

TOWER HAMLETS CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Consultation on a proposed reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Bow Secondary School with effect from September 2020



Version: 1.0
Date issued: 5th November 2018
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Children's Services Directorate
Review date: November 2019



1. Background

- 1.1 The current Published Admission Number (PAN) for Bow Secondary School is 270. This means that the number of children admitted into the school at Year 7 (the standard point of entry) is a maximum of 270.
- 1.2 The overall capacity of the school (maximum number on roll) has previously been set at 1,350, made up of 270 children in each year from Year 7 to Year 11.
- 1.3 In addition, to the Bow's statutory provision (Year 7 to Year 11), the school also has a growing sixth form provision. The limited teaching and outdoor space does not enable the school to effectively accommodate a 1,350 statutory-aged pupils as well as a sixth form. The Local Authority would therefore like to reduce the Published Admission Number from 270 to 240 places.
- 1.4 The Regulations and Code of Practice relating to school admissions no longer require an admissions authority to consult when maintaining or increasing a school's PAN, but there remains a requirement to consult when the proposal is to reduce the PAN. The Local Authority, as the admissions authority, is therefore seeking comments on the proposed change.

2. Specific Proposal

- 2.1 The Local Authority proposes to reduce the published admission number of Bow Secondary School from 270 to 240 places with effect from September 2020.
- 2.2 This means that the number of places available for children in Year 7 in 2020 – and all subsequent Year 7 intakes – will be 240. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change but the admission number for all other years will reduce to 240.
- 2.3 This is the only proposed change to the admission criteria. All other criteria, including oversubscription, will remain the same.
- 2.4 Factors that have been considered by the Local Authority and School's Governing Body when deciding to consult on this proposal include:
 - The limited teaching and outdoor space available at the school.
 - The School's places have not been filled over the past five admission years, despite increases in demand for secondary school places in the borough.
 - The total number of pupils currently on roll at the school is 1,104 and is still well below what would be the school's reduced capacity of 1,200.
 - There is enough available provision across the area to ensure that this change will not impact on parental preference outcomes.
 - The proposal to reduce the PAN will support the school to improve educational standards, and is supported by the school's Governing Body.

- 2.5 The Local Authority firmly believes that reducing the PAN will assist the schools to provide stability in their long-term planning and allow them to secure high quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on roll, whilst ensuring that an appropriate number of places are provided for future pupil numbers, in line with demand.