticipated that by the end of the process at least 96% of parents will have received a place at one of their preferred schools.
10. Funding for staffing and equipment at the seven schools has been provided from within the Schools Budget and the cost of additional accommodation is initially being underwritten by the Local Authority In view of the exceptional increased demand an application for additional capital funding has been submitted to the government. Good progress has been made in recruiting teachers and support assistants, aided by recruitment already taking place at several schools this term.
11. Parents of children without an offer of a school place have been invited to a meeting on 12 June to update them on the progress made in providing places at schools in Kingston.
12. Appeals for community primary, junior and infant schools will be heard in early July.

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LA booklet for parents on primary school admissions for Sept 08

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INFORMATION ITEMS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. IN-YEAR FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOLS (FORMERLY HARD TO PLACE PROTOCOLS)

Following approval by the School Admissions Forum at its meeting in July 2006, the In-Year Fair Access (known as Hard to Place protocols until the introduction of the new School Admissions Code 2007) were piloted in September 2006 across all RBK maintained secondary schools.

RBK's In Year Fair Access protocols comprise of 3 protocols relating to Permanently Excluded, Managed Moves and Overage Admissions.

Implementation in 2007/08

PERMANENTLY EXCLUDED

From September 2007 to date there have been 10 permanent exclusions that have been dealt with under the In Year Fair Access protocol. The destination schools of such pupils are listed below:

Southborough High School x 1
The Hollyfield School x 1
Tiffin Girls' School x 1
Out borough residents x 3 (provision made by "Home Authority")
Alternative provision x 4 (e.g. PRU, FE college)

MANAGED MOVES

There have been no Local Authority coordinated managed moves between secondary schools during this academic year. This is because schools have targeted resources to provide the necessary support required at the current school.

OVERAGE ADMISSIONS

Since September 2007 to date, a total of 130 overage secondary applications have been processed via the School Admissions office.

The Local Authority is currently undertaking a review of the existing protocols with the schools and proposed changes for 2008/09 will be put forward to the School Admissions Forum for ratification.

2. SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2009/10

The Executive has approved the proposal for the published school year for 2009/10 to contain 195 days which includes 190 statutory pupil days and all five statutory staff training (INSET) days. The academic year starts on Thursday 3rd September 2009 and finishes on Friday 23 July 2010. The 5 INSET days can be set by the schools within the framework of dates outlined below.

Term	Start	End	Days
Autumn Term 2009	Thurs 3 Sept 2009	Fri 23 Oct 2009	37
	Mon 2 Nov 2009	Fri 18 Dec 2009	35
Spring Term 2010	Mon 4 Jan 2010	Fri 12 Feb 2010	30
	Mon 22 Feb 2010	Thurs 1 April 2009	29
Summer Term 2010	Mon 19 April 2010	Fri 28 May 2010	29
	Mon 7 June 2010	Fri 23 July 2010	35
			195

Note: Easter Sunday is 4 April 2010

3. SCRUTINY OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2009

In accordance with The Education (determination of Admissions Arrangements) Regulations 1999, the LA has published a notice in the local newspaper confirming that admission arrangements for 2009 for all maintained schools have been determined and are available for inspection at the Council's offices and at the relevant school. The notice advises that any objections to admission arrangements should be sent to the Schools' Adjudicator by 31 July 2008.

The Office of the Schools' Adjudicator (OSA) has asked all LAs to submit determined admission arrangements including any supplementary forms by 30 June 2008 at the latest. The documentation requires the LA to confirm whether the final admission arrangements comply with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code or whether the LA is objecting to any arrangements.

The Secretary of State has asked the Chief Schools Adjudicator to report to him by the end of August on the extent to which admission arrangements for 2009 comply with mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code and other statutory requirements.

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