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The Headteacher and Chair of Governors  
Turing House School  
Queens Road  
Teddington  
TW11 0LR

Sent by email

21 December 2016

Dear Colin and Janet,

### **Consultation on Turing House School's Admissions Arrangements for 2018/19**

I am responding on behalf of Richmond Council to Turing House School's consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for 2018/19 and have the following comments to make, which I hope are helpful.

1. We note that the proposals include an increase in the published admission number (PAN) to 150 for entry into Year 7. It would be helpful if you could clarify whether the proposed increase would only apply if the school has moved to its permanent site for September 2018, and not if it is still based at the temporary site in Livingston House where there is insufficient room to accommodate an intake of 150? Please could you also confirm whether this proposed increase has been agreed with the EFA?
2. Regarding the introduction of the new criterion for prioritising children of staff. Please would you clarify what you consider the impact will be in terms of both in terms of recruitment/retention and admissions?
3. With regard to the proposed retention of the admissions point and of the 80%/20% ratio, we believe that these are not justifiable, as there is now certainty regarding the permanent site, since Hounslow's Leader took a Cabinet Member decision on 2nd December 2016 to sell the site for the purpose (subject to planning permission) of the school being established upon it, subject to tying up loose ends prior to completion.

As you know, the school has repeatedly promised, most recently in its response to the Schools Adjudicator, to review the arrangements once the uncertainty had ended, so now is the time to make good on that promise and to discontinue the use of the admissions point and therefore of the 80/20 ratio.

4. The admission arrangements need to include reference to the school's participation in the Fair Access Protocol (FAP) and you may find it helpful to read Section 8 of the "Admission to Richmond's Secondary Schools 2017 and to the Fair Access Protocol on Richmond Council's website for reference.

5. In the section entitled "Children educated outside their chronological age group ", we have the following comments.

Whilst the School Admissions Code places a requirement for all schools to consider requests for admission outside a child's chronological age group, for in-year secondary admissions, the usual practice in Richmond is to initially place the child into their chronologically correct year group and thus enable a school based assessment to decide on the correct year group for the child.

For transfer to Year 7, unless there is compelling educational, social and developmental reasons to support a child's need to remain outside of their correct age group, they will join their chronologically correct age group.

6. Under Notes ii) describing how home to school distances will be measured is inaccurate as far as describing the starting point from the applicant's home is concerned. The correct definition is "measured by the shortest route by road and/or maintained footpath from the property to the" .....( relevant point at the school/nearest pedestrian school gate).

If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

*Hatija Bhatia*

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**Head of Admissions and Fair Access**