

QUARTERLY SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING UPDATE

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

HEADLINES

The purpose of this report is to provide the Residents, Education & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee with the Schools October 2019 Census and updated projections for primary and secondary school rolls in Hillingdon. Overall trends are of a plateau in primary rolls and evidence of an increase in the number of pupils on secondary rolls. A small number of primary schools have plans to reduce their surplus of places. Options to meet the growing need for additional Year 7 places over the next five years are being progressed. Demand for school places can change from year to year and area to area, due to changing parental preferences, the geography of the borough and the location of schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

- 1. Note the October 2019 school Census shows current Primary and Secondary school rolls have a combined total roll of 48,538 pupils - over 51,000 including nursery and sixth forms. This is an increase on the previous year.**
- 2. Note that demand for primary places has plateaued and remains high. Where there are surplus places, these are mainly concentrated in a few schools. A small number of schools are working to reduce their surplus places.**
- 3. Note the increasing demand for Year 7 secondary places from 2020 onwards which will remain high for at least the next seven years, as the pupils are already in primary schools.**
- 4. Note that options are being considered by Members to meet the projected increase in secondary school places and proposals will be reported back to the Committee once confirmed by lead Members and due process.**
- 5. Question officers about the update.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Updated Forecast 2019/20 - 2026/27

- 6. The Council has a legal duty to ensure every child is offered a school place (the 'sufficiency' duty'). Analysing trends in pupil numbers on 'roll' and preparing forecasts are important tools**

Classification: Public

Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee – 25 February 2020

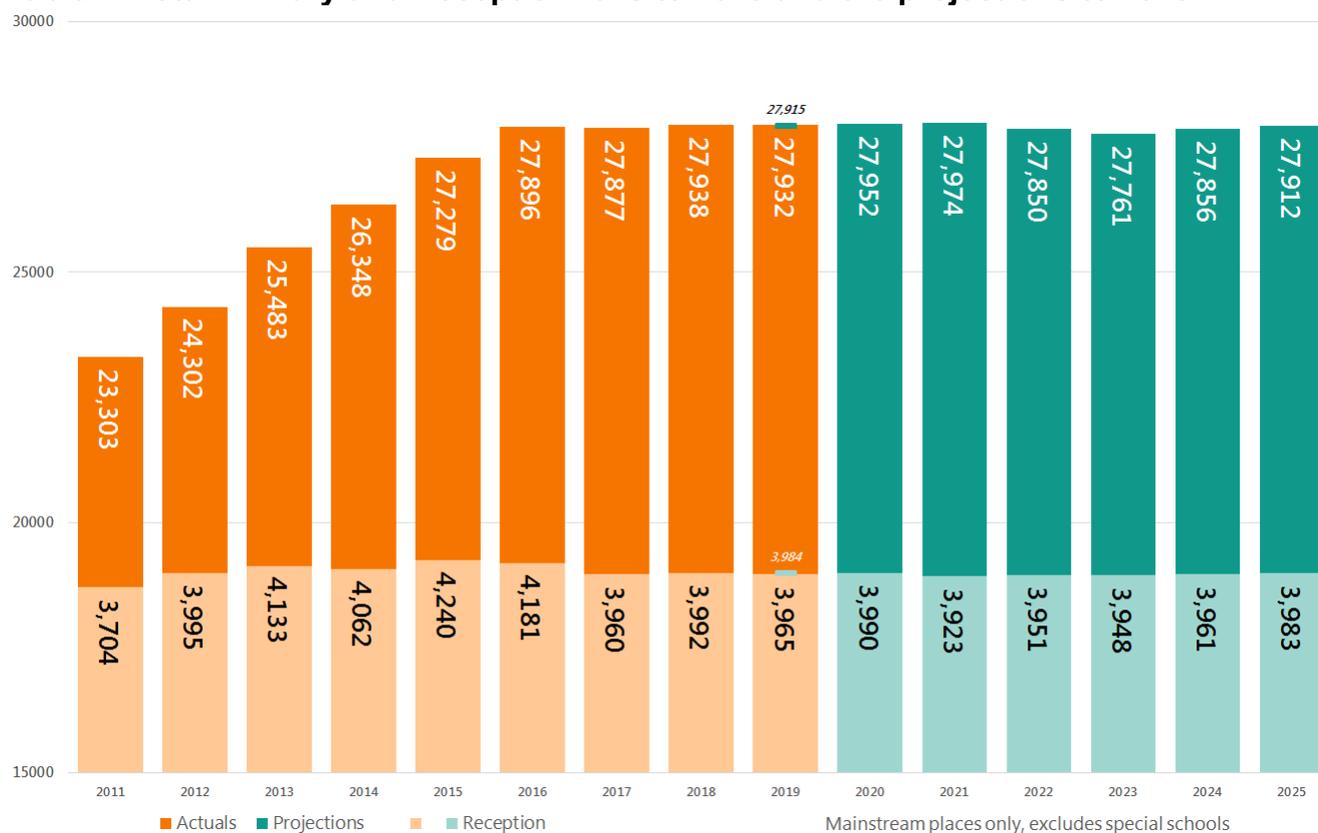
and need to be considered alongside actual rolls in each school which vary due to local context, parental preferences and the relative popularity of schools, including those out of the borough. Forecasts can only be a guideline which requires some judgements.

7. Hillingdon is experiencing volatility in rolls, up and down. 55% of primary and 95% of secondary schools are completely full in their intake year - Reception or Year 7. About half are full in every year group. This follows huge expansion in schools and the opening of new schools since 2010. Large new housing developments are still coming on stream and housing costs are rising, particularly rents, and rising employment of young single adults has led to more renting in HMOs, and so fewer families in some areas. Across London there is some uncertainty in population movements due to major external factors.
8. Considerations for school places planning include:
 - a. Most schools are graded 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted and none are inadequate. Many parents are well informed and aware of the excellence of many of our schools and some are prepared to travel some distance at primary as well as secondary level to secure a school place of choice.
 - b. Sibling links give priority for school admissions, often even if parents have moved house.
 - c. Demand has been affected in some areas by lower levels of house sales and in others by new residential developments, as well as changes to migration influenced by housing costs, employment prospects and currency exchange rates.
 - d. Anecdotally some schools report some families are moving out of the Borough due to rising housing costs. Also there is a small but rising number of pupils from temporary housing mainly in the far south of the Borough, who are new arrivals in the Borough.
 - e. A gradually increasing number of pupils with Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) are taking priority for first preferences in popular mainstream schools.

Primary School Rolls

9. After over a decade of increasing demand, overall primary school rolls reached a plateau in 2016/17 and Reception intakes have since continued to be stable and the projections are for minor rises and falls to 2026. This is shown in Table 1, below.

Table 1. Total Primary and Reception rolls to 2019 and the projections to 2025.



10. Capacity rose dramatically to meet the surges in Reception demand over the last decade. It is also worth noting that places need to be available for in-year moves in each area.

11. Overall, currently 12.8% of primary places are available and this would slowly rise if no action is taken. This is the typical pattern across greater London. The vacant places are concentrated, with half of all the vacancies in just six schools. These schools are already operating some or all year groups below the level of their PAN. Therefore discussions with schools, Trusts and lead members have led to proposals that will meet the needs of local parents to access schools whilst ensuring schools have more stable class sizes and can manage their staffing and budgets to best serve pupils and residents.

12. Within the Primary places picture there are noticeable shifts over the past few years:

- Rising rolls are filling primary schools in Uxbridge and down the western side of the borough to West Drayton.
- Declining rolls and fewer pupils in primary schools close to Heathrow both north and south of the M4 and in north Hillingdon, Harefield and Northwood/Pinner.
- These reflect housing costs, fewer sales and fewer families moving in, HMOs in mid and north Hillingdon and lower sales in the north. Uncertainty about the Heathrow airport expansion has led to some local homes being rented as temporary housing to vulnerable families with a few schools experiencing increased mobility of pupils.

13. Annex 1 shows a map of the Borough's 14 Primary Planning Areas (PPA). These defined

areas are used as the basis for primary school places planning.

14. The key issues in each Primary Planning Area are:

PPA 1 Harefield

This is a largely predominantly rural area with two villages served by a federated infant and junior school, which must meet the local fluctuating demand, since other primary schools are over two miles away. A reduction in the number of forms could never be considered. A few pupils are from Hertfordshire, and some travel distances with parents working at the hospital. The PAN is 90 but year groups currently average 69.

PPA 2 Northwood

Demand has fluctuated, since schools are close to residential areas of Harrow and Hertfordshire but overall numbers have declined since 2016, both of new Reception and of parents moving out of the area. Anecdotally schools report the area has had a drop in house sales and of a throughput in new families. Two schools are operating all or some classes below PAN and there are temporary caps on some year groups to ensure an efficient distribution of pupils and to minimise financial and organization problems to the schools whilst continuing to monitor the overall demand in the area.

PPA 3 North Ruislip

Previous demand pressures for additional school places led to the expansion of one school, but another Voluntary Aided school reduced its PAN as its popularity and location were not best meeting local demand, and this was agreed by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator in Autumn 2018. Projections show that surplus places will be just under 10%. There is some pupil movement between PPAs 3, 4 & 5.

PPA 4 Ickenham

The two schools in this PPA are popular and have filled up over the decade and attract applications from outside the immediate area. There are sufficient places to meet the total demand.

PPA 5 Ruislip

Despite large residential development, pupil movement is limited by geographical constraints such as RAF Northolt and major roads, and demand is cross-borough as the two largest schools are close to the border with Harrow. Work is underway to consider options to manage the surplus primary places in this area.

PPA 6 Uxbridge

This area covers the town centre and the major development on the former RAF base which will include 1,300 new homes, and a new school. The residential completions by private developers has been more gradual than expected which has therefore meant that places at the new school have been taken by children and subsequently their siblings. Other schools have also expanded and filled, clearly with some pupils from outside the PPA, linked to parents working in the town centre. Demand and supply are being closely monitored. There is forecast to be sufficient capacity locally, given the spaces nearby in PPA 7.

PPA 7 Hillingdon

This is a predominantly residential area, just south of the central Uxbridge area. Demand for places has declined in two schools, potentially due to an increase in rented properties leading to fewer families and more working single adults living in the area. After some

years of falling rolls, Ryefield Academy has consulted to reduce its PAN of 90 by 30 from September 2021. Most year groups are below 60. The recent pattern of household moves, and of pupils travelling to schools outside their planning area across PPA 6, 7,8, 9,11 is being carefully monitored.

PPA 8 Hayes/ Charville

Demand for Reception places has slowed in the area and families have moved out of the borough, and some local pupils are travelling to schools outside their planning area across PPA 6, 7, 8, 9, 11. This is being monitored. Two schools have experienced falling rolls leaving them with uneven year groups. Caps on specific year groups are being considered by schools to try to stabilise the places across the schools. The option for PAN reductions may be considered.

PPA 9 Yeading

Demand fluctuates as this area is next to Ealing and it was affected by the suspension of admissions at Nanaksar Primary (PPA 11) which are planned to restart from September 2020 Reception, and draws pupils from a wider area due to its faith aspect. Brookside Academy serves a distinct residential area, borders Ealing and has had low rolls for some time (one of the six schools with higher surplus places).

PPA 10 Yiewsley

The three schools are popular, full and stable. Forecast demand for places is expected to continue over the forecast period, with a small margin of capacity.

PPA 11 Hayes & Wood End

This is a diverse area, with more primary places and schools than any other and significant housing developments still continuing, as well as Crossrail. It is the largest concentration of population in the borough and adjacent to PPAs 7,8, 9, 10 and 12 and to Heathrow so could be affected if the expansion plans proceed. There are still external uncertainties in the size and timing of housing developments and their likely child yield. Nanaksar Primary opened with Reception entries in 2013 & 2014 but then had to suspend entries pending a new building and now plans to restart in 2020 but at half its PAN of 120 until the new building is complete (funded by DfE as a Free School). This gap put significant pressure on the availability of places in this and adjoining areas. However, in the past two years demand overall has declined, and though more housing is planned to come on stream it is expected the reopening of Nanaksar will be enough to ensure sufficient places across the area, though its faith admissions criteria and location next to Ealing mean it will serve a wider area than only PPA 11. The size and volatility of this area may mean some schools will have temporary caps on certain year groups to promote stable classes, or even need temporary variations to their PAN.

PPA 12 Hayes Cranford Harlington

All three schools, and the communities they serve, have experienced volatility due to changes of housing tenure linked to ongoing uncertainty around the Heathrow airport expansion. Pinkwell has the largest number of surplus places in the borough, having expanded to PAN 150 and has consulted on a reduction of 60 to PAN 90.

All the schools would be very seriously affected by the plans set out for the Heathrow airport expansion. Some housing is now leased by the airport and airlines for their staff, without children, and some is leased by government agencies for temporary rehousing of vulnerable families. Some pupils have been moved several times but travel back to the

same school. Some families move out of London mid-year, creating high mobility in a few schools and disrupting many pupils' education. The situation is being monitored.

PPA 13 Harmondsworth (Heathrow area)

Currently the two schools in this PPA serve distinct villages and communities, though there has been some change in the pupil population as more housing has been vacated and taken over by agencies for temporary housing. The Council opposes the plan for Heathrow Airport expansion which includes a proposal to demolish Harmondsworth school in 2022, along with much of its local housing, and to rebuild the school within two miles, but in PPA 14 on a site the airport has identified. Heathrow school had been under threat of demolition for most of the past decade but the proposal now leaves it very close to the runway and a major construction compound, whilst removing most of the local housing and residents and altering local access roads.

In September 2019, Cabinet agreed a response to the consultation by Heathrow Airport on its plans for expansion and changed operations; pointing out these would seriously affect the continued existence of both schools in PPA 13 and the families they currently serve and also raises serious issues for schools and communities in PPA 12 and most of those in PPA 14.

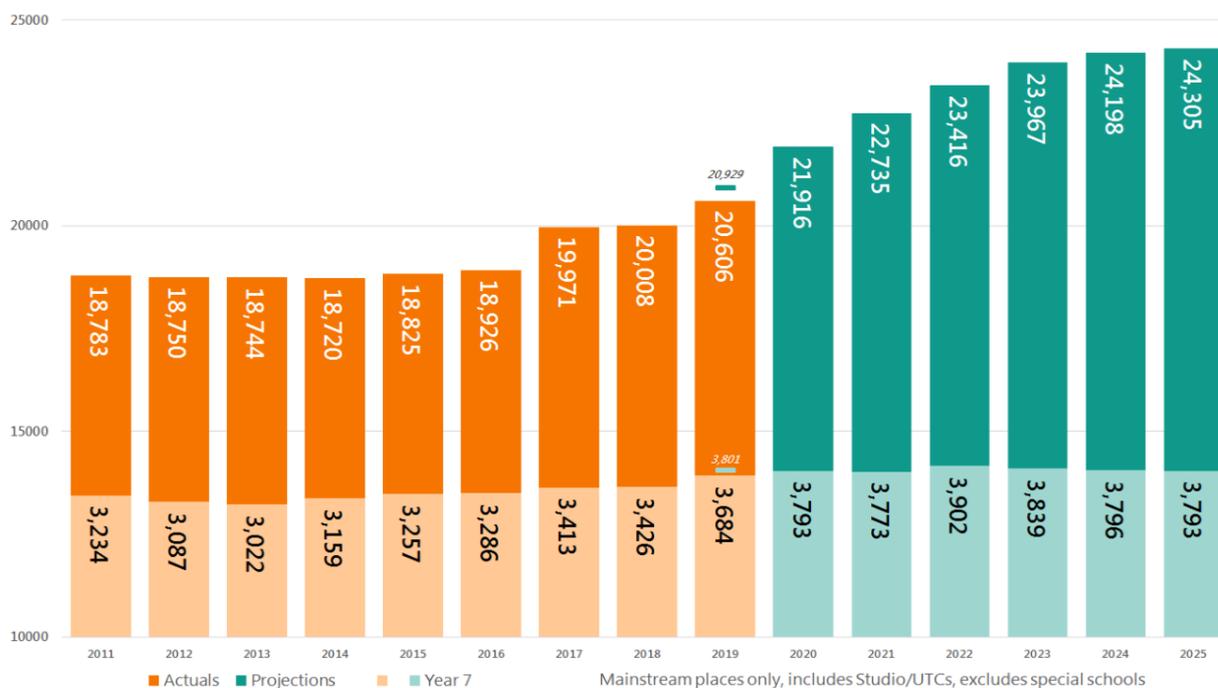
PPA 14 West Drayton

Several local schools are full as this PPA contains a Crossrail station and has significant new housing, but two schools have lower rolls.

Secondary Place Planning

15. Overall secondary rolls started to rise in 2017 and this will continue as shown in Table 2:

Table 2 - Secondary School Places Demand - Year 7 and Total - Actual Rolls to 2019 & Projections to 2025



16. There are two secondary planning areas, north and south of the A40. Some pupils from the south attend schools in the north, and two schools in the north have over half their pupils from the south. This is partly due to faith schools and access by the footbridge over the A40

Classification: Public

which makes two schools in the north very close and accessible to some living to the south. On the 2019 offer day this movement was 452 pupils; 15 FE, a large rise on previous years.

17. This highlights that the operation of the different admission criteria and parental preferences creates outcomes very different from a direct link of capacity by demand. Also, 15% of all resident secondary pupils go to schools out-of-borough (mainly to the west) and about 15% of pupils in the secondary schools come from out-borough (mainly from the east) - though this ranges from 0% to 58% in individual schools. This fluctuates and requires a margin of spaces both north and south to absorb annual variations, as was possible until 2018 when Year 7 admissions began to rise as high primary numbers moved up year groups. In September 2018, all but three schools offered over 95% of their places. Most vacant places at Year 7 were in one school in the far north.
18. In recent years significant expansion and provision of new facilities has increased capacity and improved facilities at secondary schools across the borough. An extra 3FE opened across two schools for Year 7 in September 2019. Year 7, like Reception, is filled on National Offer Day through the pan-London computer matching the available places with parent preferences prioritised 1-6 (including out-of-borough choices). The aim is to maximise the number of parents receiving a higher preference offer.
19. Some secondary schools are extremely over-subscribed on first preferences each year, (albeit some are unrealistic given the information schools and the local authority provide about the previous years successful entrants). However, it is true that some of the secondary schools, after higher priority preference categories are considered (e.g. ECHPs, LAC) are increasingly offering pupils a school place from distances which are closer to home / school as demand for places increases.
20. The number of pupils offered a school place can fluctuate between national offer day (in March for secondary schools) and the start of the term in September. In 2019, on offer day 3,764 places were offered, 13 more than the total PAN of 3,751, but the number actually on roll at the October 2019 census was 3,684. Of note, this was the first year for a while with a net export of pupils, with a higher number of Hillingdon residents (167) securing places in Slough grammar schools, 81 to just one school. However, all this fluctuates and is challenging to estimate from year to year.
21. For September 2020, the national offer day will be March 2nd. There are more applications than last year and 60 fewer places (at Harefield Academy). 100 extra temporary places are being offered by schools across the borough.
22. As pupil numbers rise towards a peak in 2022/23, and then drop slightly, but remain high, there is a need for additional secondary school places over the next 5 years. A range of options are being actively progressed, including:
 - the provision of a new secondary Free School, which has been approved by the Department of Education;
 - additional places at a secondary school in the south of the Borough;
 - additional temporary bulge year groups to absorb localised, temporary pressures;
 - permanent expansions to existing secondary schools.

Financial Implications

23. The financial implications are being reviewed of the different options for meeting future demand for secondary school places, both capital and revenue, as part of the Council's budget setting process.

Implications on related Council policies

24. A key role of the Policy Overview Committees is to monitor council services and also make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

25. The report outlines the work taking place by the Council to ensure every child has a place at a quality school.

Financial Implications

26. The report is for information only. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

27. None.

Background Papers

28. NIL

ANNEXES

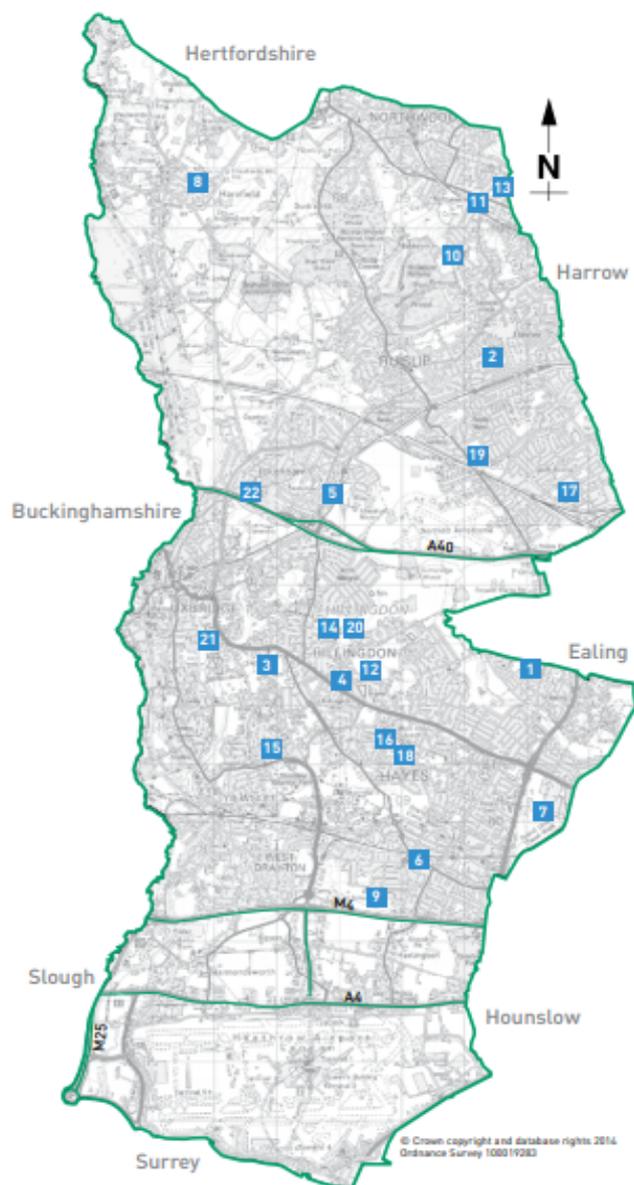
Annex 1 - Primary Planning Areas (PPA 1-14)



1. Harefield
2. Frithwood, Harlyn, Hillside, Holy Trinity CofE
3. Bishop Winnington Ingram CofE, Coteford, Warrender, Whiteheath
4. Breakspear, Glebe
5. Bourne, Deanesfield, Field End, Lady Bankes, Newnham, Ruislip Gardens, Sacred Heart RC, St Swithun Wells RC
6. Cowley St Laurence, Hermitage, John Locke Academy, St Andrew's CofE, St Andrews Park CofE, St Mary's RC, Whitehall
7. Highfield County, Hillingdon, Oak Farm, Ryefield, St Bernadette's RC
8. Charville, Grange Park, Hayes Park, Hewens
9. Belmore, Brookside, Yeading
10. Colham Manor, Rabbsfarm, St Matthew's CofE
11. Botwell House RC, Dr Triplett's CofE, Guru Nanak Sikh, Lake Farm Park Academy, Minet, Nanaksar Sikh, Rosedale College, Wood End Park
12. Cranford Park, Pinkwell, William Byrd
13. Harmondsworth, Heathrow
14. Cherry Lane, Laurel Lane, St Catherine's RC, St Martin's CofE, West Drayton

Annex 2 - Map of Hillingdon Secondary Schools

Where to find secondary schools in Hillingdon



Key

- A** Academy
- F** Foundation school
- S** Studio college (14 to 19 year olds only)
- U** University technical college (14 to 19 year olds only)

Please note: Each school's status is correct at the time of publication.

- 1** **A** **Barnhill Community High School**
Hayes (DfE 5412)
- 2** **A** **Bishop Ramsey C of E School**
Ruislip (DfE 4600)
- 3** **A** **Bishopshalt School**
Hillingdon (DfE 5400)
- 4** **S** **De Salis Studio College**
Hayes (DfE 4009)
- 5** **A** **The Douay Martyrs School**
Ickenham (DfE 5408)
- 6** **U** **Global Academy**
Hayes (DfE 4014)
- 7** **A** **Guru Nanak Sikh Academy**
Hayes (DfE 4654)
- 8** **A** **The Harefield Academy**
Harefield (DfE 6906)
- 9** **F** **Harlington School**
Hayes (DfE 5411)
- 10** **A** **Haydon School**
Eastcote (DfE 5401)
- 11** **U** **UTC Heathrow**
Northwood (DfE 4002)
- 12** **A** **Hewens College**
Hayes (DfE 5407)
- 13** **A** **Northwood School**
Northwood (DfE 5405)
- 14** **F** **Oak Wood School**
Hillingdon (DfE 5409)
- 15** **A** **Park Academy West London**
Yiewsley (DfE 4021)
- 16** **S** **Parkside Studio College**
Hayes (DfE 4000)
- 17** **A** **Queensmead School**
South Ruislip (DfE 5403)
- 18** **A** **Rosedale College**
Hayes (DfE 5406)
- 19** **A** **Ruislip High School**
Ruislip Manor (DfE 4023)
- 20** **A** **Swakeleys School for Girls**
Hillingdon (DfE 5410)
- 21** **A** **Uxbridge High School**
Uxbridge (DfE 5404)
- 22** **A** **Vyners School**
Ickenham (DfE 5402)