

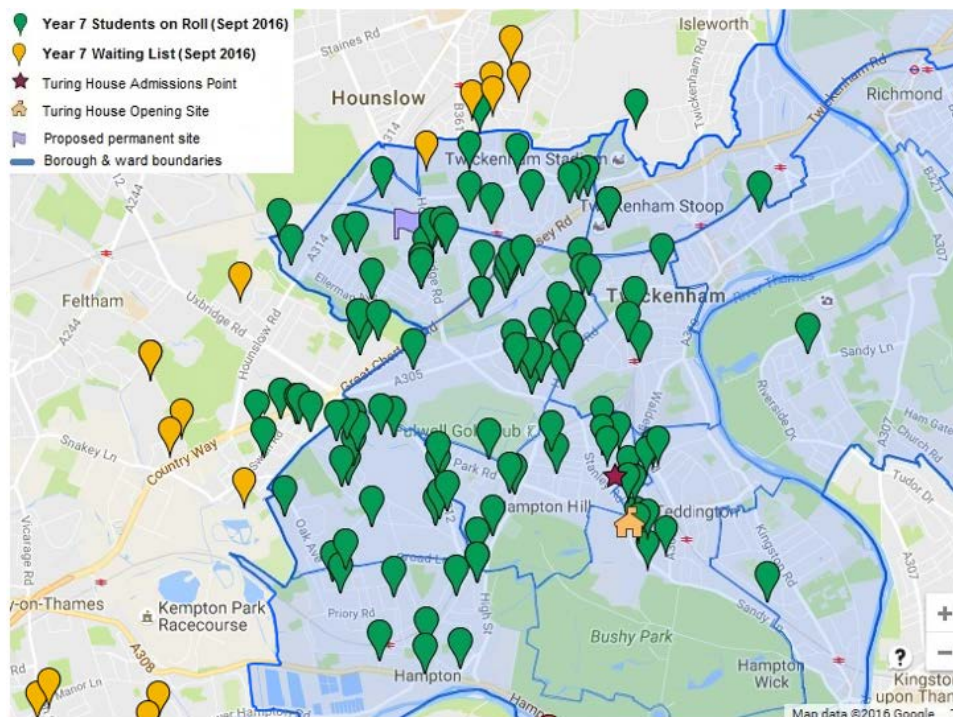
Background

Turing House aims for an inclusive intake, fully representative of the area it was established to serve, which is the Middlesex side of Richmond Borough.

The demand for a choice of good secondary schools is borough-wide, but some areas are better served than others. We strongly believe that all of the borough's students should have the option of a good, co-educational community school and Turing House was established to address this aim.

Since our school was first proposed we have known that securing a site central to the area of demand would be difficult, so we established an Admissions Point (red star on the map below) from which to measure the 'home to school' distance for applications. We are mindful of our potential impact on other local schools, so we positioned this point centrally within our target area, as far as possible from the other mixed comprehensives in the vicinity. More information on this is available [on our website](#).

The Admissions Point anchors our admissions firmly within an area of current and future local need within the borough, but does not prevent students from further afield from gaining places. This is demonstrated by the map of our 2016 admissions below.



We are committed to striking an appropriate balance between serving the Admissions Point area, and the local community around our proposed permanent site near the Heathfield/Whitton border (purple flag on the map above). In 2016 no explicit priority was given to families living in the Heathfield/Whitton wards *and yet the map clearly shows that, with the exception of one applicant, all of the demand from those wards was met*. Building on this, our 2017 criteria, on which we consulted at this time last year, prioritises 20% of distance allocations to the proposed permanent site, giving that area *greater* priority than it had for 2016.

Current Consultation Context

We have now consulted on our admissions policy for 2018, and this report represents the outcome of the consultation, which ran from 23rd November 2016 until 12th January 2017. We invited the following recipients to participate:

- the Local Authority;
- all maintained schools in Richmond-upon-Thames;
- local parents and other interested people, including local community groups, trusts and associations who have registered on our Mailing List or who follow our news updates on social media;
- neighbouring local authorities;
- schools in neighbouring areas;
- the local Admissions Forum;
- Church of England (CE) and Roman Catholic (RC) Diocesan Directors of Education;
- Borough Councillors and Members of Parliament;

Consultees were invited to send us their comments on two proposals, and a copy of the full proposed 2018 policy was published on our website throughout the consultation period. A comprehensive summary of the received responses is included in the Appendix.

Site News

Since we launched our consultation there has been a relevant development regarding the EFA's purchase of the Hospital Bridge Road site from Hounslow Council. Following a Hounslow Cabinet Member [decision](#) in December, the EFA is now able to progress a feasibility study for the site. This is the process where reference designs are drawn up, the land is surveyed and the information is put together for building contractors to prepare their bids.

We've had a number of meetings with the architect for this phase and formal plans are beginning to be created. These will be put to full public consultation as part of the planning process.

The size of the site will, subject to planning permission, enable the school to have excellent sporting facilities and we've already started to look at how these could be made available to the community.

Evaluation of Consultation Responses

This section outlines the Turing House Governing Body's evaluation of the consultation responses, which are summarised in the Appendix.

i) Evaluation of Responses to Proposal 1: Children of Staff

Following advice from the Local Authority during last year's consultation, we proposed the following change (underlined) to the wording of Criterion 5 of our Oversubscription Criteria:

Children (by which is meant full, step-, half- and adopted children living in the same household) of staff directly employed by Turing House school for two years or more before the admission application and still employed, without having given notice or been given notice that the employment will end, at the time the offer is made.

We asked: Should we make this change?

A significant majority (67%) of our 97 respondents agreed that we should make the change. Of the 10% that disagreed, only one made a relevant comment, which concerned the impact of the change in a redundancy situation. We sympathise with the concern, but as the criterion is designed to encourage staff retention we don't feel it is

appropriate grounds to reject the new wording. However by using the offer date as the cut-off, rather than the admissions date we do ensure that an offer to a prospective student in those circumstances can't be withdrawn once it has been made.

Noting the consultation responses we intend to adopt the proposed change to the wording of Criterion 5.

ii) Evaluation of Responses to Proposal 2: Retention of Admissions Proportions

Having committed to re-consult on our distance criteria for 2018, we proposed to retain our existing wording for Criterion 6 of our Oversubscription Criteria, which allocates places proportionally between our Admissions Point and Proposed Permanent Site%), on the grounds that:

- The available evidence suggests that these criteria are likely to meet the demand from the Whitton/Heathfield area;
- They will also enable us to meet demand from other areas within the borough, as well as some of the demand from outside of the borough;
- Our Published Admission Number will increase to 150 places, which will address further future demand;
- The opening of the Richmond upon Thames School in September 2017 will provide another option for local students, including those in Whitton and Heathfield;
- The purchase of our proposed permanent site is pending completion¹, and until it completes alternative local site options may still be considered.

We asked: Should the proportion of places allocated to our Admissions Point remain at 80% or should it be higher or lower? (Please state your reason, providing evidence where appropriate)

As might be expected, the responses were strongly correlated to where people live with 82% of those living in the Admissions Point area being in favour of retaining or increasing the percentage of places there, and 78% of those in the area around the site taking the opposite view. Overall there was a marginal majority in favour of either retaining or increasing the proportion allocated to the Admissions Point.

As this question is a complex one, the reasons given for people's responses are key to our evaluation. Many of those who supported our proposal did so without comment, but those who did comment expressed agreement with our rationale for establishing the admissions point or our assessment of its effectiveness in serving both areas fairly.

More comments were made by the people who thought the percentage at the Admissions Point should be lower than 80%, increasing the proportion at the site. We have grouped these into key themes (see Appendix) and evaluate them as follows:

- ***The school should not be in Whitton.***

The views expressed in this category would more appropriately be addressed to our future planning consultation, not to our admissions consultation.

¹ As discussed in a previous section, progress has been made on the site purchase since the consultation launched.
Issued 17th Feb 2017

- ***It's unfair if children living close to the site can't get places.***

As outlined in this report's introduction children in Heathfield/Whitton *are* getting places, and we have made a public commitment to monitor outcomes of our admissions policy to ensure that they continue to do so.

To reiterate, we met the 2016 demand from Whitton/Heathfield without *any* prioritisation of places for the site, and the introduction of that prioritisation in 2017, combined with the planned increase in our cohort size from 2018 gives us confidence that we can continue to meet it.

Any changes to our policy made on these grounds will need to be evidence based, i.e. we will consider changes if there is credible reason to believe we may not be able to serve the demand around the school site appropriately.

- ***More families living closest to site should be prioritised for places because of environmental/transport factors.***

Secondary school students tend to travel independently and families naturally take journey times and conditions into account when selecting their admissions preferences, balancing them against other factors. Most secondary schools serve a geographically widespread area, with the average distance travelled by London secondary students being 3.1 miles². (In contrast, our 2016 cohort, pictured in the Allocation Map in the introduction, would need to travel an average of just 1.6 miles to get to Hospital Bridge Road, and that average distance is likely to reduce further over time).

The proposed school site is served by several bus routes (481, H22, 110, 111) and is 8 minutes' walk from Whitton station. It is also a short, safe walk or cycle ride from West Twickenham via the A316 underpass or bridges. Many children already make a similar journey to Twickenham Academy, or in reverse to Waldegrave or St. Richard Reynolds. We have already made contact with Transport for London to alert them to potential future changes in travel patterns during peak hours, and we will continue that dialogue. They have been very accommodating and have said that, with timely input from us, they can position themselves to provide sufficient buses to cope with any new demand from the opening of Turing House.

The environmental impact of Turing House will be considered as part of the planning process, where these issues will be addressed in more detail.

- ***More families living closest to site should be prioritised for places because of social inclusivity factors.***

Turing House aims for an inclusive intake, representative of the area it has been established to serve, which is the Middlesex side of Richmond Borough. We will monitor our intake to ensure that we are meeting this aim, though it will take time for admissions patterns to stabilise as our school establishes itself.

As mentioned previously, changes to our policy need to be evidence based. If we see credible evidence that our intake is not comprehensive and inclusive, then we will consider taking action to address that.

- ***All schools should select on distance from site in principle.***

This principle depends on sites being available where they are needed. London has a severe shortage of sites in general, and the Education Funding Agency has been unable to secure a site central to the area of demand that Turing House was proposed to serve.

In addition, the area already has schools which select by gender, priority area and other criteria which create advantage for some families and disadvantage for others.

² National Travel Survey 2014: Travel to School , Department for Transport (PDF 0.9MB)
Issued 17th Feb 2017

Turing House was [proposed](#) and approved specifically to address the problems caused by these issues, and the Schools Adjudicator has [upheld](#) our rationale for use of an Admissions Point in doing so.

- ***The policy is impacting admissions at Hampton High.***

Hampton High responded to the consultation to say that their intake has reduced since Turing House opened in September 2015. It is incorrect to assume that Turing House is the sole cause of this because:

- At least two other schools (Orleans Park³ and Waldegrave⁴) increased their intake in 2015, accommodating an additional 32 students some of whom may have otherwise attended Hampton High or Turing House. Assuming our waiting list therefore moved further than it would have done, this is also likely to have had a knock-on effect on Hampton High.
- There are more than enough students living in the area to fill all of its schools, but parental confidence has a significant impact on preference patterns, and can be particularly affected by the content of Ofsted reports.

Going forward, the opening of the Richmond upon Thames School (RTS) in 2017 may be a further influential factor, though its [proposal](#) was responding to a need for places in addition to those already provided by other local schools (including Turing House), to cater for an upcoming bulge in the secondary population.

We anticipate that our planned move to Hospital Bridge Road may reduce the number of families applying to Turing House from the Hampton area, especially if the new governance [arrangements](#) at Hampton High are successful in building confidence with local families. The reduction of places allocated from our admissions point from 100% in 2016 to 80% in 2017, will also make a difference.

In the longer term we also note that if planning permission is granted for the [housing development](#) at Kempton Park, school places in the Hampton area may be put under significant pressure.

- ***A change to the policy might help community relations.***

The EFA's negotiations over the Hospital Bridge Road site have been protracted, and the nature and uncertainty of the process has made communication with the local community difficult. Social Media and Press coverage has sometimes been fuelled by leaked information and inaccurate statements or rumours, including misrepresentations of our admissions policy.

We have met with local councillors from Whitton and Heathfield to discuss these issues, and will continue that dialogue as we move forward.

However this does not, in itself, justify amending what in our view is a fair and equitable policy. Many Whitton/Heathfield families already send their children to Turing House and, judging by discussions at our open evenings and application patterns (Appendix B), many more will do so in 2017. Over time, families will see that our school *is* serving the area around the school site, and that claims to the contrary have been exaggerated. A policy change in the short term will not speed this process up.

- ***School should serve Hounslow if site bought from Hounslow***

Turing House has been established to primarily serve the Middlesex side of Richmond Borough, and the site is located within Richmond Borough. We welcome applications from any area and our admissions policy does not prevent children from adjacent boroughs from getting places. However it does ensure that appropriate priority is given to the area for which the school was proposed.

³ [Orleans Park Newsletter 20-march-2015 \(PDF 0.5Mb\)](#)

⁴ [LBRuT School Place Planning Strategy 2015-2024 \(PDF 0.3MB\)](#)

Having noted the responses for and against our proposal, and having carefully considered the comments, **we intend to retain the 80:20 ratio for our 2018 policy**. The outcomes of the policy will be monitored to ensure that the ratio continues to strike the appropriate balance between serving the Admissions Point area, and the local community around our proposed permanent site.

ii) Other Matters

In addition to their responses to our proposals, the Local Authority had some additional comments on our admissions policy. Having corresponded with them directly about these, we have modified the wording of one of the notes in our policy as follows (change underlined):

- *Proximity to the School or Admissions Point is measured by the shortest route by road and/or maintained footpath from the property to the relevant point. Accessibility of private or public transport will not be considered. All distances will be measured using the Council's geographical information system.*

Consultation Outcome

Taking into account the above evaluation, the school's 2018 Admissions Policy was formally determined on Feb 15th 2017. The determined policy is **published** on the school's website.

Appendix A: Summary of Responses to the Consultation

Overview

We received 97 responses via the web form, and a response from the Local Authority by email. The web form responses were all from local (TW) postcodes, with the breakdown by area as follows:

Admissions Point Area (Fulwell & Hampton Hill, Teddington, South Twickenham, and West Twickenham)	44
Site Area (Heathfield & Whitton)	41
Hampton Area (Hampton & Hampton North)	5
Hounslow	4
Other (in-borough)	2
Other (out-borough)	1

We asked participants to identify themselves as belonging to one of the following categories (with people belonging to more than one category being advised to select the one most relevant to their response:

Primary Parent (2018 Applicant)	15
Primary Parent (Other)	43
Pre-school Parent	5
Secondary Parent	12
Other Individual	15
Organisation	7

The 7 organisational responses were all from the Richmond West Schools Trust or the individual schools connected to, or run by, the Trust.

None of the individual respondents were identifiable as elected representatives.

There were two distinct peaks in the timing of the responses, the first when the consultation was initially launched, and the second beginning in mid-December when there was social media⁵ and local [press](#) coverage of our site news, triggered by a newsletter⁶ circulated by the school and statements from [Hounslow](#) and [Richmond](#) council. The council statements included references to the admissions policy.

A.i) Responses to Proposal 1: Children of Staff

Following advice from the Local Authority during last year's consultation we proposed a change to the wording of Criterion 5 of our Oversubscription Criteria to ensure that priority admission applies only to the children of staff employed at the school on the date an offer of a place is made. The new wording is as follows, with the change underlined:

Children (by which is meant full, step-, half- and adopted children living in the same household) of staff directly employed by Turing House school for two years or more before the admission application and still

⁵ For example [Whitton Village Facebook Page](#) posts on Dec 16th and Dec 20th

⁶ [THS Newsletter - Autumn 2016 \(PDF 3.4MB\)](#)

employed, without having given notice or been given notice that the employment will end, at the time the offer is made.

We asked: Should we make this change?

- Web Form Responses:
 - Yes – 67
 - No – 10
 - Don't know – 20

There were 13 comments, but only 7 of these comments were relevant to the Staff criterion, and only 3 were relevant to the proposed *change* in the staff criterion. Of those, 2 were supportive of the change and 1 expressed concern that it would be unfair on teachers leaving the school due to redundancy.

- Local Authority Response:
The LA responded under the assumption that the staff criterion was new and requested associated information about its projected impact on admissions. (We have responded directly to clarify that we are modifying an existing criteria in line with a suggestion from another LA officer last year).

A.ii) Responses to Proposal 2: Retention of Admissions Proportions

Having committed to re-consult on our distance criteria this year, we proposed to retain our existing wording for Criterion 6 of our Oversubscription Criteria, which allocates places proportionally between our Admissions Point (80%) and Proposed Permanent Site (20%).

We asked: Should the proportion of places allocated to our Admissions Point remain at 80% or should it be higher or lower? (Please state your reason, providing evidence where appropriate)

The results represented by area are as set out in the following table:

	80%+	<80%	Don't Know	Total
Admissions Point Area (Fulwell & Hampton Hill, Teddington, South Twickenham, and West Twickenham)	36	7	1	44
Site Area (Heathfield & Whitton)	6	32	3	41
Hampton Area (Hampton & Hampton North)	3	1	1	5
Other Richmond Borough wards	0	2		2
Hounslow Borough	1	3		4
Other Boroughs	1	0		1
Total:	47	45	5	97

64 of the 97 web form respondents included a reason for their answer, and we have categorised⁷ the comments according to their key themes.

⁷ If multiple reasons were given we categorised the comment in relation to the dominant theme.
Issued 17th Feb 2017

Comment themes from people who thought the proportion of places allocated from the Admissions Point should be 80% or higher were:

80:20 seems to be serving both areas fairly	5
School places are needed more at the Admissions Point than at the site.	8
There is still uncertainty about the site	2
Own child more likely to get a place	1

Comment themes from people who thought the proportion of places allocated from the Admissions Point should be lower than 80% were:

	Ind.	Org ⁸ .
The school shouldn't be in Whitton (with no opinion expressed as to what the proportions should be if it is)	7	
It's unfair if children living close to the site can't get places	8	
More families living closest to site should be prioritised for places because of environmental/transport factors	11	
More families living closest to site should be prioritised for places because of social inclusivity factors	1	
All schools should select on distance from site in principle (or reason not explicitly stated)	9	6 ⁹
The policy is impacting admissions at Hampton High		1
A change to the policy might help community relations	4	
School should serve Hounslow if site bought from Hounslow	1	

- Local Authority Response:

The Local Authority expressed a view that now there is greater certainty over the future location of the school there is no longer any need for an Admissions Point. They did not express an opinion on what the admissions proportions should be if the Admissions Point is retained.

⁸ We have separated individual responses from those of representatives of an organisation.

⁹ One of these (Waldegrave School) also cited environmental and social factors.

Appendix B: Turing House Applications for September 2017

The following table shows in-borough applications for Turing House in September 2017 by area. Data has not been distinguished by preference as that information is not available to us.

Admissions Point Area (Fulwell & Hampton Hill, Teddington, South Twickenham, and West Twickenham)	39%
Site Area (Heathfield & Whitton)	15%
Hampton Area (Hampton & Hampton North)	14%
Other Richmond Borough wards	17%
Hounslow Borough	12%
Other Boroughs	3%