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JFS Admissions Consultation

Following the conclusion of the statutory consultation period, we are pleased to circulate the revised JFS admissions policy for 2021/22. We would like to express our thanks to those who responded to the consultation. The purpose of the consultation process is to ensure that the school and its stakeholders have an opportunity to reflect before making changes which could affect many within the community and as such we take seriously and have given due consideration to all comments that we have received via the consultation process.

In respect of Year 7 admissions the key changes to the policy comprise:

- A. The removal of priority by reference to distance from the school (known as "distance places"); and
- B. Offering 26 priority places to Sinai Jewish Primary School and 9 priority places to North West London Jewish Day School as feeder schools respectively.

Rationale

1. Offering priority to applicants on the basis of proximity to a school is a common criterion for schools which serve their local community. Notwithstanding our commitment and involvement with the wider Brent community, the location of JFS is such that almost all of those who attend do not live in Brent and therefore priority by reference to distance is no longer an appropriate method of offering places at the school.
2. We are conscious of our place in Brent and therefore offering priority on a capped basis to other Brent Jewish schools is an appropriate step both in terms of recognising where we are located but also taking steps to preserve both the character and future numbers of the school. We have taken note of the responses both against and also in favour of this change and the capped priority recognises the strength of feeling on both sides. The capped numbers have been arrived at following careful analysis of the data in terms of historic numbers of non-sibling applicants from those schools, places offered and places accepted. The caps also serve to allay fears that significant numbers of places might essentially be put aside for the feeder schools and also limit any unintended consequences should those schools expand.

We are dedicated to preserving the character of the school and ensuring it is well placed to go from strength to strength in the coming years. We are confident that these changes will make very little difference to the chances of students across the community from securing places at JFS and would encourage all those who wish to be part of our continuing success, to apply in the normal way.

