

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2014

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council notes the opening of Merton's first free school in September 2014. Furthermore, this Council congratulates the head teacher and staff at Park Community School on opening its doors this month and wishes the staff and all the pupils a successful future.

Recognising the enormous costs and challenges for the borough in meeting the growing demand for school places among Merton's primary age group as a result of increased birth rates and also recognising the even greater costs to be incurred for when this cohort of children reaches secondary school age, this Council is resolved to look at all options for meeting the need for more school places, including free schools and academies.

Where a free school wishes to set up in the borough, this Council hopes and expects that it will adhere to the following principles:

- Agree to be part of Merton's admissions procedures, working closely with officers;
- Employ only qualified teachers;
- Participate fully in the Merton Education Partnership; and
- Demonstrate genuine community support.

Therefore, in order to ensure that Merton's education system is able to offer local families both quality and choice, this Council resolves to encourage and invite applications from the best and most innovative providers nationally as well as local groups to establish free schools in Merton where those applicants are willing to adopt the aforementioned principles and where the Council is confident that the standard of education offered is comparable with the best schools in the borough.

Councillor James Holmes

Councillor Daniel Holden

Councillor Michael Bull

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