CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2016

INTRODUCTION
The admission criteria are part of the admission arrangements and the criteria sets out how places are allocated if the school is oversubscribed. Ealing Council is the admission authority for Ealing Community Schools. This consultation relates to possible changes in the admission arrangements for Ealing Community Schools which, if agreed by the Council, would come into force for admissions into Reception and Year 7 for September 2016.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS: PRIORITY TO CHILDREN WITH SIBLINGS AT THE SCHOOL
Since 2008 Ealing has experienced a rapid growth in the number of primary aged children needing a school place. In some areas this has meant that more places have been offered to children at schools which are outside of their priority area for their local school. This growth in demand and the fact that Ealing’s admission arrangements only gives a high priority to siblings living in a school’s priority area has meant that this has become more of a problem for parents when they apply for a school place for their younger children. These children have less chance of getting a place at a school their elder brother or sister was allocated. This means that the parents have to arrange for the younger child to attend a different school or seek to move the older child to the same school.

We would welcome your views on three options:

Option 1: Change the admission arrangements so that siblings are given the same priority irrespective of the school priority area in which they live. In this case the admission criteria would be as follows:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Children with a sibling attending the school
3. Children living in the priority area with exceptional medical/social circumstances
4. Children living in the priority area on the basis of distance
5. Children living outside the priority area with exceptional medical/social circumstances
6. Children living outside the priority area on the basis of distance

Option 2: Remove priority areas and adopt the same criteria as Community High Schools. In this case the admission criteria would be as follows:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Children with a sibling attending the school
3. Children with exceptional medical/social circumstances
4. Other applicants on the basis of distance from the school
Option 3: Retain the current arrangements

EXCEPTIONAL MEDICAL AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR COMMUNITY PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS
In both the high and primary admission arrangements Community schools have included exceptional medical and social circumstances as a criterion. The majority of schools within the Council do not have this criterion. The reason is that if parents have exceptional circumstances that require their child to attend a particular school the appeal panel will grant the appeal. The Council is proposing to remove this criterion from its admission arrangements for Community primary and high schools.

We would welcome your views on two options:

Option 1: Remove the criterion of exceptional medical and social circumstances.

Option 2: Retain the current arrangements

HAVE YOUR SAY
Your views are important to us and will be taken into consideration when the Council makes a decision on whether to adopt any changes to the admission criteria. Please complete the attached response form before the closing date of 9 January 2015.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
The current admission criteria for community primary schools are listed below:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Children living in the priority area with a sibling attending the school
3. Children living in the priority area with exceptional medical/social circumstances
4. Children living in the priority area on the basis of distance
5. Children living outside the priority area with a sibling attending the school
6. Children living outside the priority area with exceptional medical/social circumstances
7. Children living outside the priority area on the basis of distance