

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
FAMILY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE – 9TH MAY 2024

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

UPDATE ON HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL 2024

This report provides an update to the Committee on Holland Park School's current status and other key areas around the school including the latest Ofsted inspection results.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report will explore different areas of Holland Park School:

- Recent Ofsted inspection outcomes
- Leadership and governance
- Educational outcomes and admissions
- Special Educational Needs
- Grenfell Support: Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Safeguarding support
- Ongoing partnership working with local schools.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 To consider the report and decide whether the Committee wishes to make any comments on any of the elements of this report.

3. QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

3.1 Does the Committee have any comments on this report on Holland Park School further than those areas addressed in the report?

4. INFORMATION ABOUT THIS REPORT

4.1 The Family Services Select Committee in March 2022 listened to parents and local community members who expressed concerns over the future of Holland Park School as a Single Academy Trust (SAT) and whether it would join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT), such as United Learning, or create a new MAT by joining with another local SAT such as Kensington Aldridge Academy.

4.2 This report is provided to inform the Committee about Holland Park School's current status and changes made since 2022.

5 MAIN REPORT

Context and Recent Ofsted Inspection Outcomes

- 5.1 Holland Park School became an academy in September 2013. Having not been inspected by Ofsted since 2011, the school received a no-notice monitoring inspection from Ofsted in January 2020. The ungraded monitoring inspection was carried out because Her Majesty's Chief Inspector wished to determine the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements at the school, as concerns had been raised with Ofsted. The inspection deemed safeguarding to be effective at the school.
- 5.2 Subsequently, owing largely to concerns being raised by a number of pupils and parents the school received a full graded inspection by Ofsted in spring 2022 and the inspection report that was published in June 2022 confirmed that the school had been judged as inadequate overall.

Leadership and Governance

- 5.3 In recent years there have been a number of changes of governance and leadership at the school. Steve Parsons started at Holland Park School in September 2022 and is the senior vice principal. Dame Sally Coates, a very experienced school leader, is the current headteacher at the school. Samson Olusanya, currently the headteacher at Christ College Secondary School in Barnet, has been appointed as the substantive headteacher at Holland Park in September 2024.
- 5.4 In January 2023 Holland Park School joined United Learning multi-academy trust. The governance of the school is ultimately overseen by United Learning's national multi-academy trust board. Locally, governance at the school is conducted through a School Improvement Board which is similar to a local governing body and United Learning invited the borough to nominate a representative to join the Board. The LA nominee who attends the Board on a regular basis is Shelley Duffy, Bi-borough Assistant Director of Education, School Standards and Early Years.

Educational Outcomes and Admissions

- 5.5 Following the school joining United Learning educational outcomes at GCSE and A Levels have remained high. In 2023 GCSE results for grades 5 and above for English and maths were 64% compared to the national average of 45.5%. Attainment 8 (an aggregate of the best 8 GCSE grades achieved by each Year 11 pupil) results stood at 58% compared to the national average of 46.4% The school remains oversubscribed for Year 7 for September 2024 and has a waiting list for all year groups.

Special Educational Needs

- 5.6 The school has directed additional resourcing including staffing to meet special educational needs and this has included collaborative discussions with the borough's SEN and School Standards services, which has resulted in addressing outstanding annual reviews for children with Education, Health and

Care Plans. The school draws on the expertise of the Educational Psychology Service to support children with SEN and the school has strengthened partnership working with the SEN Team including the SEN Outreach Team in the Local Authority.

Grenfell Support: Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

- 5.7 The school is maintaining the resourcing to this area of support for the children which includes Place2Be and counselling. As a school community experiencing the impact of Grenfell there has been increased collaboration with the Grenfell Dedicated Service. It is recognised this area of work continue to be a priority going forward.

Safeguarding Support

- 5.8 Following the concerns raised by the school community in 2021, the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership commissioned a Safeguarding Learning Review in June 2021, which was completed in January 2022 with an action plan produced by the school. The school fully engaged with and contributed to the Safeguarding Learning Review and responded in a timely way to the relevant action points for the school.
- 5.9 There is an improved working partnership with the Safeguarding Team which includes the Safeguarding Lead for Schools and Education in addition to the Bi-borough LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) which includes consultations and referrals. Whilst it is recognised that any school may receive complaints from time to time the number of complaints has reduced and there have been no parental complaints since December 2023.

Ongoing Partnership Working with Local Schools

- 5.10 There is good engagement from Holland Park School with the secondary headteachers' collaborative meetings which includes the two Further Education Colleges. This also includes the Fair Access Protocol meetings, which ensure that vulnerable secondary age pupils who require a school place in-year are able to access full-time education. Holland Park School, along with the other secondary schools, goes over its published admission numbers in order to admit these vulnerable children.

Community Use of School Facilities

- 5.11 Discussions are underway between the Council and Holland Park School to agree and secure community use of the school facilities.

FOR DISCUSSION

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Background papers: None, other than previously published information.