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Janet Hilton  
Chair of the Local Governing Body  
Turing House School  
Queens Road  
Teddington  
TW11 0LR

Civic Centre  
44 York Street  
Twickenham  
TW1 3QB

**Sent by email**

Dear Janet,

**Re: Admissions for Turing House for 2017 entry**

I am responding on behalf of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to the consultation document posted on the school's website on 9 December 2015.

As you know, the Council has been supportive of the establishment of the school since you and other colleagues met with Nick Whitfield and me in February 2012, before the first, unsuccessful application was made to the Department for Education; and we, and the Council in general, subsequently welcomed the news when, in 2013, the Minister approved the second application for the school.

Since the approval of the proposal, the Council and Achieving for Children have made strenuous efforts to assist the school in finding and securing a permanent site (subject to planning permission), without which it is unlikely that a site would have been secured.

I am therefore responding within that context of close co-operation between us.

In answer to the three questions posed by your document, here are our views:

*Published Admission Number: We are considering an increase in our Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 150 to 200 from the year that we move to our permanent site. Should we do this?*

No – the Council is **not** in favour of the school increasing the PAN from 150 to 200 for 2018. As The Richmond upon Thames School is due to open in 2017, increasing Turing House's PAN by 50 in the following year would lead to an over-supply of places in the western half of the borough. (In fact, the increase would be *100* since the school is proposing in 2017 to continue to admit only 100 children, due to the space limitations at the temporary site.)

The assertion made in your consultation document, that the Council “has asked all borough secondary schools to consider increasing their PAN to accommodate future demand”, is incorrect. As it states in [the latest version of the Council's School Place Planning Strategy](#), adopted in October 2015, “The opening of Turing House in 2015 and the proposed opening of the Richmond upon Thames College free school in 2017 mean that there will be sufficient

places in the western half of the borough for the period covered by this strategy [up to 2024].”

It's also the case that the school will not be moving to its permanent site until September 2018, so any question regarding a proposed increase of the admission number for the 2018/2019 school year must, by law, be mooted in next year's consultation document and not this year's.

*Admissions Proportions: Our admissions policy currently prioritises applications in distance order with 80% being admitted by distance from the Admissions Point and the remaining 20% of places being prioritised in distance order from the planned permanent school site in Heathfield. Should we keep these proportions?*

No, – the Council is **not** in favour of the school keeping these proportions. The Council's strong view in regard to the allocation of places at the school is that there is no justification for continuing the 20:80 ratio now that the proposed permanent site for the school has been identified as being in a different part of the borough from where the school's artificial admissions point is located.

The arguments for retaining the 20:80 ratio have been undermined by the facts that:

- The proposed permanent site for the school is two miles away from the admissions point.
- The September 2015 intake was, as your consultation document notes, *not* largely drawn from near the admissions point, and the vast majority of the intake live in other parts of the western half of the borough or, in some children's cases, outside the borough altogether. Among the 99 starters, there were only seven children living in North Teddington and Fulwell, and 17 in Hampton Hill, totalling 21; which suggests that, if anything, the proportions proposed within the criterion are actually the wrong way round. The full breakdown of the Year 7 starters' home postcodes/areas was as follows:
  - TW1: Strawberry Hill / central Twickenham – 1
  - TW2: West Twickenham – 20
  - TW2: Whitton – 7
  - TW2: North Twickenham – 1
  - TW4: Hounslow – 1
  - TW7: Isleworth – 1
  - TW11: Fulwell – 1
  - TW11: Teddington: 1
  - TW12: Hampton – 31
  - TW12: Hampton Hill – 17
  - TW13: Feltham/Hanworth – 1
  - TW16: Sunbury – 1
- The range of secondary school options in the western half of the borough has increased since the school was originally proposed, as follows:
  - Another, separate free school proposal has been approved; for what is due to become The Richmond upon Thames School in September 2017. For children living in or near Fulwell and North Teddington, that will arguably be a more accessible option than Turing House's proposed permanent site, because the very frequent 281 bus runs directly from Fulwell and North Teddington to the end of Court Way, a five-minute walk from The Richmond upon Thames School's site.

- Hampton Academy and Twickenham Academy are proposed to form a multi academy trust with two of the borough's most popular and successful secondary schools, Teddington and Waldegrave, with the expected outcomes that Hampton and Twickenham's management and governance will become more local and their educational standards will rapidly and sustainably improve.
- There has been considerable opposition from some residents in the Heathfield/Whitton area to the proposed location of the school on the Hospital Bridge Road site; and much of that opposition has resulted from the perception that whilst the school would be happy for its permanent site to be located within the Heathfield/Whitton community, it does not wish to allocate any more than a fifth (eventually equating probably to about 25 children) of its non-sibling places from within that community. Consequently, removing the proposed 20:80 ratio would arguably be more conducive for the school's fostering of good relations with its host community.

*Children of Staff: We are considering the introduction of a new oversubscription criteria after the prioritisation of siblings (criteria 4), to prioritise children (by which is meant full, step-, half- and adopted children living in the same household) of staff directly employed by Turing House School for two years or more before the admission application. Should we do this?*

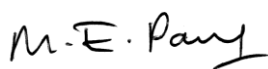
The Council has no strong view in regard to this. Whilst it is possible that such a criterion could displace other children living much nearer to the school, we recognise that the numbers of successful applicants under this criterion would most likely be very small in any given year and would, as you state, assist with the retention of current staff and the recruitment of high-calibre staff in the future.

The proposed arrangements do not make it precisely clear what the qualifying period for priority under this criterion is; the wording states, "Children [...] of staff directly employed by Turing House school for two years or more before the admission application", but it is not clear if "before the admission application" effectively means "before the application closing date", i.e. before 31 October 2016 for the 2017 intake. If that is what is meant, then we wonder whether any parents/carers will apply under this criterion for 2017 entry, since there presumably weren't many, *if any*, staff directly employed by the school before 31 October 2014. As it currently reads, the wording would, in future years, enable the admission under this criterion of children whose parent had been directly employed by the school for at least two years but then ceased that employment.

We believe it would be better practice to word the criterion as "Children [...] of staff who are directly employed by Turing House school and have been for two years or more before the date of admission", which fits better with the school-year cycle and would (in future years) prevent the admission under this criterion by children of ex-staff.

We would be very happy to discuss these points with you and look forward to hearing the outcome of Governors' deliberations in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Paul,  
Associate Director, School Place Planning