

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS UPDATE

Committee name	Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
Officer reporting	Dan Kennedy – Residents Services
Papers with report	None
Ward	All

HEADLINES

To provide the Committee with an update on the allocation of primary and secondary school places offered in the Borough for September 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee:

- Note the information within the report.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Secondary School Places

PAN-London data on secondary school places offered was released on 1st March 2018. This provides information about the preferences of school places met across London.

- 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 2018.

	Preferences for a School Place – Met/Offered							
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Preference 1-6	Other Offer
2018 number of apps	2329	472	227	126	71	48	3273	168
2018%	67.68%	13.72%	6.60%	3.66%	2.06%	1.39%	95.11%	4.89%
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%
PAN London average 2018 %	66.01%	14.82%	6.48%	3.25%	1.57%	0.89%	93.02%	6.98%

Notes: percentages may not sum to 100% as applications which are then withdrawn by parents/guardians are not shown in the table.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 4.4 per cent increase in applications across London - Hillingdon experienced a 0.7 per cent increase reflecting a growing population and a higher demand for school places. Despite the increase and a record high of 3,441 applications in total for secondary school places Hillingdon remains as the top borough in West London for families receiving an offer at one of their preferred secondary schools. To meet the challenge, Hillingdon Council is investing £260 million into its school expansions programme, which is one of the largest in London.
3. On National Offer Day Hillingdon offered 100 per cent of our applicants a school place.
4. Parents applying for selective schools, where places are based on a child's ability or subject aptitude but there is no pre-determined pass mark, can have no certainty of being offered a place, as this is dependent not only on how their child does in a test, but how they perform in relation to other applicants.
5. Similarly, although applicants for denominational schools may be confident that they will meet criteria based on the degree of church attendance or commitment, the offer of a place will depend on the number of other applicants who do so and other criteria which are used as a tie-breaker (such as distance from the school).
6. 95.11 per cent of Hillingdon pupils received one of their preferred choices. This is above the London average of 93.02 per cent.
7. 67.68 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.
8. To meet the growing demand for school places in the borough, we have invested £12.3 million to rebuild and expand Oak Wood School in Hillingdon, formerly Abbotsfield School, which is providing 1,350 secondary school places in the borough. This includes the Vocational Training Centre.
9. Hillingdon have also approved plans to offer an additional 300 secondary school places at Vyners School in Ickenham, and the expansion of Ruislip High School will create a further 174 extra places for future admissions.

10. Swakeleys School have permanently expanded to offer an additional 60 places for each year 7 year group from September 2018 which continues to support choice for parents.

Primary School Places

PAN-London data on primary school places offered was released on 16 April 2018. This provides information about the preferences of school places met across London.

11. 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 2018.

	Preferences for a School Place Met/Offered							
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Preference 1-6	Other Offer
2018 number of apps	3481	262	79	22	8	3	3855	54
2018%	89.05%	6.70%	2.02%	0.56%	0.20%	0.08%	98.61%	1.39%
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%
PAN London Average 2018 %	86.55%	7.21%	2.26%	0.96%	0.41%	0.22%	97.61%	2.39%

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

12. There has been a 2.3 per cent decrease in applications across London - Hillingdon experienced a 0.3 per cent decrease. The Pan London Admissions Board are aware that lower birth rates in 2014 could affect the number of children starting primary school in London this year. It is also expected that a range of other factors, including property prices in some areas and welfare reform changes, have also contributed to this.
13. Despite Hillingdon still receiving high levels of demand for school places, 98.6 per cent of applicants received an offer at one of their preferred primary schools, which is above the London average (97.6 per cent) and the highest across West London.
14. Hillingdon Council received 3,909 applications and has offered 97.77 per cent of pupils one of their top three schools, with 89.05 per cent of primary school children receiving their first choice.

15. On National Offer Day Hillingdon offered 100 per cent of our applicants a school place.
16. 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.
17. The council has continued to meet increasing demand for school places and has invested more than £153 million into primary schools as part of a wider £260 million school expansion programme, which is one of the largest programmes in London.
18. Since 2011, the council has built three new state-of-the-art primary schools and permanently expanded 24 existing schools in Hillingdon to create 6,615 new primary school places. Work is underway to provide a further 420 places at Hillside Infant and Junior Schools in Northwood, and Warrender Primary in Ruislip.

Implications on related Council policies

There are no direct implications on council policies arising from this report.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

Investment in schools to adequately address the impact of the population increase within the London Borough of Hillingdon has ensured every child has been offered a school place as close to home as possible.

Financial Implications

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations set out above.

Legal Implications

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Legal advice is provided whenever necessary, in particular cases, to ensure that the Council's Interests are protected.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL