

From: Vincent DeLorca [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 July 2019 11:46
To: Fowler, David [REDACTED]
Subject: Abacus Belsize Primary School: Hamstead Police Station Support

11/07/19
Att: David Fowler
Camden Gov.

Re: Abacus Belsize School Hamstead Police Station
Letter of Support

Camden Council-

We have lived in Belsize Park for the last 6 years. I just wanted to share our *personal experience* of the real impact Abacus has had on our lives.

Pray, Pay or Move

When our first child was born 4 years ago, we were told “Unfortunately, you’ll have to: ‘Pray or Pay’ to get into a decent school in the area or move out.”

This year our daughter will enter a reception class. One of our primary obligations as parents is to ensure that our children receive a great education. We will move (if we must) to ensure this.

We found that our area was at the end of the catchment areas of good schools such as Primrose. However, we were encouraged to find Abacus! Finally, a good school that was created for people in our area—we applied to Abacus and several other local schools.

Result(s): Offered School 30 min walk away (not applied to) + Decision to Move from Area

We didn’t get into any of the schools. We were instead offered Brookfield Primary School: 1) we never heard of it & didn’t even apply; 2) it was 30-minute walk from our house (we don’t own a car). We immediately started looking for other places to move to and live that were close to good schools.

Result 2: Admitted to Abacus off the Wait List + Decision to Remain

Luckily, within the last couple of weeks, we ended up getting into Abacus off the waiting list. We are so happy and will now continue to live in Belsize as a family.

If it were not for Abacus, we would leave Belsize for somewhere with good schools (not "pray or pay" or 30 minutes walk away). Additionally, we have a low carbon footprint---no car, no fuss.

Please support Abacus as it means a lot to families like ourselves.

Vincent De Lorca