

Schools Places Update – June 2018

The Southgate Green 'school' has been negotiating, or rather the Council have been negotiating on its behalf - with Broomfield secondary for a while. Now we have an outcome:

Future of Southgate Green - Southgate Green newsletter to parents, 14 June 2018

Following the meeting for parents last Monday evening we would like to update you all on the school's position. As you know we are on the site of Broomfield School and our premises are leased to us by them.

Broomfield's Governing Body are committed to providing as much security as possible to our parents, whilst recognising their own responsibilities to provide a secondary education to pupils wanting to attend their school. The intention is for there to be a yearly review of the primary and secondary demand, in order to anticipate future pupil placements. The current lease has just over a year to run and the plan is to extend this by 5 years. Only at the end of this lease would any change to the arrangement be considered. There will be no break-out clauses, thus providing security of tenure for Bowes. Unless there are significant changes in demand, subsequent lease terms will reflect the existing lease.

Alongside this, Bowes has received agreement from the Department for Education to establish Bowes Primary School as a 3-form entry school. Our current plans are for 2 forms to be located at the larger site – Bowes New Southgate and the other form at Bowes Southgate Green – Broomfield Campus.

Bowes Primary School will continue to operate as a single school across the 2 sites. By establishing a single school with 2 admission points, Bowes will be able to implement an admissions policy that ensures parents with younger children will be certain of a sibling place at the unified Bowes Primary School.

FLDRA comment

So DfE were prepared to agree to this but not to Southgate Green becoming a separate new academy school. Importantly for capacity, this will be a 1 form entry school NOT a 2FE as wanted by the Council.

FLDRA does not know how the 'one school, 2 admissions' plan will work. Bowes will measure from its front door, while the class at Broomfield will continue to be measured from the top of Aldermans Hill - enabling it to take reception pupils from this side of the park rather than them being displaced by kids from the Notting Hill Housing Trust or Ladderwood developments which might be geographically nearer.

The sibling point is superfluous: siblings always get priority over non-siblings.

Nursery places

Bowes also say the nursery class currently at Broomfield will relocate to their Bowes site as from next September, as the space is needed for older pupils as the Southgate Green cohort moves up in age.

Nursery admissions are first come first served, not based on siblings, geography, etc. Being in the nursery is unrelated to getting a reception class place when the admissions rules kick in.

We want to hear from you

If you are recently having problems getting your child into a local primary school, please contact us, so we can get a clear understanding of the overall picture.

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