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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	16 December 2004
Subject	Maintained Nursery Classes at Primary Schools
Report of	Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning
Summary	This report seeks approval to increase the number of maintained nursery classes at primary schools in the borough. It is proposed that four private nursery schools attached to Jewish primary schools become maintained with effect from 1 st September 2005. The proposals have no capital implications and revenue costs have been identified in the Education Forward Plan 2005/06.

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Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	Hendon, West Hendon, Burnt Oak, Edgware
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Cabinet Resources Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the private nursery schools attached to Hasmonian, Independent Jewish Day, Menorah Foundation and Rosh Pinah be re-established as maintained nursery provision with effect from 1st September 2005.
- 1.2 That the estimated revenue cost of incorporating these nurseries into the maintained sector (£101,300) be financed from the budget identified for new nursery classes in the Education Forward Plan 2005/06 (which equates to £312,000); being part of the overall Schools Block Budget.
- 1.3 That subject to governors' successful capital bid from the LCVAP (LEA Controlled Voluntary-Aided Schools Programme) nursery provision be agreed at one Church of England School with effect from 1st April 2006.
- 1.4 That, subject to 1.1, the relevant consultation process with all interested parties (including the School Organisation Committee) be fulfilled.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet Meeting – 29th September 2003 - Draft School Organisation Plan 2003-2008 and related school places planning matters.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Ensuring a high quality and meaningful service is offered to young people, especially those at risk of social exclusion (Education Service Objective: Corporate Plan 2004/05 – 2007/08 p. 36).
- 3.2 To increase the number of primary schools with nursery classes and ensure that this reflects the diversity of the main school provision to provide equality of choice to the community (LEA Priority: School Organisation Plan 2003 – 08 p. 38).
- 3.3 Review the maintained school nursery provision to ensure that the supply of places is located in the areas of need and demand (LEA Priority: School Organisation Plan 2003 – 08 p. 38).

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 The proposals detailed above are subject to a consultation process during which any interested party is able to make an objection to the proposals. There have been site visits to Hasmonian, Independent Jewish Day, Menorah Foundation and Rosh Pinah primary schools to discuss the possibility of their private nursery classes becoming maintained nurseries and the response from the respective head teachers, governors and nursery staff has been positive.

5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There would be no capital costs associated with these proposals since the buildings for the proposed maintained nurseries are already in existence, and conform with DfES requirements and standards.
- 5.2 All four kindergartens currently receive nursery education funding from the LEA. The current rate per pupil is £1,278 for a full year. Should these

nurseries become maintained then the rate that would be received as part of the school budget share is £2,397 per nursery place (there is also a small addition for premises and energy costs which is dependent on the floor area of the nursery). Rosh Pinah would also be eligible to an additional allowance of £31,672 for being split-site under the formula used.

- 5.3 Table 1 (below) shows the estimated recurrent costs for incorporating these nurseries into the maintained sector:-

Table 1

School	Proposed no of nursery places	Current Nursery Education Funding for places £ (full year)	Estimated Maintained nursery school budget share £ (full year)	Extra costs £
Hasmonean	26	33,228	65,000	31,772
Independent Jewish Day	26	33,228	65,000	31,772
Menorah Foundation	26	33,228	65,000	31,772
Rosh Pinah	39	49,842	128,500	78,658
Total		149,526	323,500	173,629

- 5.4 Since nursery funding is part of the same Schools Block funding then the actual costs of establishing these nurseries as maintained provision is significantly reduced – see table 1 (there are higher costs associated with maintained than non-maintained provision as the former has a requirement for qualified teachers and nursery nurses).
- 5.5 As it is proposed that the four nurseries become maintained with effect from 1st September 2005, then the estimated additional cost in 2005/06 would be approximately £101,300. The Education Forward Plan 2005/06 has identified £312,000 for new nursery classes. From 2006-07 onwards, the full year additional cost would be £173, 629 as shown in table 1 (above).
- 5.6 These proposals are being put forward in order to be in line with the School Organisation Plan priorities of increasing the number of nursery classes based at primary schools. Furthermore, any proposals should promote choice and reflect the diversity of Barnet's school system. Thus, it is also proposed that nursery provision is agreed at one Church of England School with effect from 1st April 2006. Since new facilities will be required there are capital cost implications. The governors will be required to make a bid for this scheme from the LCVAP fund (LEA controlled Voluntary-Aided Schools Programme). Assuming the provision would equate to a 26 fte place nursery the revenue cost would be £65,000.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 The proposals would constitute a change in the lower age range of the schools in question. Pursuant to the Education Act 1998 (as amended by the Education Act 2002) and relevant guidance, the LEA will be required to follow the statutory proposal process, namely, consultation, publication, representations, decision and implementation.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 7.1 Constitution: Part 3, Responsibility for functions, section 3.6 – responsibilities of Cabinet Resources Committee: “Capital and Revenue finance” & “all matters relating to land and buildings owned by the Council”

8 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 As table 2 (below) demonstrates, there are currently 30 out of a possible 45 (67%) Community and Foundation schools with nursery provision. Nursery classes at Underhill Infants and Frith Manor are currently being implemented (Underhill is due to open September 2005 and Frith Manor in September 2006). Once these new nursery classes are completed, and assuming no new nursery provision is made at VA schools, the weight of maintained nursery provision in the Community and Foundation sectors would further increase to 71%.
- 8.2 In terms of the Jewish and Church of England sectors there is significantly less maintained provision. There are currently seven out of a possible 14 (50%) Church of England primary schools with nursery provision, and three out of eight (38%) Jewish primary schools with nursery provision.

Table 2

Summary of Current Nursery Provision in the Primary Sector					
School Type	Total No. Schools	No. Schools with Nursery	%	Total No. of Nursery Places	%
Community & Foundation	45	30	67%	1026	68%
Roman Catholic	9	6	67%	163	11%
Church of England	14	7	50%	208	14%
Jewish	8	3	38%	101	7%

- 8.3 In order to equalise maintained nursery class provision across the whole primary sector, and to address the need to increase provision in the Jewish

sector (as identified in the School Organisation Plan 2003 – 2008), it is proposed that the private nursery schools attached to the following Jewish Primary Schools be established as maintained nursery provision with effect from 1st September 2005:-

- **Hasmonean Primary School:** 26 fte places
- **Independent Jewish Day School:** 26 fte places
- **Menorah Foundation School:** 26 fte places
- **Rosh Pinah School:** 39 fte places

8.4 All four of these Jewish primary schools have very close links with an independent nursery/kindergarten and the nursery advisory teacher has judged the quality of education provision at them as being of a very high standard.

8.5 It is also proposed that nursery provision is agreed at one Church of England School with effect from 1st April 2006.

8.6 Table 3 demonstrates the impact of the proposals to equalise maintained nursery provision should they be implemented. It should be noted that Pardes House had an earlier approval to establish their private nursery as maintained, but implementation has been deferred until such time that the school has the staffing structure standards required:-

Table 3

Summary of Proposed Nursery Provision in the Primary Sector					
School Type	Total No. Schools	No. Schools with Nursery	%	Total No. of Nursery Places	%
Community & Foundation	45	32	71%	1130	64%
Roman Catholic	9	6	67%	163	9%
Church of England	14	8	57%	234	13%
Jewish	8	8	100%	244	14%

8.7 There is a requirement to consult all interested parties on new nursery provision. If the proposals were to go ahead, they would require the publication of statutory notices and be subject to any interested party making an objection. Since these schools are all VA then the proposals have to be considered by the School Organisation Committee for determination.

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 School Organisation Plan 2003 -2008.

BS: JEL/HP

BT: AD