APPENDIX A

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

CONSULTATION ON THE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR
FOX PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR 2017/18 ENTRY

October 2015

In accordance with the School Admission (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council, as the admission authority for Fox Primary School, are required to consult where changes are proposed to admission arrangements.

A consultation period must run for a minimum of 6 weeks and take place between 1st October and 31st January of the year before those arrangements are to apply. This consultation starts on Monday 5th October 2015 and will end on Friday 20th November 2015, and applies to the academic year of entry 2017/18.

Proposal 1: The inclusion of a category for Children of Staff

1.1 This proposal forms part of a wider consultation for all community schools in the Royal Borough. The full document can be found on the Royal Borough website www.rbkc.gov.uk/schools/admissions

1.2 It is proposed that a category giving priority for children of staff form part of the oversubscription criteria for all community schools, including Fox Primary School. This category will follow after siblings.

1.3 The Admissions Code (para.1.39) allows admission authorities to give priority to children of staff, in either or both of the following circumstances.

a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Several own admission authority schools located in the Royal Borough already have this category within their oversubscription criteria. Further to an internal consultation with Royal Borough community schools, the consensus was to formally consult on this proposal.
1.4 The inclusion of this category will provide schools with the ability to retain or recruit staff those from an area where there is a demonstrable skill shortage. The number of pupils to qualify under this criterion is likely to be very small with a limit to the number of places that can be offered under this category.

**Proposal 2: Random allocation within a designated priority area**

2.1 Fox Primary School is a popular and heavily over-subscribed community school located in the south of Kensington and Chelsea that has seen applications increase significantly over the past 7 years. In the last five years, and with particular attention to the admission year of entry in 2011 and 2014 and 2015, offers made in accordance under the distance criterion were 0.089, 0.060 and 0.057 of a mile respectively. The increase in families legitimately renting properties very close to the school for a minimum of 12 months has become common practice. The impact of this practice has meant that Fox is no longer accessible to families living beyond the roads that surround the school.

2.2 The Council, with the full support of the Fox Governing Body, agreed that a review of how places are allocated for this popular community school is required in order for residents that live beyond the streets/roads directly surrounding the school have an equal opportunity to access to this school.

2.3 It is proposed that the allocation of places, following Looked After Children, Siblings and potentially Children of Staff (see proposal 1), will be determined by the use of random allocation within a revised designated priority area. Applicants that live outside of the priority area will be determined by straight-line distance from home to school. The full proposed oversubscription criteria are set out in Appendix B.

2.4 The process of random allocation is independent of the school and administered by the Council’s School Admissions Team.

2.5 The current designated priority area in its current form no longer serves the purpose it was intended for when introduced in 1980. The priority area was introduced to address the lack of access to non-faith primary school places. As highlighted above the distance reached is minimal with the furthest distance reached in the last six years up to 0.298 of a mile.

2.6 A revised designated priority area is attached as Appendix C. The revised priority area will provide an equal opportunity for families living up 0.645 miles to be offered a place (the furthest point is the junction with High Street Kensington/Earl’s Court Road). The previous priority area extended beyond High Street Kensington up to Gloucester Road. With the opening of the New Kensington Primary Academy in High Street Kensington families living in this locality will have access to apply to a non-faith school places from September 2016.
APPENDIX B

Proposed oversubscription criteria:

Applicants with a signed Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) which names Fox Primary School will be placed at the school in accordance with the legislative framework, with remaining applications considered in accordance with the following oversubscription criteria.

Fox Primary School has a designated priority area for admissions and does not, therefore, have the same admissions criteria as other community primary schools in the Royal Borough.

The priority area for admissions is as follows: Kensington High Street; up Holland Walk; over Holland Park Avenue; up Ladbroke Grove; right into Kensington Park Gardens; over Kensington Park Road; into Chepstow Villas; right down Chepstow Place; right into Ossington Street; over Notting Hill Gate; down Kensington Palace Gardens; left into Kensington High Street. Properties on both sides of the road are included in the priority area as long as the entrance to the property is located on the named road.

If there are more applications than places available, the Royal Borough will allocate places in accordance with the following criteria in order of priority;

1. Children Looked After in care of the local authority and children who have been adopted or made subject to residence orders or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after. The child’s social worker must submit a letter to the Royal Borough confirming the legal status of the child and the local authority to which the child is/was in care, and quoting the child’s full name and current address (refer to note 7.1).

2. The Director of School’s Services, as advised by senior officers, may on an individual basis give priority to applicants who can demonstrate that admission to Fox Primary School is necessary on the grounds of professionally supported exceptional need. Parent/carers must supply details of any such special factors at the time of the original application together with recent supporting documentation. Such applications will not be considered without professional support, such as a letter or report from a doctor, consultant or social worker which must not be more than six months old and name Fox Primary School and details reason why only this school, and no other school, is best able to meet the applicant’s needs. All information submitted will be regarded as confidential (refer to note 7.2).

3. To applicants who have a sibling already attending Fox Primary School who will still be in the school at the time the applicant is admitted. This includes half brothers or half sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, step brothers or step sisters or the children of the partner of the parent or carer provided that they live at the same address as the applicant.
4. Children whose parent is a qualified teacher for a minimum of 0.6fte (16.5 hours teaching staff) who has been employed at the school concerned for two or more years at the time of application and/or children of a member of staff who has been recruited to fill a vacancy for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage (refer to note 7.3).

If in any of the categories 1, 2, 3 or 4 where there are more applicants than there are places available, priority will be given to applicants who live nearest the school on the basis described in 6 below. If there are two or more applicants in categories 1, 2, 3 or 4 who live at exactly the same distance from the school, the offer of a place will be decided by random allocation.

5. Places will then be randomly allocated (refer to note 7.4) to applicants living within the designated priority area (refer to note 7.5).

6. If places remain, offers will be made to other applicants living outside the priority area with priority ordered by proximity to the school. Proximity to the school will in all cases be calculated using a straight line (as the crow flies) measurement from the child’s home ‘address point’ determined by Ordnance Survey Data to the centre of the school grounds as determined by the Royal Borough using its computerised measuring system. The child living closest to the school will receive the highest priority. Accessibility by car or public transport will be disregarded.

If applicants share the same address point (for example, those who live in the same block of flats or shared house) priority will be given to those who live closest to the ground floor and then by ascending flat number order.

Routes will be measured to four decimal places when necessary. If, in the unlikely event that two or more applicants live at exactly the same distance from the school, the offer of a place will be decided by random allocation.

7. Notes:

7.1 Children Looked After, also referred to as Children in Public -
A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. A residence order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

7.2 Exceptional Need - All schools have experience in dealing with children with diverse educational, social and medical needs. However, in a very few exceptional cases there may be reasons why a child may need to attend a specific school, and
no other school can meet this need. If you feel there are exceptional reasons for your child to be considered for a priority placement at Fox Primary School, you must indicate this in the area provided in your application, giving reasons supporting your case.

All requests for priority consideration must be supported by a professional, such as a doctor or social worker, who must be able to demonstrate a link with the exceptional need and the school and why it is necessary for your child to attend this school in particular and the difficulties it will cause your child to attend another school.

It is for you to decide how to support your case and what documents to provide, but these must be submitted by the closing date: **15 January 2017**. The Admissions Team is not responsible for contacting professionals for information about your case and any decision will be based on documents you submit by the closing date.

The notification date is **17 April 2017**. You will not be advised before this date whether your request for priority is agreed. If priority is not granted, your application will be considered against the remaining criteria for Fox School.

It is important to be aware that very few cases are agreed under this category. The Admission Authority must be able to justify awarding priority for a child above other applicants. It will need to be agreed by those making the decision the professional support provided clearly makes a case that the needs for the child can only be met at the school requested, as opposed to another local school.

7.3 **Children of staff** - Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year with an additional maximum limit of no more than:

- 3 children throughout the whole school (for single form entry schools)
- 4 children throughout the whole school (for 1 ½ form entry schools)
- 5 children throughout the whole school (for 2 form entry schools, and upwards)

All such applications must be submitted to the LA and must be accompanied with the relevant paperwork supporting an application on these grounds. The applicant must take sole responsibility to provide such paperwork. Without the provision of the relevant papers, priority will not be given on these grounds.

7.4 **Random allocation** - all applicants living within the priority area will be randomly allocated a rank number using a Third Party Draw Service. This process is independent of the school and managed by the Council’s Admissions Team.

7.5 **The designated Priority Area** - The priority area is attached as Appendix A. The address you provide on your application must be your child’s permanent address on close of applications, **15 January 2017**. You must not use a business address, childminder’s or relative’s address or any address other than your home address. Only in circumstances where the relative or carer has legal guardianship, and is the
main carer, will a different address be considered as the main residence. Evidence will be requested to support this arrangement.

If you have a genuine 50/50 share care arrangement with your child’s other parent, it will be for you to determine the address that will be used as the main address for your child’s application. Only one address will be used throughout the application process. If you are in receipt of Child Benefit, the address of the parent making the claim will be used for the purpose of the application.

All addresses of applicants living within the priority area will be checked against internal Council tax records. If you are not registered to pay council tax, either because you are not liable or have recently moved, you will be asked to provide one of more of the following:

- A mortgage statement/tenancy agreement.
- A recent utility bill or, if you have moved, your closure bill at your previous address.
- A Child Benefit/Inland Revenue document (if entitlement applies).

If you own or rent more than one property, you should state this on your form. You will also need to provide proof of residence and occupancy for the address at which your child lives most of the time and is considered as the main family home.

If you move into a second property for a temporary period purely for the purpose of trying to be nearer to the school, we will use your normal, permanent residence for the purpose of processing the application.

7.6 Additional proof of address required - all applicants living within the must provide either provide their Land Registry document or a signed rental agreement of at least 12 months showing the start date of your tenancy. You and your child must still be living at the address on national offer day: 17 April 2017. If you have moved address before this date and you did not inform us of your move, any offer made may result in being withdrawn. Your application will be considered as outside the priority area if the required documents are not provided by the closing date.

8. Further information on the admission arrangements that apply to Fox Primary School:

8.1 Twins, triplets and multiple births - twins, triplets and multiple birth children will be considered as individuals alongside all other applicants. Every effort will be made to accommodate twins or multiple birth children within the same school even if this means that the PAN will be exceeded.

8.2 Waiting list - Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list and any available places will be offered in accordance with the priority set out in the oversubscription criteria. In respect of applicants that fall under Category (5) a waiting list position will not apply. If a place become available within this category a fresh round of randomisation will take place apply, as described in 7.4 , to determine the next offer to be made.

8.3 Date of admission/deferred entry - Children will normally be admitted to
the reception year for community primary schools in the September following their fourth birthday.

In line with the Admissions Code, parents can defer their child’s entry to the reception year until later in the school year, where they have been offered a place at a school to start before they are of compulsory school age. Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. However, entry cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child’s fifth birthday, nor beyond the end of the Reception Year. In practice this means that parents could defer entry until January for children born between 1st September and 31st December, or until April for children born between 1st January and 31st August. Parents can also request that their child attends part-time until he/she reaches compulsory school age.

8.4 Requests to apply for Reception in the following year* - Requests for admission outside of the child’s chronological year of entry will be considered in accordance with para 2.17 (Admissions Code). Such requests would normally apply to children that are Summer born (between April and August) and there are significant reasons that would benefit the child’s academic, social and emotional development by starting reception in the following year as opposed to Year 1. The Council, as the admission authority for community schools (or the governing body for the academies), must make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case, informing parents of their statutory right to appeal. The headteacher of each of the school(s) applied for will be informed of the request and their views taken into account. This right to request a later admissions, does not apply if the child is offered a place in another year group at the school. Each case will need to be supported by a professional (e.g. GP, social worker) that provides the reason for admissions outside of the chronological year group.

*The current legislation that applies to options for Summer born children is currently subject to a review by central government. Any changes will be reflected in the admission arrangements accordingly.

8.5 Members of the UK Armed Forces and Crown Servants - An official letter confirming the address of your quarters will be required. This can be provided before you have relocated to ensure your application is not disadvantaged.

8.6 Method of Application - Parents/carers must apply on the Common Application Form of the local authority where they live. This can be completed online www.rbkc.gov.uk/schools/admissions or on a paper can be requested from the Home LA’s Admissions Team.

8.7 Closing Date and Initial Notification Date - In accordance with the Royal Borough’s admission arrangements the closing date for reception class applications will be 15th January 2017. Notification letters will be sent out on 16th April 2018.

8.8 Late applications - Applications received after the set closing date will be accepted but will not normally be considered for a place at the school until after the initial offer date.
8.9 **Appeals** - Unsuccessful applicants have a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. Further details will be included in the notification letter.

8.10 **In-year admissions** - Parents/carers will need to complete the In-Year application form via [www.rbkc.gov.uk/schools/admissions](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/schools/admissions). Applications will be considered in accordance with the above oversubscription criteria. In the event that it is not possible to offer a place, the waiting list and appeals procedures described above will apply. Applications cannot be made to the school.

8.11 **Coordinated admission arrangements and timetable for applications to reception** - As required by law, the Royal Borough will be coordinating admissions for 2017/18 entry. This document outlines the scheme which will run along similar lines to the arrangements to previous years.

Details of the full proposed scheme are available [www.rbkc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/admissions) or by contacting the School Admissions Team on 020 7745 6432/6433/6434 or email: [school.admissions@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@rbkc.gov.uk).
STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR FOX PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR 2017-18

RESPONSE SHEET

ABOUT YOURSELF

Name:

Please tick if you are responding on behalf of an organization

Name of Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

Please mark one box that best describes you as a respondent, and/or the type of organisation in which you have an interest.

Parent/Carer
Maintained school
Local Authority

Teacher
Academy/Free School
Early Years Professional

Nursery or other pre-School Provider

If Other, please specify:

Please continue on next page
CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Proposal 1: Priority for Children of Staff

This proposal forms part of a wider consultation for all community schools in the Royal Borough. The full document can be found on the Royal Borough website. The inclusion of this category will provide schools with the ability to retain or recruit staff those from an area where there is a demonstrable skill shortage. The number of pupils to qualify under this criterion is likely to be very small with a limit to the number of places that can be offered under this category.

Do you agree or disagree with this proposed change? (Please tick as appropriate)

Agree ........................................... ☐

Neither Agree nor Disagree ................................ .........................................................................................(please tick)

Disagree ........................................... ☐

Don’t know ........................................... ☐

Please use the space below for any other comments you would like to make about proposed change to admission criteria.

Please continue on next page
Proposal 2: Random allocation within a designated priority area

It is proposed that the allocation of places, following Looked After Children, Exceptional Needs, Siblings and potentially Children of Staff (see proposal 1), will be determined by the use of random allocation within a revised designated priority area.

Do you agree or disagree with this proposed change? (Please tick as appropriate)

Agree ........................................
Neither Agree nor Disagree ...
Disagree .....................................
Don’t know .....................................

Please use the space below for any other comments you would like to make about proposed change to admission criteria.

Please return your comments to: school.admissions@rbkc.gov.uk and title your email ‘Fox Primary School Consultation’. Alternatively you can post your comments to:
Fox Primary School Consultation, Admissions Team, Green Zone, 2nd Floor Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX.

Your comments must be returned by Friday 20th November 2015