

Committee:	Dated:
Community & Children's Services Grand Committee	10/05/2019
Subject: Primary and Secondary School Admissions of City of London Pupils 2019/20	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the allocation of primary and secondary school places to City of London pupils for the academic year 2019/20.

The City of London has complied with the statutory duty to co-ordinate school applications as part of the cross-borough, Pan-London Admissions Scheme process.

All children whose parents applied on-time for a school place for entry in September 2019 received a place on national offer day. There were three late primary applications, and those applicants will be offered places after the national offer day on 16 April.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available within the area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one. There is only one maintained primary school in the area – Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School. City residents also apply for school places at schools in neighbouring boroughs.
2. The School Admissions Code (the Code) has been issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA 1998). This Code came into force on 19 December 2014.
3. The Code applies to admissions for all maintained schools in England. It sets out how school applications are processed. It is the responsibility of admission authorities to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with this Code. Where a school is the admission authority, this responsibility falls to the governing body or Academy Trust for that school.
4. Regulations 26 to 32 and Schedule 2 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012 requires local authorities to co-ordinate school applications and ensure that cross-borough processes are compatible with each other. The City of London is part of the Pan-London Admissions Scheme process, where all 33 London local authorities and Surrey County Council have reciprocal admissions processes.
5. The governing body of Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School is the admissions authority for the school. This means that the governors set the admissions policy for the school and make the decisions about which pupils are allocated places and admitted to the school. The pupil admissions number for Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School is 30.
6. During the autumn term 2018, we conducted our annual school census to identify where City of London children attend school. Currently we are aware of 84 schools that City of London pupils attend. Due to the new General Data Protection Regulation introduced in May 2018, we issued data-sharing agreements to all schools to enable secure and compliant data sharing. However, even with the correct processes in place, we have had a limited response from schools.
7. As of 31 March 2019, the data held on the schools attended by City resident children indicates the following:
 - 147 City resident children of statutory schools age (5–16) attend schools within the City of London local area. This includes the independent schools.
 - 193 City resident children of statutory school age attend schools in the immediate neighbouring boroughs (Camden, Hackney, Islington, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Westminster).

- City children attend schools in an additional 17 London Boroughs and home counties.
- Three children are being electively home educated.

Primary School Places

8. The deadline for applications for a primary school place for entry in September 2019 was 15 January 2019. Confirmations of offers for school places were received on 16 April 2019.
9. When parents make their application for a primary school place, they can apply to a maximum of six schools in order of preference. They receive only one offer, which is based on their order of preference and is the highest preference offer that can be allocated. Table 1 illustrates the primary school place offers for City of London pupils on 16 April 2019.

Table 1. Primary school place offers for City of London pupils 16 April 2019			
SCHOOL	Total number of children offered a place at each school	Place offered – 1st preference offer	Place offered – (other preference offer)
Christchurch CofE School	2	2	0
City of London Primary Academy Islington	9	8	1 (2 nd preference)
English Martyrs' Roman Catholic Primary School	1	1	0
Harry Gosling Primary School	1	0	1 (3 rd preference)
Prior Weston Primary School	5	4	1 (allocated)
Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School	6	6	0

10. There were 24 applications received by the closing date, 15 January 2019, for primary school places in the City of London. In April 2019, primary school pupils were allocated places. Of City of London pupils, 88% received their first preference and 8% received other preferences; 4% received no offer, which equates to one child that was subsequently allocated a place. In comparison, in 2018, 85% of primary-aged pupils got their first preference and 15% received other preferences. In 2019, there was a 3% increase, which was one child that additionally received their first preference.

11. In 2019, Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School was oversubscribed. The school received 107 school applications for places. The governing body met during February 2019 to process all applications and allocate places at the school for entry in September 2019 in line with their oversubscription criteria. Both Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and COLPAI received significantly more first preference applications than places available.

Secondary School Places

12. The deadline for applications for a secondary school place for entry in September 2019 was 31 October 2018. Confirmations of offers for secondary school places were received on 1 March 2019.
13. When parents make their application for a secondary school place, they can apply to a maximum of six schools, in order of preference. They receive only one offer, which is based on their order of preference and is the highest preference offer that can be allocated. Table 2 illustrates the secondary school place offers for City of London pupils on 16 April 2019.

Table 2. Secondary school place offers for City of London pupils 16 April 2019			
SCHOOL	Total number of children offered a place at each school	Place offered – 1st preference offer	Place offered – (other preference offer)
Anglo European School	1	1	0
Central Foundation Boys' School	6	5	1 (2 nd preference)
City of London Academy Islington	2	0	2 (2 nd and 5 th preference)
City of London Academy (Southwark)	1	1	0
Colchester Academy	1	0	1 (4 th preference)
Haggerston School	4	3	1 (5 th preference)
Sir John Cass's Foundation and Red Coat CofE Secondary School	2	1	1 (2 nd preference)
The Grey Coat Hospital	2	1	1 (2 nd preference)
The St Marylebone CofE School	1	1	0
Wapping High School	1	0	1 (3 rd preference)
William Ellis School	1	0	1 (2 nd preference)
City of London Academy Highbury Grove	2	0	2 (Allocated)

14. There were 24 applications received for secondary school places in the City of London by the closing date of 31 October 2018. In March 2019, 54% of City of London secondary-aged pupils got their first preference and 38% received other preferences; 8% received no offer, which equates to two children who were subsequently allocated places. In 2018, 53% of secondary-aged pupils got their first preference and 42% received other preferences.
15. Of the 24 secondary school applications, two of the City of London Academies that give priority to City of London pupils were not identified as their first preference. Our research suggests that the parents' main reason for choosing other schools is because of the distance and ease of travel to these schools. There is also a trend among some City of London parents to identify only one preference, usually at a highly sought-after, outstanding school. If the preference is not allocated, they then opt to take up places at independent schools.

Conclusion

16. The City of London has complied with the statutory duty to co-ordinate school applications as part of the cross-borough, Pan-London Admissions Scheme process. All children and young people who applied for a school place for entry in September in 2019 received a place.

Appendices

- None

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