

Committee:	Dated:
Community & Children’s Services Grand Committee	10/05/2020
Subject: Primary and Secondary School Admissions of City of London Pupils 2020/21	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 2020/21.

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 2020 received a place on national offer day. There was one late primary application who 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. Currently we know of 88 schools that City of London pupils attend.
7. As of 31 March 2020, the data held on the schools attended by City resident children indicates the following:
 - 144 City resident children of statutory schools age (5–16) attend schools within the City of London local area. This includes the independent schools.
 - 203 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 14 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 2020 was 15 January 2020. Confirmation of offers for school places were received on 16 April 2020.
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 2020.

Table 1. Primary school place offers for City of London pupils 16 April 2020			
SCHOOL	Total number of children offered a place at each school	Place offered – 1st preference offer	Place offered – (other preference offer)
City of London Primary Academy Islington	12	12	0
Oasis Academy Johanna	1	0	1 (5 th preference)
Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School	11	11	0
St Alban's Church of England Primary School	1	1	0
Prior Weston Primary School	2	0	2 (allocated)

10. There were 27 applications received by the closing date, 15 January 2020, for primary school places in the City of London. In April 2020, primary school pupils were allocated places. Of City of London pupils, 89% received their first preference and 4% received other preferences; 7% received no offer, which equates to two children who were subsequently allocated a place. In comparison, in 2019, 88% of primary-aged pupils got their first preference and 8% received other preferences. There has been no change in the trend for 2020.
11. In 2020, Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School was oversubscribed. The school received 93 school applications for places. The governing body met during February 2020 to process all applications and allocate places at the school for entry in September 2020 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 2020 was 31 October 2019. Confirmation of offers for secondary school places were received on 2 March 2020.
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 2 March 2020.

Table 2. Secondary school place offers for City of London pupils 2 March 2020			
SCHOOL	Total number of children offered a place at each school	Place offered – 1st preference offer	Place offered – (other preference offer)
Anglo European School	2	2	0
Central Foundation Boys' School	4	2	2 (2 nd preferences)
City of London Academy Islington	1	1	0
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Language College	1	1	0
Haberdashers' Aske's Borough Academy	1	0	1 (4 th preference)
Maria Fidelis Roman Catholic Convent School FCJ	1	0	1 (2 nd preference)
Mulberry School for Girls	2	2	0
St Mary Magdalene Academy	1	1	0
The City Academy, Hackney	1	0	1 (5 th preference)
The Grey Coat Hospital	1	1	0
The London Oratory School	1	0	1 (3 rd preference)
The St Marylebone CofE School	4	3	1 (2 nd preference)
City of London Academy Highbury Grove	2	0	2 (Allocated)

14. There were 22 applications received for secondary school places in the City of London by the closing date of 31 October 2019. In March 2020, 59% of City of London secondary-aged pupils got their first preference and 32% received other preferences; 9% received no offer, which equates to two children who were subsequently allocated places. In 2019, 54% of secondary-aged pupils got their first preference and 38% received other preferences.
15. Of the 22 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 2020 received a place.

Appendices

- None

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