

## **Admissions frequently asked questions – Home to School Distance Measurements for Richmond Schools**

### **1) How are home to school distances measured?**

In order to be fair to all applicants, the Admissions Team has a standard method of measuring home to school distances for most Richmond Schools, by using a 'geographical information system' and data supplied by Ordnance Survey which measures the shortest distance by road and maintained footpath using a defined starting point and end point.

### **2) How do you define 'the starting point'?**

This is a point in a property determined by address point data supplied by the Ordnance Survey. The distance from the point will always be measured using the centre of the road nearest to this point even if your home address is on the corner of two roads or has more than one entrance or exit.

### **3) How do you define 'the end point'?**

This is the nearest pedestrian school gate used by the relevant year group of the school concerned.

### **4) What does 'the shortest route by road or maintained footpath' mean?**

This is a method for measuring home to school distance for school admissions purposes only. The Council does not promote these routes as actual walking routes which children should take to and from school; nor should they be interpreted as such. There may be footpaths and rights of way that are used by pedestrians but which are not maintained by the Council or another public body, and those are therefore not used for measuring home to school distances, e.g. paths through car parks, cemeteries, golf courses, parks and other enclosed spaces. The walking route measured by the Council's geographical information system may therefore be different to an actual walking route.

### **5) Do some schools in Richmond Borough measure home-to-school distances by a straight line, 'as the crow flies'?**

Yes. Straight line measurements for Deer Park School, St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, Thomson House School and GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy are calculated using the School Admissions Team's geographical information system and data supplied by Ordnance Survey. That is because each of those schools has chosen to measure distances by that method. The starting point of the measurement is a grid reference point within the property, which is supplied by Ordnance Survey. The end point is measured to the named school gate or nearest school gate where the school has more than one school gate.

**6) Why aren't the home to school distance measurements measured by straight line for all the state-funded schools in Richmond Borough?**

This is because the borough is the only one in London which is bisected by the River Thames, and changing to straight line measurement would alter admissions patterns to a significant degree for some schools and would probably mean more places would be offered to children living outside the borough than at present.

**7) Could any other computerised programme, route-finder or online measuring tool, including the 'Find my nearest' webpage on the Richmond Council website, match the method of calculating distance for admissions purposes that is used by the Council's school admissions service?**

No. The Council's system has been uniquely programmed to select the shortest route by road and maintained footpath within Richmond Borough and surrounding areas, and no other system or tool will identically replicate that programming.