

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS UPDATE

Committee name	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Laura Baldry, School Placement & Admissions Manager
Papers with report	None
Ward	All

HEADLINES

This report provides an overview of the number of Move-ins to the borough, the number of In Year applications received and an update on Primary and Secondary Allocations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Children, Families & Education Select Committee note the contents of the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In Year applications

When compared to the previous academic year, Hillingdon has received and processed an increased number of In Year applications during 2023/24. The table below demonstrates data specific to move-ins to the borough for the last academic year (Sept 2023 - Aug 2024), as well as the numbers for this academic year to date.

Date	Primary	Secondary	Total
01/09/2022 - 31/08/2023	2377	1438	3815
01/09/2023 - 31/08/2024	2534	1391	3925*
01/09/2024 - 31/03/2025**	1397	902	2299

*This is an increase of 2.9% compared to the previous year

** Sept 2024- Mar 2025

Move Ins

The table below shows the number of applications which have been received for children applying for a secondary school place that have either newly arrived from overseas or from another local authority. The data provided illustrates the top three countries or local authorities' children have arrived from. This equates to 22.8% of the total applications received for secondary admissions so far this year.

Previous Country	Total - 177 have arrived from abroad	Previous LA	Total – 29 moved in from another LA
India	24	Ealing	6
Nigeria	12	Slough	4
Pakistan	16	Hounslow	4

The table below shows the number of applications which have been received for children applying for a primary school place that have either newly arrived from overseas or from another local authority. The data provided illustrates the top three countries or local authorities' children have arrived from. This equates to 17.9% of the total applications received for primary admission so far this year.

Previous Country	Total – 135 have arrived from abroad	Previous LA	Total – 115 moved in from another LA
Ghana	6	Ealing	25
India	41	Brent	14
Pakistan	9	Harrow	8

Below are the number of applications which have been received from families residing in hotels so far, this academic year compared to the previous two years

Primary		Secondary	
2022-2023	221	2022-2023	121
2023-2024	98	2023-2024	59
01/09/2024 31/03/2025	67	01/09/2024 31/03/2025	67

Fair Access Panel

62 children have been presented through Fair Access Panel so far, this academic year; this compares to 97 for the same period on the last academic year. This represents a 36% decrease in demand for places via Fair Access Panel, with the majority of placements being for Year 11 children (66%).

This decline marks a continuing trend which is largely attributable to the reduction in families living in hotel accommodation in the south of the borough which was used for temporary housing.

Current position of In Year Admissions for the new academic year

The team are actively processing applications as and when they are received to ensure children are offered a school place promptly to avoid any drift and delay in the provision of education, where possible.

Secondary vacancy breakdown

School Name	Year Group				
	7	8	9	10	11
De Salis Studio College	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	3
Harefield School	50	22	33	54	44
Haydon School	146	73	52	6	56
Hewens College	62	28	41	0	8
Oak Wood School	13	6	0	0	13
Park Academy West London	25	10	6	7	0
Parkside Studio College	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	36
Rosedale College	6	10	19	0	0
Swakeleys School for Girls	5	0	2	11	16

The Douay Martyrs Catholic School	0	8	0	8	0
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*Accurate up to 02/04/25

For our primary cohort, we have sufficient vacancies across all year groups, borough wide.

Allocations

Secondary Allocations for September 2025

We received and processed 3626 Hillingdon applications within timescales. All children received an offer on National Offer Day, 3rd March 2025. Of these, 67.15% received an offer at their first preference school, 88.16% received an offer at their 1st to 3rd preference school and 94.12% received their 1st to 6th preference school. The remaining 5.88% received an unallocated offer.

Since National Offer Day, the team have been chasing parents who have not responded to offers and have contacted parents wishing to decline their child's offer. These declines have been for a range of reasons, including going to a private school, moved out of borough/country, elective home education, or wanting a higher preference school.

The first round of late offers will be made on Friday 4th April 2025, these will incorporate any late preferences or applications received. Late offers are scheduled to be made on a fortnightly basis until the end of June 2025, where offers will then be made as and when places become available.

Primary Allocations for September 2025

National Offer Day for Primary Allocations is Wednesday 16th April 2025.

The team have received 3464 Hillingdon applications from children applying for Reception in September 2025 within timescales. Officers are at the final stages of confirming offers for these applicants and lists will then be shared with all Primary schools during the Easter holidays. The team are continuing to receive late applications and are regularly reminding schools of children who are yet to apply. This will continue until the end of the summer term.

Private school applications:

With the announcement in July 2024 that the government will be bringing in VAT for private schools from January 2025, the team have monitored the number of applications being received from parents of children looking to move their child from the private school to a state school. The number of applications received has double compared to the same time last year (Sept 23 – Mar 24) however compared to the number of applications received during the same period, the impact has been minimal (1.96%).

Date	In Year Round	Number of applications received
Sept 23 – Aug 24	Primary In Year	29
Sept 23 – Mar 24	Primary In Year	8
Sept 24 – Mar 25	Primary In Year	16
Sept 23 – Aug 24	Secondary In Year	41
Sept 23 – Mar 24	Secondary In Year	14
Sept 24 – Mar 25	Secondary In Year	29

Plans moving forward:

As a Council, we will ensure we are able to adjust to both increases and reductions in demand for school places, working in partnership with our schools and partners. The Admissions team works closely with our Place Planning colleagues and Education Improvement Advisors to manage these changes and conversations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

APPENDICES

NIL.