

Admission Arrangements Consultation 2024-25

- Note: Analysis as at 15.38pm on 9th January 2023. N=28**
- Please indicate which of the following schools you have an interest in? N=26**

School name

St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant School (9)
 The Willow Primary School (1)
 Bruce Grove Primary School (14)
 Risley Avenue Primary School (12)
 The Mulberry Primary School (8)

School name

Seven Sisters Primary School (7)
 Earlham Primary School (7)
 Lordship Lane Primary School (8)
 St Francis de Sales Infant Primary School (4)
 Lancasterian (1)

- Please tell us who you are - tick all options that apply? N=27**

Response	Number	Percentage (%)
Resident	21	78%
Parent / Carer	15	56%
Teacher or other school staff	3	11%
Headteacher	1	4%
Governor	0	-
Local authority	1	4%
Other	0	-
N =	27	100%*

* respondents allowed to tick as many categories that apply

The most popular respondent type were local residents (21 or 78%) followed by parent / carers (15 or 56%). Responses were also received from teachers (3 or 11%) and a headteacher (1 or 4%). Respondents were allowed to tick as many categories as applicable.

- Do you agree or disagree with the proposed PAN reductions at the selected schools? N=27**

Response	Number	Percentage (%)
Agree	5	19%
Disagree	19	70%
Undecided	3	11%
N =	27	100%

Of the 27 respondents that answered this question, 70% (19) or just over 2/3rds of the sample disagreed with the proposed PAN reductions at the selected schools

whilst around a fifth (5 / 19%) agreed with the reductions. 3 respondents (11%) were undecided.

5. Please use the space below if you would like to tell us more about your views on the proposed PAN reductions N=15

<p>View - Fall in numbers across recent years, and predicted future numbers, means a reduction in PAN is the only course of action left to us in making our school financially viable.</p>
<p>Response – The aim of proposed PAN reductions is indeed to ensure the sustainability and breadth of the existing primary school offer in Haringey.</p>
<p>View - By reducing the number of places these schools will now become 'oversubscribed' which will negatively affect my chances of getting my child into these schools.</p>
<p>Response – Primary school surpluses have been growing for several years even when accounting for several temporary reductions in planned admission numbers at primary schools across the borough.</p> <p>The proposed reductions have been carefully selected by location and school to ensure a reduction in surplus (not required) school places. It is unlikely that these proposed reductions will have any material impact on the likelihood of parents/carers obtaining a school of their preference. On National offer day 2022, almost 88% of parents/carers obtained their first place school preference whilst over 97% obtained one of their top three school preferences.</p>
<p>View - The higher number of places gives parents more choice. Why is it only the east side of the borough that once again cuts are being proposed.</p>
<p>Response – The proposed reductions have been carefully selected by location and school to ensure a reduction in surplus (not required) school places. It is unlikely that these proposed reductions will have any material impact on the likelihood of parents/carers obtaining a school of their preference. On National offer day 2022, almost 88% of parents/carers obtained their first place school preference whilst over 97% obtained one of their top three school preferences.</p> <p>The fall in demand for primary school places has generally been greater in the East of the borough than the West which is one reason why there are a greater number of proposed reductions here. There are also more primary schools located in the East of the borough.</p>
<p>View – I disagree with the proposal overall because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1) I don't believe the forecast is taking into account the Covid babies boom - 2) it does not seem a balanced approach as it seems to be only targeting a specific area of the borough (the poorer one if I may?) - 3) I know that this year there have been parents which have not gotten a place locally already so would be good to understand what is the current scenario and what is the forecast based on!

Response – There has been no evidence of a Covid-period baby boom in Haringey or across London. In fact the latest data from the Office for National Statistics shows further declines in birth rates which are at their lowest level since at least 2002.

The fall in demand for primary school places has generally been greater in the East of the borough than the West which is one reason why there are a greater number of proposed reductions here. There are also more primary schools located in the East of the borough.

On National offer day 2022, almost 88% of parents/carers obtained their first place school preference whilst over 97% obtained one of their top three school preferences. There is no evidence that local parents or carers are not obtaining primary school places.

View - I think the rate of birth over the civic period actually increased. And as a parent of a son who lived at this area I feel concerned if there will be enough spaces in the schools.

Response - There has been no evidence of a Covid-period baby boom in Haringey or across London. In fact the latest data from the Office for National Statistics shows further declines in birth rates which are at their lowest level since at least 2002.

View -You could reduce the spaces with a lesser amount say 60 down to 45 there are still many children in the area who need to attend good quality schools I believe halving the numbers is too high of a reduction.

Response – Currently the vast majority of our primary schools operate with a class size of 30 and national funding allocations are established with this in mind. The proposed reductions only result in consecutive year-by-year reductions in the specified schools rather than across the whole borough.

View - This seems like a reasonable and sensible approach. But I do worry about school redundancies, when life is already hard.

Response – We will work closely with Schools HR to ensure school staff receive the support they are entitled to.

View - I disagree with the scale of the 50% reduction in places at Bruce Grove Primary School. While I understand the overall trend is for declining demand, I am concerned about 1) your assumptions on long-term population 2) how the data matches to our experience locally and 3) how the impacts of your approach would vary locally, given the uneven spread of schools across the borough.

1) Paragraphs 4.1-3 refer to a 'variety of sources' pointing to a significant impact on out-migration from London. This appears to be GP data and 'anecdotal housing data' based on an FT article, both from January 2021, still in the midst of the pandemic. However, things have changed dramatically since then, including fast increases in rents suggesting that pandemic trends may not persist. This data appears to be the basis of selecting higher domestic out-migration assumptions in

the longer-term, affecting school places. This means despite your quote from the GLA that 'it is too early to draw firm conclusions', you have concluded that there will be enough of a lasting impact from pandemic related migration patterns to reduce your projections now.

2) Our experience locally is that it has been difficult to find a nursery place for our 2 year old (school reception year 2024/25). Nearly all the nurseries we have looked at within 800m of our home have waiting lists, the only ones that don't have issues like very limited outdoor space. We visited Harris Academy Philip Lane, who said last year they had shrunk their catchment distance to less than 400m and removed the priority places for their nursery children in response to increased local demand. This experience doesn't seem to chime with the data you are using.

3) We live on Loxwood Road. Bruce Grove Primary is our closest primary, and yet is over 500m away. Appendix 3 in your School Place Planning Report 2022 shows the distribution of schools in the borough. There are large gaps in provision, including where we live, and Bruce Grove Primary is on the edge of such a gap. Such a dramatic reduction in this location disproportionately impacts the people living in school 'deserts', at least while the oversubscription criteria are based on crow-flies distance (part 6).

4) If school places are to be reduced, then part 6 of the oversubscription criteria should be changed to not disadvantage people living in school 'deserts' (perhaps because they cannot afford inflated house prices and rents nearer schools). This could be achieved by using a formula of: distance to school / distance to the next nearest school (i.e. if you live near a cluster of schools you're not disproportionately advantaged over people who live near no schools).

Response – 1) The School Place Planning report makes use of the latest data available for its projections. In projecting future needs the council also has to take into account the longer-term trends such as the protracted decline in birth rates which Haringey (and many London boroughs) have witnessed for several years. This had led to a growing surplus of primary school places that needs to be reduced to sustain our existing primary schools.

2) The consultation relates to the supply of Primary school places, Reception to Year 6.

3) Haringey is a relatively small London borough with over 60 primary school settings.

4) The statutory walking distance between home and school that the government thinks a child should be able to walk is two miles for children under eight years of age. There are a total of 64 primary schools across the borough and the LA is not aware of any properties within Haringey without access to school places within the statutory walking distance (2 miles).

Each year we are confident that we are able to offer all families a suitable placement within a reasonable travelling distance at one of their local schools.

View - It will tighten 'catchment' areas and therefore reduce choice for parents.

Response – The proposed reductions have been carefully selected by location and school to ensure a reduction in surplus (not required) school places. It is

unlikely that these proposed reductions will have any material impact on the likelihood of parents/carers obtaining a school of their preference. On National offer day 2022, almost 88% of parents/carers obtained their first place school preference whilst over 97% obtained one of their top three school preferences.

View - There are so many new builds in the area which will need schools for this residents

Response – New housing development is accounted for in our projections. In recent years boroughs across London (including Haringey) have seen the child yield (the number of children you might expect new housing to be responsible for) decline. There are likely to be many reasons for this including changing preferences, desire for smaller or no families, affordability, moving out of London and the suitability of housing itself.

View - Tottenham contains so much potential for young families, and has a much larger share of young population compared to the rest of the borough, why would you remove places ONLY from Tottenham and Wood Green schools?

Response – The fall in demand for primary school places has generally been greater in the East of the borough than the West which is one reason why there are a greater number of proposed reductions here. There are also more primary schools located in the East of the borough. We have evaluated those schools that have had and currently have the largest numbers of surplus places. We have also considered which schools are best located (regarding other schools and local levels of demand) and spoken to School Heads and Governors. This has been a collaborative process and we have the support of the proposed schools.

View - Reducing numbers will mean less funding for those schools, which will further deprive the area. Also, it would mean more competition for the other schools.

Response – We are proposing these reductions in capacity to maintain high standards across all of our primary schools by ensuring that school funding is maximised. Reducing capacity so that the balance between pupil numbers and the costs of running a school are more equitable should help to maintain high standards. The alternative, running schools with continued high surpluses of pupil places will undermine school finances far more and have a negative impact on teaching standards as resources are put under more strain.

The proposed reductions have been carefully selected by location and school to ensure a reduction in surplus (not required) school places. It is unlikely that these proposed reductions will have any material impact on the likelihood of parents/carers obtaining a school of their preference.

View – Concerned about the impact on funding and also sibling places as the parent of a current pupil with younger children

Response – The proposals aim to improve the balance of school funding. Reducing capacity so that the balance between pupil numbers and the costs of running a school are more equitable should help to maintain high standards. The

alternative, running schools with continued high surpluses of pupil places will undermine school finances far more and have a negative impact on teaching standards as resources are put under more strain.

The proposed reductions have been carefully selected by location and school to ensure a reduction in surplus (not required) school places. It is unlikely that these proposed reductions will have any material impact on the likelihood of parents/carers obtaining a school of their preference. Current projections show further falls in demand for primary school places between now and 2030.

View – Comparing your school place planning reports from 2021 and 2022, it seems your forecast for 2024/25 is now 150 pupils lower (925 to 775). Why then are you reducing places by 240?

Response – The question above relates to projections for Reception demand in Planning area 4 in the 2021 and 2022 editions of the School Place Planning report. The council has 5 planning areas for the purposes of school place planning. We have consulted with schools across ALL 5 planning areas in the East and West of the borough.

Of the proposed reductions in capacity, 4 or 120 relate to reductions in Planning area 4. The 240 figure mentioned in the question above relates to ALL proposed reductions not just those in Planning area 4.

View – Propose PAN reduction will mean losing more children to other local school and competition will increase.

Response – The proposals aim to improve the balance of school funding. Reducing capacity so that the balance between pupil numbers and the costs of running a school are more equitable should help to maintain high standards. The alternative, running schools with continued high surpluses of pupil places will undermine school finances far more and have a negative impact on teaching standards as resources are put under more strain.

6. Please use the space below if you have any other comments or views on the proposed admissions arrangements and co-ordinated schemes set out in Sections 1-8. N=5

View - Concerned that we will not get a place because of the reduction when Risley Avenue reduces size.

Response – The proposed reductions have been carefully selected by location and school to ensure a reduction in surplus (not required) school places. It is unlikely that these proposed reductions will have any material impact on the likelihood of parents/carers obtaining a school of their preference. Current projections show further falls in demand for primary school places between now and 2030.

View - Part 6 of the oversubscription criteria should be changed to not disadvantage people living in school 'deserts', who may live there because they cannot afford inflated house prices and rents nearer schools.

Response – The statutory walking distance between home and school that the government thinks a child should be able to walk is two miles for children under eight years of age. There are a total of 64 primary schools across the borough and the LA is not aware of any properties within Haringey without access to school places within the statutory walking distance (2 miles).

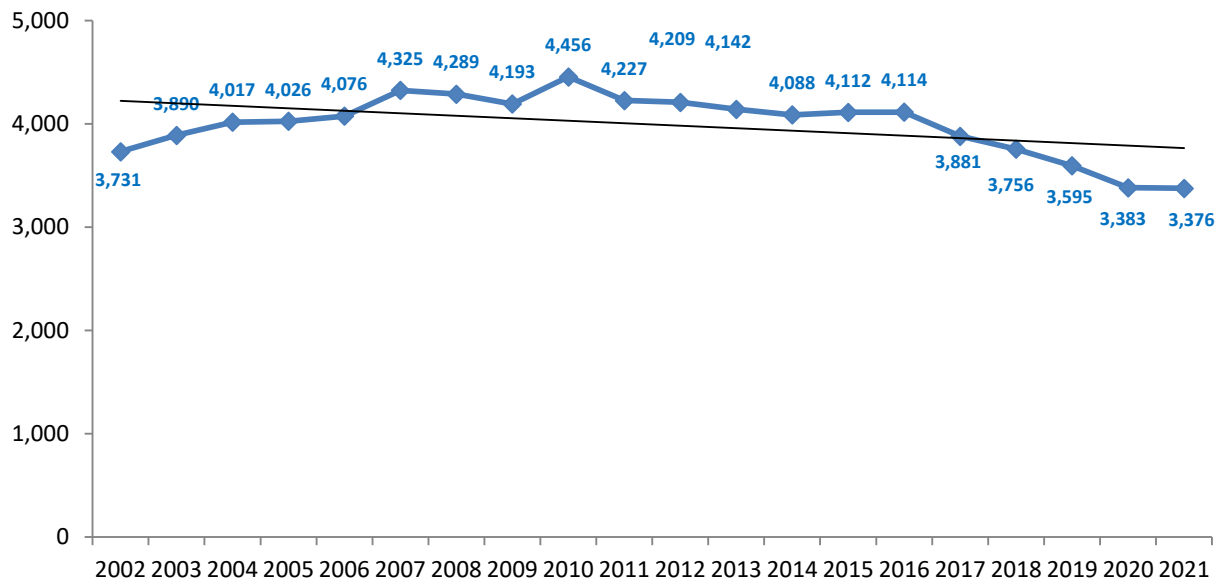
Each year we are confident that we are able to offer all families a suitable placement within a reasonable travelling distance at one of their local schools.

View - The birth rate has not decreased in this area. You need to check again for the year of 2021. People moving into the area with young children

Response – There has been no evidence of a Covid-period baby boom in Haringey or across London. In fact the latest data from the Office for National Statistics shows further declines in birth rates which are at their lowest level since at least 2002 – please see the latest data below from the Office for National Statistics which shows how significant the fall has been since 2010 when 4,456 births were recorded compared to only 3,376 in 2021.

Figure 16- Births in Haringey, 2002 to 2021

Source: ONS Birth data (2002-2021)



View - There has been a sharp increase in people moving to Tottenham in the last 5 years starting families in addition to longer standing residents. This seems incredibly short sighted.

Response – Over this period primary school places surpluses have been growing rather than shrinking. Changes in population composition or volatility do not necessary result in increases in demand for primary school places. School place planning is based on analysing many sources of data including time-series for consistency.

View - Instead of reducing the numbers , temporarily reduce only for one term and see the impact,

Response – The council has made many temporary reductions in PAN at various schools throughout the borough over several years. These only reduce capacity for one year at a time and have a limited beneficial impact on school finances. The council now needs to enshrine more permanent reductions in capacity to cope with continued falls in demand for school places.