

## **Governor' report on the outcome of the consultation on changes to our admissions policy for 2023-24**

Proposed new admission arrangements to take effect from September 2023 were published for consultation on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 . The consultation period ran for seven weeks and closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

Details of the consultation and how to respond were sent to:

- The local authority for distribution to all local primary and secondary schools and the neighbouring local authorities
- The deaneries of Westminster, Kensington, Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham for distribution to their parishes (91 in total)
- The headteachers of our 11 feeder schools for the attention of staff and parents
- All nurseries and Childrens Centres in RBKC, LBHF and Westminster
- The main GP practices and health centres in the Triborough area (13 in total)
- Local community centres (6 in total)
- The Tri-borough Music Hub and 5 other organisations coordinating music education.

It was also published on the Chelsea Academy website and publicised several times via Twitter.

We received responses from:

- RBKC as the local authority (1)
- parents of current Chelsea Academy students (2)
- local headteachers (representing 6 primary schools)

Almost all responses were favourable and supported the changes:

Eg "Clear, fair and appropriate"

"Following the school's vision and aims"

"Sensible and equitable".

"I whole-heartedly support them"

"I do not see any issue with the proposed changes"

One respondent raised a concern that foundation applicants living in the very north of RBKC would be disadvantaged by the use of distance as a tie-breaker.

One respondent, whilst expressing support for the proposals, questioned the use of primary school attendance as a criterion for in year foundation places, suggesting this would be difficult to manage and might disadvantage applicants new to the area.

Two respondents expressed disappointment at the removal of music aptitude places and asked that this be re-considered by the Governors, if necessary with changes, for example fewer places for music scholars, or restricting eligibility for music places to those resident within a particular distance, or in RBKC only.

The Governing Body considered the responses at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and agreed the following points:

- Any change to the foundation tiebreak arrangements from random allocation to distance will necessarily mean that applicants further away may have lower priority. Applicants living in the north of RBKC have access to a number of outstanding secondary schools and faith schools. We consider that it is a fairer solution to give higher priority to those living closer to Chelsea Academy, and that the proposed arrangements will also give greater certainty to parents than the current random allocation of places.
- The criterion of previous attendance at a foundation feeder school for in-year applications is currently managed successfully by the Academy. It's retention supports the wish of LDBS to continue to provide places for those wanting a Church of England education for their child, whether or not they are of the Christian faith. New arrivals to the area can continue to qualify for places under the community criteria.
- Removing music aptitude places for Year 7 entry was a difficult decision which the Governors considered at length and in great detail. We noted that the number of applicants has fallen each year since 2017, as has the number meeting the qualifying standard and the number accepting places, particularly from RBKC residents. We continue to believe that it is fairer to prioritise applicants from our local community, and to invest in musical education and opportunities for all students in Years 7-9. Chelsea Academy will continue to timetable music as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, and to offer high quality music tuition from our peripatetic tutors to those parents who wish to pay for this.

The Governing Body determined the admissions policy for 2023-24 as drafted and this will be published shortly on the Academy website.