

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS UPDATE

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REASON FOR ITEM

To provide the Committee with an update on the allocation of primary and secondary school places offered in the Borough for September 2017.

INFORMATION

Secondary School Places

PAN-London data on secondary school places offered was released on 1st March 2017. This provides information about the preferences of school places met across London.

1. The following table summarises the offers made to secondary school places in Hillingdon for the last five admission years and also compares the preferences met across London in 2017.

	Preferences for a School Place – Met/Offered						Preference 1-6	Other Offer
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th		
2017 number of apps	2305	497	235	116	54	36	3243	173
2017%	67.48%	14.55%	6.88%	3.40%	1.58%	1.05%	94.94%	5.06%
2016 number of apps	2359	477	179	100	65	31	3211	112
2016%	70.99%	14.35%	5.36%	3.00%	1.95%	0.93%	96.58%	3.37%
2015 number of apps	2267	400	177	55	42	16	2957	87
2015%	74.47%	13.14%	5.81%	1.81%	1.38%	0.53%	97.14%	2.86%
2014 number of apps	2287	352	150	69	39	20	2917	96
2014 %	75.90%	11.68%	4.97%	2.29%	1.29%	0.66%	96.81%	3.19%
2013 number of apps	2173	321	114	66	38	25	2737	52
2013 %	77.91%	11.51%	4.09%	2.37%	1.36%	0.90%	98.14%	1.86%
PAN London average 2017 %	68.15%	14.24%	6.24%	2.99%	1.56%	0.81%	93.99%	6.01%

Notes: percentages may not sum to 100% as applications which are then withdrawn by parents/guardians are not shown in the table.

2. There has been a 2 per cent increase in applications across London - Hillingdon experienced a 3 per cent increase. Despite the increase and a record high of 3,416 applications in total for secondary school places we remain as one of the top boroughs in West London for allocating school places at a school of choice.
3. On National Offer Day, 7 per cent of children in London didn't receive an offer - Hillingdon offered 100 per cent of our applicants a school place.
4. 94.9 per cent of Hillingdon pupils received one of their preferred choices.

5. 67.4 per cent of pupils were allocated their first choice of secondary school. Some parents choose to put a single school on their application form. Other parents, who are aware that all their preferences will be considered equally, may decide to use their first preference to rank a school which their child is less likely to be offered and put their more realistic options lower down the list. Therefore it is important to consider how well all preferences have been met, as these are likely to have been more than satisfactory to many parents.
6. There was also a rise in the number of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) applying to mainstream secondary schools. The council has worked hard to secure preferred school places in mainstream schools for children with SEND, and this success was highlighted in a recent [report by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission](#). The joint local area SEND inspection in Hillingdon report was published on 31 January 2017.
7. Abbotsfield School has undergone a £30.4 million investment offering an additional 75 places and will become a co-educational school from September 2017. The Council has also invested £35 million into new school buildings with state-of-the-art facilities at Northwood School to provide 1,080 school places, which included an expansion to provide an additional 30 places in each year group as the school grows.

Primary School Places

PAN-London data on secondary school places offered was released on 18 April 2017. This provides information about the preferences of school places met across London.

8. The following table summarises the offers made to primary school places in Hillingdon for the last five admission years and also compares the preferences met across London in 2017.

	Preferences for a School Place Met/Offered						Preference 1-6	Other Offer
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th		
2017 number of apps	3478	269	77	24	9	4	3861	60
2017%	88.7%	6.9%	2.0%	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%	98.5%	1.5%
2016 number of apps	3506	309	101	63	23	11	4013	81
2016%	85.64%	7.57%	2.42%	1.54%	0.54%	0.27%	97.98%	1.97%
2015 number of apps	3517	301	134	42	16	6	4016	110
2015%	85.18%	7.29%	3.24%	1.02%	0.39%	0.15%	97.27%	2.66%
2014 number of apps	3326	325	116	44	27	13	3851	66
2014%	84.39%	8.25%	2.94%	1.12%	0.69%	0.33%	97.72%	1.79%
2013 number of apps	3161	283	119	62	21	9	3655	126
2013 %	83.6%	7.48%	3.15%	1.64%	0.56%	0.24%	96.67%	3.33%
PAN London Average 2017 %	83.59%	7.72%	2.96%	1.36%	0.60%	0.35%	96.58%	3.42%

Notes: percentages may not sum to 100% as applications which are then withdrawn by parents/guardians are not shown in the table.

9. There has been a 4 per cent decrease in applications across London - Hillingdon experienced a 2.5 per cent decrease.
10. 98.5 per cent of Hillingdon pupils received one of their preferred choices. This was the highest across West London and above the London average.
11. 88.7 per cent of pupils were allocated their first choice of primary school. Some parents choose to put a single school on their application form. Other parents, who are aware that all their preferences will be considered equally, may decide to use their first preference to rank a school which their child is less likely to be offered and put their more realistic options lower down the list. Therefore it is important to consider how well all preferences have been met, as these are likely to have been more than satisfactory to many parents.
12. The Local Authority supported Hillingdon residents who were likely to be impacted upon by Pinner Wood School in Harrow which had to leave their site due to health and safety concerns. Officers spoke to 20 Hillingdon parents who would have been allocated a place for their child at Pinner Wood School in September. Parents were offered a duplicate offer to ensure their child would have a secure school place during the uncertainty surrounding the future of the school site. This support was greatly appreciated by residents and 19 of the 20 residents agreed to an additional Hillingdon school offer for National Offer Day. Since then 13 of the 19 parents have continued to accept the additional offer.