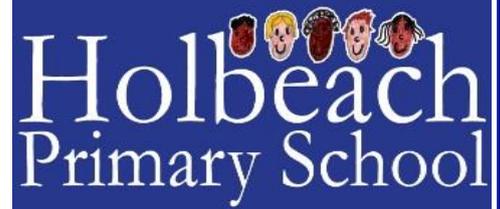


Holbeach Primary School

Nelgarde Road, London SE6 4TP

Tel: 020 8690 4713 Email: admin@holbeach.lewisham.sch.uk

Web: www.holbeach.lewisham.sch.uk



Today's learners are tomorrow's leaders

Thursday 24th June 2020

To: The Appeal Committee

Holbeach Primary School is unable to admit children above the school's published number of 60. I should be grateful if you would take the following points into consideration when determining the outcome of admissions appeals for this school.

The published number for each year group is 60 in Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6 and 90 in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 (from September 2019).

From September 2019 the school will be able to accommodate:

Year Group	Number of places
Reception	60
Year 1	60
Year 2	60
Year 3	90
Year 4	90
Year 5	90
Year 6	60

Large classes result in teaching staff being unable to give each child sufficient high quality, individual attention. Less time can be spent in hearing individual children read or giving them support with areas of difficulty. Teachers have more preparation, marking and assessments to carry out where there are more than 30 children in one class. These factors detract from the quality of teaching and learning.

Children taught in larger classes can have difficulty in learning basic subjects. They need a great deal of individual attention as they learn to form letters, practice writing and improve reading, literacy and numeracy and in developing their social skills. A young child's attention span is short and teachers need to spend a great deal of time with each one. Younger children can feel lost in large numbers and have a disappointing start to their education.

It would be impractical to fit additional furniture into the classroom, including more tables and chairs and computer trolleys for a larger number of children in a full room. For example the children cannot sit comfortably or be positioned to see the interactive white board. Limited space means that it can be difficult for members of staff to move between the furniture to circulate amongst the children to support them and to monitor their work.

Headteacher:
Mr Tom Bulpitt

Assistant Headteachers:
Mrs Angela Cronin
Mr Phil Morriss
Mrs Karen Robertson

School Business Manager:
Mr Gareth Hudson

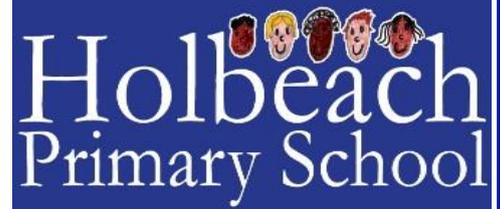
Premises Manager:
Mr Derek Holmes

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Every infant class should have an interest corner. There should be a library area with cushions for quiet reading, a science corner for pupils to investigate, a math corner and a writing table. There should be topic areas and interactive displays. Additional pupils require space and will reduce these interest corners, thereby lowering the quality of education that can be provided.

Our IT provision enables 30 computers (or tablets), sufficient for one for each child in a class of 30 children. One additional computer is connected to our interactive white board for the teacher's use. There is no room for further computers.

At lunchtime, our hall is full to capacity, there is no room for additional seating. Classes of children eat their lunch on a rota basis. Health & Safety may be compromised if there were additional children carrying plates of food, with increased potential for spillage and therefore slip hazards.

There are no classes containing mixed ages because the National Curriculum differs for each year group and the school must ensure that each child is taught the age appropriate curriculum.

Changes in government policy from September 2001 mean that no 5, 6 or 7-year-old should be in a class of more than 30 children for an ordinary teaching session with a single teacher. If extra children are admitted above our published admission numbers an additional teacher would have to be employed. The cost of employing an extra teacher and the erection of a temporary classroom would place an intolerable strain upon the school budget.

For the reasons listed above, the Governing Body does not wish to increase the difficulties we already face by taking additional children. Our aim is to give every child the best possible start to their education, this becomes increasingly difficult if class sizes grow.

Tom Bulpitt
Headteacher

June 2020

Headteacher:
Mr Tom Bulpitt

Assistant Headteachers:
Mrs Angela Cronin
Mr Phil Morriss
Mrs Karen Robertson

School Business Manager:
Mr Gareth Hudson

Premises Manager:
Mr Derek Holmes