

11th December 2019

Dear Mr Budden,

Re: Langley Park Learning Trust – admissions consultation

Following your admissions consultation dated 9th December 2019, Nexus Education Schools Trust write to express **strong objection** to the proposed changes to the admissions criteria.

Nexus Education Schools Trust and its school communities strongly objects to the proposal which is not in the spirit of the admission code, which will prioritise children attending Langley Park Learning Trust primary schools ahead of children from other schools.

In reference to the Langley consultation document on the naming of feeder primary schools; the reasons for our objection are as follows:

- Langley Park School for Girls and Langley Park School for Boys are not 'all through' schools, so all primary schools in the vicinity should have equal access.
- Any change in the Admissions Policy will limit the choice of secondary school for those pupils who do not attend a Langley Park Learning Trust Primary and live within the locality.
- The change will set the precedent for other Multi Academy Trusts within Bromley which include both primary and secondary schools to alter their criteria. This will result in reduced choices for pupils who attend Bromley primary schools that are not part of a primary/secondary Multi Academy Trust.
- The majority of the reasons given to prioritise children at Langley Park Learning Trust primary schools are generic working together practices across all schools. Consequently this is not a strong argument for change.
- The proposal to ease transition arrangements for Langley Park Learning Trust primary pupils does not take into account that the secondary schools will need to consider the transition arrangements for at least 280 additional pupils transferring from other primary schools.
- The consultation indicates that the Trust has designed their own curriculum including key standards for the end of Key Stage 2 in all subjects. The 2014 Primary National Curriculum sets out these standards clearly for schools to follow. Therefore the rationale for change is not credible.
- Based on the 2019 admissions data for Clare House and Hawes Down Primary Schools less than 50% of the Y6 cohort transferred to Langley Park Girls and Boys Schools. 37% of the boys from the two primaries joined Langley Park Boys School and 43% of girls joined Langley Park Girls School. The consultation is not clear on the destination of the remaining pupils at Hawes Down and Clare House Primaries and how this change would impact on the admission opportunities for those pupils at other local schools.

- If the Admissions Policy is changed, children from a greater distance away could join the Langley secondary schools by having attended the primaries in the Trust, therefore disadvantaging children from other local schools and living in proximity to the Langley schools. This is selective admission by stealth and not in the spirit of the way in which schools should be working together.
- As a publicly funded body all families within the area should have equal access and not be disadvantaged by not attending a Langley Park Learning Trust primary.
- The admission code and schools adjudicator is clear that there needs to be an educational benefit for the changes. The documentation and evidence does not support a clear impact on the educational benefits for naming feeder primaries.

In reference to the proposed changes to give staff preference under the admission policy the Trust has responded neutrally to the staff employed at school level but disagrees with the priority list in the over subscription options:

- The Trust has responded neutrally to option A for primaries, as the addition of staff employed and working at the primary school is a criteria in many individual schools to aid retention and recruitment. The admission proposal however does not give an indication of possible numbers per year, so the impact of the proposal on admissions is unknown.
- It is noted that proposal places the children at Langley Park Primary School at a higher priority for admission at the secondary schools in option A and also Clare House and Hawes Down in Option B This is NOT acceptable to the Trust as it is not explicit within the response questions and comment sections against the admission code regulations. The Trust is **strongly against** this criteria in either option A or B of the over subscription criteria.
- The Trust believes the changes to definitions on siblings and home address provides further clarity.
- NEST **objects** to the changes to tie breaker measure, to a random lottery and is perceived to be inequitable.

In light of the above and referencing the Admissions code we **strongly object** to the proposed change to the Langley Park Learning Trust Admissions Code for 2021 -22.

Yours sincerely,



P Farrow
CEO,
Nexus Education Schools Trust