

London Borough of Hillingdon

School Organisation Plan



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Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Section 1 Introduction | 4 |
| 1.1 Purpose and scope | 4 |
| Section 2 Context | 5 |
| 2.1 Government Regulations, Guidance and Policies | 5 |
| 2.2 Funding and Delivery | 6 |
| 2.3 Hillingdon Demographics | 7 |
| 2.4 Hillingdon School | 8 |
| 2.5 Pupil Forecasting | 12 |
| Section 3 Strategy | 14 |
| 3.1 Place Planning | 14 |
| 3.2 Childcare and Early Education | 17 |
| 3.3 Primary Place Planning | 19 |
| 3.4 Secondary Place Planning | 21 |
| 3.5 Post 16 Planning | 23 |
| 3.6 Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - Special Schools & Alternative Provision Planning | 24 |
| 3.7 Next Steps | 32 |

Foreword from the Director of Education & SEND

One of the Council's core commitments to residents is to provide thriving, healthy households where children, young people, their families and vulnerable adults and older people live healthy, active, and independent lives.

The School Organisation Plan is crucial to meeting this ambition, as it sets out the approach as to how we will manage surplus capacity in our schools, whilst ensuring sufficiency of places in all sectors of education, to ensure the best outcomes for our children and young people and sustainability of schools.

“Hillingdon's children and young people are the future of Hillingdon. We are just as ambitious for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and those who access alternative provision, as we are for every other child.” Hillingdon Local Area SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy for Children and Young People 0-25 years.

We are keen to continue to strengthen our partnership working with Headteachers, governors and families as part of our strategic planning of education provision, working together to review the education landscape to manage the increases and decreases in demand for school places.

Abi Preston

Director of Education & SEND

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Scope

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient places for every resident pupil (Education Act 1996, Section 14).

The Council continues to invest in education capacity and quality through the provision of school support and monitoring, and the expansion of schools where needed to meet demand. The Council's investment in new and modern education buildings and facilities continues to provide the high-quality learning environment that Hillingdon children need.

The mixed economy of Council maintained schools and academies/free schools in the Borough gives the Council a dynamic but central role in securing the best educational outcomes for children and young people in the Borough. Working in partnership with school leaders, multi-academy trusts and other relevant responsible authorities, the Council continues to promote high standards for all learners and to challenge underperformance where this occurs.

The Council must plan, organise, and commission places for all state-funded schools in Hillingdon to ensure high standards are maintained, diverse school communities supported, and sufficient places are available.

The demand for school places changes over time - this document is 'live' and, as such, will be updated annually. It sets out the Council's current projections over the next 7 years in order to understand where there will be a need to provide more school places and if there may be a need to provide fewer places. Increases in demand can lead to the creation of a new school or the expansion of existing schools, whereas decreases in demand can lead to a reduction in school provision.

We strive to communicate effectively with schools and school communities about the pressure for places in each area. However, the Council also endeavours to manage expectations regarding school organisation proposals. This document does not seek to definitively set out all the actions the Council intends to take in the future but rather is intended to provide an overview and outline our strategy to manage any changes effectively.

This document aims to present schools, governing bodies, and residents with the following:

- An overview of the education landscape in Hillingdon
- A summary of current pupil numbers and projected demand in primary and secondary phases, including specialist provision
- Options in place for the Council to consider when determining the need to increase or reduce school places

The School Organisation Plan will be updated annually with the latest census and School Capacity Survey (SCAP) data and forecasts. This may result in changes to existing proposals as the Council responds to the latest demographic changes in the Borough.

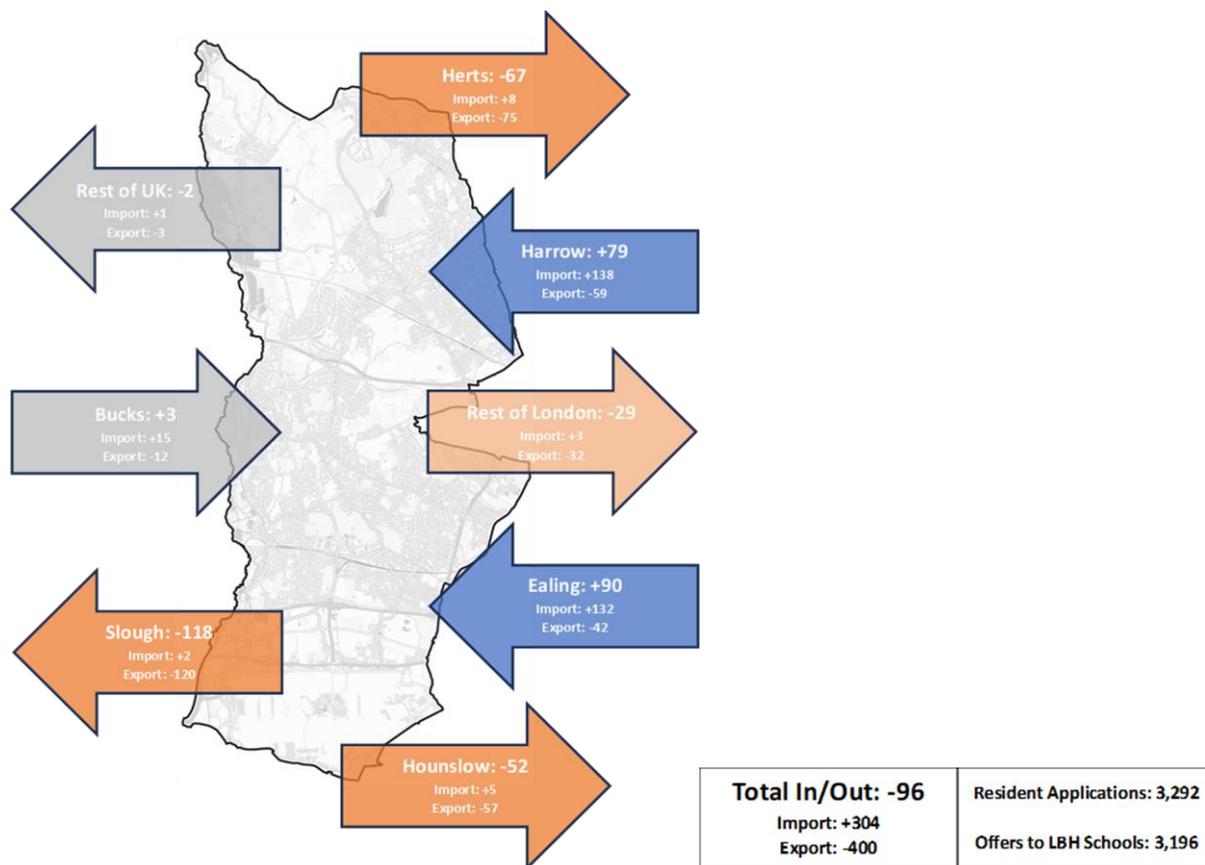
2. Context

2.1 Government Regulations, Guidance and Policies

The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places, oversee a fair admissions process and ensure that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) have access to appropriate quality provision. This is to ensure that all pupils can access a school place if they apply. These duties are for all of the pupils who are resident in the Borough - including children attending schools in other Local Authority (LA) areas or independent schools.

The Council also has a range of responsibilities for the schools in the Borough, and the pupils and staff in them, depending on their legal status. Each type of school has different powers and governance, and a different relationship with the Council and the Department for Education (DfE), and each Council is different. All pupils have the flexibility to choose to go to school anywhere, as long as they meet the admissions criteria for the relevant school. Due to this, the Council must review the flow of children across the 7 neighbouring Councils as well as Hillingdon pupils educated in Hillingdon schools. Until 2018, the number of children admitted into Hillingdon schools from other Councils ('imports') was equal to the number of Hillingdon children attending schools outside of the Borough ('exports'). Since then, 'imports' have decreased to 9.2% on National Offer Day 2025 and 'exports' of resident pupils to schools in other LAs have increased to 12.2% of residents. Therefore, Hillingdon is currently a net exporter.

Map 1. Hillingdon Secondary Pupil Import Export Data – National Offer Day 2025



From 2010, the Council changed the way it funds schools, and now delegates most of the schools block funding directly to schools, rather than retaining a percentage of funding for central Council services to provide support to schools. This means that Hillingdon community schools have greater autonomy than the average. Generally, schools are financially strong and resilient, and this was a benefit during the pandemic.

The London Borough of Hillingdon aims to offer every child a primary and secondary school place, either on national offer day for Reception and year 7 applicants, or within 15 school days of applying for a place for in-year applications. The Admissions team aim to offer places within a reasonable distance from the home address and, where possible, at one of the schools preferred by the parent. For further information about School Admissions please refer to the [School Admissions 2026 brochure](#).

2.2 Funding and Delivery

The London Borough of Hillingdon uses a mixture of funding sources to finance additional school places. Funding sources available include basic need grant from central government, Free School Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding (when available) and potentially Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions from developers.

The London Borough of Hillingdon has a Capital Programme Works Service to help assist in the development of school expansions and new schools. Through the work of this team, school building projects are delivered to required standards and at good value, ensuring the best outcome from the investment of public funds. For further information please refer to the [School Capital Projects and building maintenance guidance for schools](#).

Schools Forum

The Schools Forum is a requirement under the Department for Education (DfE) regulations and is governed by the *Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012*, effective from 1st October 2012. Representatives from schools and academies make up the schools forum. There is also some representation from non-school organisations, such as nursery and 16-19 education providers. Please see the list of [Schools forum operational and good practice guide - GOV.UK](#)

The Schools Forum acts as a consultative body on some issues, and a decision-making body on others. One such area on which Schools Forums can make decisions on is whether to create a fund for significant pupil growth in order to support the Council's duty for place planning and agree the criteria for maintained schools and Academies to access this fund.

Proposals can be made to the Schools Forum which must meet at least four times a year. Regular updates on the delivery of new provision are provided to the High Needs subgroup of Schools Forum.

The Council cannot distribute extra funding to specific schools outside the funding formula and Schools Forum process.

2.3 Hillingdon Demographic

The London Borough of Hillingdon is the second largest of London's 32 boroughs, situated to the west of the capital. It has a unique location, bordering three neighbouring London Local Authorities (Ealing, Harrow, and Hounslow) as well as three Authorities outside of London (Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and Surrey). According to the Census 2021, the population was 305,900 of which 19,882 (6.5%) were aged 0-4 years, 20,469 (6.7%) were aged 5-9 years, 23,681 (7.7%) were aged 10-15 years and 14,871 (4.9%) were aged 16-19; in total, 25.8% of the Borough population was aged 0-19. According to the Office of National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates June 2024, the current population of Hillingdon is 329,185 of which 21,132 (6.4%) are aged 0-4 years, 21,244 (6.5%) are aged 5-9 years, 24,764 (7.5) are aged 10-15 years and 16,279 (4.9%) are aged 16-19 years; in total 25.3% of the Borough population is aged 0-19.

New Housing

The London Borough of Hillingdon currently has a housing target of delivering 10,830 self-contained homes between 2019/20 and 2028/29. Along with this, there are further plans to deliver other types of housing, such as student accommodation, older persons' housing, and shared accommodation, although many of these accommodation types are less likely to impact pupil numbers. The Mayor of London has committed to reviewing the adopted London Plan (2021) and has published a timeline to adopt this in 2027/28. This will contain a new housing target for the London Borough of Hillingdon. The Government's prescribed housing need for London is 88,000 homes per annum and, if translated into borough housing targets, would likely lead to a significantly higher target for Hillingdon.

New housing will be delivered in every ward over this period, with a higher concentration of housing in areas with more available brownfield land and higher public transport access. This includes the areas in and surrounding Uxbridge and Hayes town centres. The latest five-year projections of where housing will be built are shared annually by the Planning Policy Team with Education colleagues and incorporated within school place planning projections. Beyond this five-year period, the growth area for new housing will be set out in the Council's emerging Local Plan.

Developer Contributions

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area. It is an important tool for local authorities to use to help them deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in their area.

Since 2014, this is a mechanism that the Council has used to support capital programmes across the Borough, including any education related projects. This funding is accessed through an internal capital process where projects will be assessed and prioritised in line with the Council's priorities.

However, there are some historic agreements with developers still paying Section 106 education contributions from before the CIL regime was adopted in 2014. Section 106 agreements may also exist with neighbouring local planning authorities, but these will be infrequent.

2.4 Hillingdon Schools

The schools' landscape in Hillingdon consists of ninety-seven (please note that Guru Nanak Sikh Academy is 1 all through school but in some reports counted twice for primary and secondary) state-funded settings which include a mixture of Council maintained schools and a range of other types of settings including academies, non-maintained special schools, and University Technical Colleges (UTCs)/studio colleges. Approximately 33% of all primary schools in Hillingdon are academies, with 67% remaining as maintained schools. In the secondary school sector, approximately 90% of all schools are academies with only 10% remaining as maintained settings. In the special school sector, approximately 70% of schools are academies whilst 30% are maintained by the Council.

Following the Academies Act 2010, schools have been able to convert from maintained to academy status and under current legislation states that all new schools must be free schools. There are currently forty-nine academy schools in Hillingdon (14 multi-academy Trusts who operate more than one school, and seven standalone academy Trusts). Please refer to **Appendix 2** for breakdown.

Free Schools and Academies

Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to seek proposals for a new academy if it believes a new school needs to be established in its local area. As part of inviting proposals, the Council would be expected to identify a site and funding for any building works. Hillingdon is not able to determine where and when free schools open, although the ESFA, who manage the Free School programme, work closely with Council Officers to time openings to meet local demand. Free Schools, once opened, are also academies. There are certain exceptions to the requirement to seek proposals for a new academy and these are set out in the legislation and expanded on in the statutory guidance "[March 2025](#)". With the opening of the Grand Union Village and Pinn River in January 2026.

Types of Hillingdon State funded Schools

The range and number of state funded schools in Hillingdon is shown in Table 1 below. Place planning for independent schools is not undertaken by the Council. These schools sit outside the maintained sector.

Table 1. Total number of schools in Hillingdon based on type of provision – January 2026

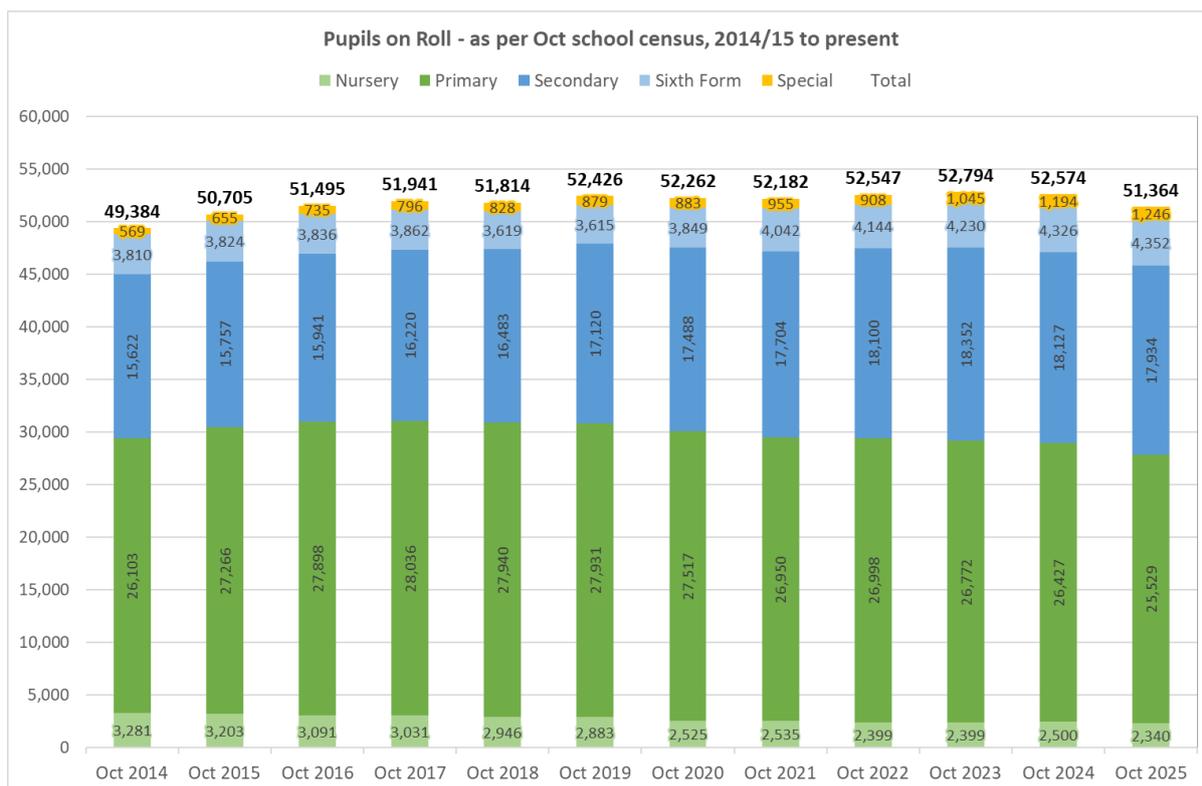
| Type of Provision | Number of Schools | | | | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| | Community | Academy | Voluntary Aided | Foundation | |
| Nursery Schools | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Primary | 29 | 23 | 9 | 5 | 66 |
| Secondary | 0 | 15 | 0 | 2 | 17 |
| All-through | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Special Schools | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| UTC / Studio Colleges | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Alternative Provision | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 32 | 49 | 9 | 7 | 97 |

Appendix 3 explains the definition for each type of provision.

Demand for education places

Hillingdon has the seventh highest number of pupils of the 32 London boroughs (DfE statistics June 2025). As you will see from the graph below, there was a gradual increase in pupil numbers between Oct 2014 and Oct 2019 totalling 6.3%, followed by a period of relative stability up to Oct 2024 (within +/- 0.7% each year), with the latest Oct 2025 data showing a drop of 2.3% from the previous year.

Graph 1 - Pupils in Hillingdon schools, October School Census 2014 - 2025



(Please note that the slight discrepancy between the individual figures by phase, and the total figures for pupil numbers, is a result of those who are dual registered in both mainstream and special schools)

However, the trend has not been the same across all ages, and there has been a 28.7% reduction in Nursery aged children across this period. There are many factors that can affect the decision of a family when deciding if their child will attend an early years setting, so it is difficult to establish exactly the cause of the decline, but certainly some of the reduction is linked to the reducing birth rate which has fallen around 7% between 2016/17 and 2022/23 (see graph 2).

Table 2. Pupils in Hillingdon schools, October School Census 2014 - 2025

| | Oct-14 | Oct-25 | Difference | Difference % |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Nursery | 3,281 | 2,340 | - 941 | - 29% |
| Primary | 26,103 | 25,529 | - 574 | - 2% |
| Secondary | 15,622 | 17,934 | + 2,312 | + 15% |
| Post 16 | 3,810 | 4,352 | + 542 | + 14% |
| Special | 569 | 1,246 | + 677 | + 119% |
| Total | 49,385 | 51,364 | + 1,979 | + 4% |

The table above summarises the pupil on roll data from Graph 1, to show the movement in pupil numbers between 2014 and 2025, taken from the October school census each year, for each phase of education. As you can see, the impact of reducing pupil numbers in Nursery, is filtering through to the Primary sector where the previous trend of growth has now reversed, and this impact will also affect the Secondary sector as pupils get older and continue to move through our schools.

Also apparent is the significant growth in pupils attending a special school over the last 11 years, where we have seen growth of 119% since 2014 (569 on roll in October 2014 school census, 1,246 in October 2025). There is significant work under way to support children, young people and schools to provide sufficient places to meet this increasing demand within our [SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2023-28](#).

This work has included additional special school places, and an increase in the number of specialist provision places within our mainstream schools (Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP), and Designated Units (DU). The Local Authority are working with Bishop Ramsey Church of England School to open a 24 place SRP for pupils with ASD in September 2026, subject to DfE approval. Officers are continuing to liaise with Secondary school colleagues to explore further possibilities of creating additional SRPs or DUs.

Available capacity in schools

Based on the Published Admission Number for Hillingdon schools detailed in **Appendix 4**, the table below shows the total number of places available by phase, which are used to meet demand.

Table 3. October 2025 -Total number of places available by phase

| | PAN | On Roll | Difference | Difference % |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Infant | 2,421 | 1,995 | 426 | 17.6% |
| Junior | 3,386 | 2,740 | 646 | 19.1% |
| Primary | 24,840 | 20,794 | 4,046 | 16.3% |
| Primary Phase | 30,647 | 25,529 | 5,118 | 16.7% |

| | PAN | On Roll | Difference | Difference % |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Secondary | 18,580* | 17,480 | 1,100 | 5.9% |
| Sixth Form | 5,103 | 3,798 | 1,305 | 25.6% |
| UTC / Studio | 1,867** | 1,008 | 859 | 46.0% |
| Secondary Phase | 25,550 | 22,286 | 3,264 | 12.8% |

| | Commissioned | On Roll | Difference | Difference % |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|------------|--------------|
| Special Schools | 1,144*** | 1,246 | - 102 | - 8.9% |

*Secondary PAN excludes bulge classes

**UTC/Studio uses Physical Capacity in place of PAN

***Special Schools use LBH Commissioned Places in place of PAN

As you can see, there are sufficient places in both the primary and secondary phase in mainstream however, there is a high demand for special school places. There are projects already underway to close this gap and ensure that sufficient and appropriate provision will be in place to meet the needs of the children and young people of Hillingdon.

A greater challenge relates to the over-capacity in the Primary sector, where there are more places than required. Conversations continue with schools about ways to reduce the impact of this challenge, resulting in a range of options to consider, including reducing the PAN, alternative use of any space, and amalgamation for example.

There is also an excess of capacity in sixth form and in UTC / Studio College schools at the secondary phase. This is largely out of the control of the Council as all 18 sixth forms and all 4 UTC / Studio Colleges have their own admission policies.

Ofsted Inspection Outcomes

Hillingdon's Ofsted inspection outcomes demonstrate an improving picture when compared with the previous year. At the end of the 2023/24 academic year 94% of schools were judged as Good or Outstanding. This is 2% higher than 2022/23, and 4% higher than the England average as you can see from the table below.

In 2024/25 Ofsted continued their full inspection programme with a change to outcome wording to move away from the one-word overall judgement. Further information on outcomes can be found in the [Education Standards Report](#) which is presented annually to Children, Families & Education Select Committee in March and then signed off by the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education in April.

Table 4. End of 2023-24 Inspection Summary – Hillingdon verses England

| Judgement | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 | |
|----------------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
| | Hillingdon | England | Hillingdon | England |
| Outstanding | 14% | 16% | 13% | 13% |
| Good | 77% | 72% | 81% | 77% |
| Requires Improvement | 8% | 9% | 6% | 8% |
| Inadequate | 1% | 3% | 0% | 2% |

2.5 Pupil Forecasting

School place planning is the comparison of the projected future demand for school places with current school capacity. This can highlight a projected over-supply or under-supply of places, either of which is managed through a delivery plan. The delivery plan needs to be flexible to cope with changing demographics, so that projects can be accelerated or slowed in response to actual demand. It is best practice to retain additional capacity between 5% - 10% during the year to support any transition and movement of pupils, therefore the LA aim to provide a surplus margin in line with these parameters, to ensure that the Council can place new arrivals, cope with higher than forecast demand and enable as many parents as possible to secure places at their preferred school.

Pupil forecasts are calculated by applying recent trends to current known population data. Hillingdon's forecasts of future Reception demand are mainly based on the number of births in Hillingdon 5 years before, with 7-year projections provided for secondary school places, based on existing pupils moving through their education. Hillingdon subscribes to the Greater London Authority (GLA)'s school roll projection service, which creates a roll projection based on the GLA population projections of the wards where pupils live. The underlying factors include:

Development

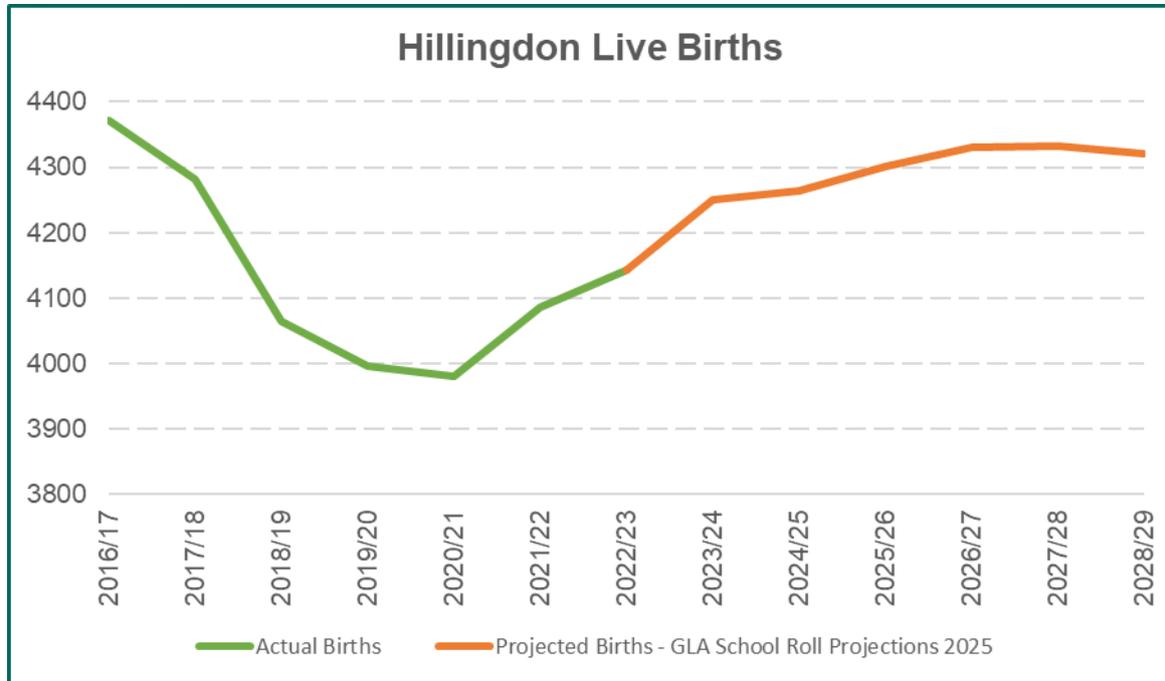
The amount of development projected in the area will affect that authority's population projections and, in turn, its school roll projections. More development generally means that the Council will attract more people, and its population will therefore rise.

Births

The number of births in an area will have a direct impact on the number of children requiring school places four years later. In academic year 2022/23 (the latest available data), there were approximately 4,143 live births. This figure decreased each year from 2015/16 to 2020/21 but

is projected to increase slightly in the short term, stabilising with an average of 4,300 live births per annum. The graph below shows the number of live births each academic year since 2016/17 and projections until 2028/29. This includes the latest available GLA data for the annual Schools Capacity survey (SCAP) 2025.

Graph 2. Hillingdon Births



Migration

Migration, both from other areas within the UK and internationally, can significantly influence population projections.

In-year growth is used here to mean new arrivals to Hillingdon applying for school places outside the usual start points of Reception and Year 7, including those starting after September in Reception and Year 7. The level of new arrivals will be influenced by many factors including the number of affordable housing units built and national issues.

Historically, Hillingdon had net movement inwards, but this slowed from 2015 onwards and reversed, resulting in net outwards movement from 2019-2021 which can be attributed to factors such as Brexit and Covid, where we have seen a change in the population within a number of communities. This is not forecast to change at the current time.

Another challenge for Hillingdon is due to Heathrow airport being in the Borough, and a subsequent increase in asylum-seeking families and refugees arriving in the UK. This has an impact on schools by increasing the level of mobility of pupils attending Hillingdon schools, as some families are resettled out of the Borough within a short timescale. Between September 2021 and January 2026, we have received 1081 applications from asylum-seeking families residing in temporary Home Office accommodation in the Borough for Hillingdon schools.

3. Strategy

3.1 Place Planning

The Council aims to provide the right number of high-quality school places at the right time to meet the current and future need of children and young people in Hillingdon. In order to ensure the Council is able to meet its statutory duties and maintain an education system that is fit for purpose and financially viable, there is a range of actions required as outlined below.

The primary sector faces the most significant challenge with low or declining pupil numbers. This creates significant pressure on schools financially, impacting their capacity to deliver a strong viable curriculum offer, manage staffing within budget, and to be able to manage other commitments.

The total number of children attending secondary schools has fallen for the first time in many years, but is projected to stabilise slightly above the current level by 2026/27, and then start to reduce, so there will be the same challenge to address in the secondary sector. Sixth Form projections follow a similar pattern to Secondary and will stabilise in the same year but fall more slowly remaining above current pupil numbers.

The forecasts used in this Plan suggest that the total number of:

- Primary school pupils (R-Y6) on roll by 2031/32 will be 24,838, down 2.7% from October 2025 Census.
- Secondary school pupils (Y7-Y11), on roll by 2031/32 will be 17,346, down 3.3% from October 2025 Census.
- Sixth form pupils (Y12-Y13) on roll by 2031/32 will be 4,358, up 0.1% from October 2025 Census.

Ways to Manage Place Planning

PAN Reductions

While some surplus school places are required, it needs to be managed and controlled carefully, making sure that there is not an oversupply, which causes inefficiency and is not a good use of resources. This could be destabilising for schools leading to challenges with financial viability and quality issues. It is expected that schools will respond to any significant reductions in applications for places at their school, where appropriate, by consulting with the Council to discuss any potential reductions in their Published Admissions Number (PAN).

Table 5. PAN reductions in Hillingdon

| Academic Year | Primary Community School | Primary Non-Community | Secondary | Total |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------|
| 2021/22 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2022/23 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2023/24 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| 2024/25 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 2025/26 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2026/27 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2027/28 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |

For the academic year 2024/25, the LA has agreed a reduction of PAN at 1 community primary school and 2 foundation primary schools. This will reduce the PAN by 30 places for each of the Foundation schools and 21 places for the Community school – a total of 81 places.

For the academic year 2025/26, the LA has formally agreed on the PAN reduction at 2 community primary schools. This will reduce the PAN by 30 places for each school – a total of 60 places.

For the academic year 2026/27, the admissions authority for 1 non-community school has formally agreed on a PAN reduction. This will reduce the PAN by 30 places for the school – a total of 30 places.

For the academic year 2027/28, the LA has approved a reduction in the PAN of 1 community infant school. Additionally, 3 non-community school admissions authorities have consulted to a similar reduction in their PAN. If approved, each school's PAN will decrease by 30 places, resulting in a total reduction of 120 places.

Gradual Opening

When new school places become available either at a new school or as part of an expansion project, not all the classes are open to pupils in the first year. Usually only the lowest year group will open in the first year and these pupils will gradually move up through the school one year at a time. This phased approach ensures the best use of resources and manages the new entrants to the school in an efficient way, safeguarding the school from over-supply. We are not due to open any mainstream schools but are hoping to open additional specialist provision over the next few years to meet growing demand.

Capped PANs

In addition to the permanent reductions in PANs shown above, in consultation with schools, temporary reductions or 'caps' can also be implemented. Capping a school's PAN is a measure which seeks to alleviate some of the logistical and financial difficulties associated with low or falling rolls. Capping is undertaken on the understanding that, should there be a sudden influx of pupils that cannot be placed, schools are expected to admit up to the Published Admission Number if needed.

Federating a Governing Body

At a time of increasing school autonomy, the need for schools to work collaboratively is greater than ever. There are a variety of ways schools can do this, from informal partnerships to more formal arrangements involving shared governance. This provides economies of scale as schools are able to share resources, assets, and best practice across sites.

In England, Council-maintained schools have the option of becoming a federation, in which the separate schools' governing bodies become a single governing body with responsibility for all the schools in the federation.

Currently, the London Borough of Hillingdon has two federated governing bodies. Two former federated governing bodies have already successfully merged their Infant and Junior Schools to create Primary Schools. From April 2026, one of the federated governing bodies will amalgamate to form a Primary school.

Amalgamations

The Council believes that the amalgamation of linked Infant and Junior schools is a positive way to develop, and this will help to create and maintain successful, sustainable, and viable Schools. The Council recognises that the education landscape is ever-changing, and this needs to be taken into account along with the individual circumstances of schools.

As Grange Park Infant and Nursery and Grange Park Junior Schools successfully amalgamated in September 2026, there are currently nine infant schools and nine junior schools, all of which could benefit from amalgamating into primary schools. Harefield Infant and Harefield Junior Schools are scheduled to amalgamate and become a primary school in April 2026. In addition to this, the LA are currently consulting on the amalgamation of Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School.

Infant and junior schools can be particularly vulnerable to financial and organisational pressures as they only have less year groups to deploy their teaching staff, and less opportunity to share resources across the school. The Council is also engaged in conversations with the remaining Infant and Junior schools across the Borough in relation to potential future amalgamations.

For more information on the process of school amalgamations within Hillingdon maintained schools please refer to [Hillingdon schools' amalgamation policy](#).

Marketing the school

Schools have the ability to influence parental opinions or choice, in a range of matters including Ofsted inspections or other matters unrelated to education. It is important that schools engage with the wider community and publicise the positive news about their provision and achievements to prospective families and others.

There are range of ways this can happen, and includes:

- Greater social media presence – Twitter/Instagram
- School Fairs / Open days / Events
- Target and engage with feeder schools or settings across the area to promote the school
- Local media
- Active engagement with the community, and offer the school premises for events and activities
- Opportunities to showcase the school and the pupils to celebrate achievements

Vacant Caretaker Properties

Hillingdon has already actively identified vacant properties across the Borough that are suitable for teaching children and young people. This is often creating additional provision for children with SEND, who require smaller class sizes, and a higher ratio of staff to children,

which is ideal for this type of building. The future of any of these buildings will be considered and reviewed as necessary.

Closures

The Department for Education guidance on school closures includes a presumption not to close. All options will have been exhausted to avoid school closure although ultimately, where there is no alternative long-term option, this may have to be considered.

As a very last resort and in line with population statistics we may have to consider school closures in the future where it is in the best interests of children to do so and by meeting the relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

Satellite Provision

Satellite provision is needed when a school requires additional space at another site in order to admit more children on their roll. This can support other schools by using their vacant spaces, and supplement their income, and also encourage collaboration and partnership working to improve efficiency and best practice. There are currently 2 examples of this in Hillingdon.

Bulge Classes

A bulge class is an additional class added to a Primary or Secondary school to cope with additional demand for school places, normally in a particular area. The Council plans for a small oversupply of places in all year groups in order to provide a level of flexibility with in-year places that may be required. This allows for:

- growth between January and July
- unexpected growth above forecast levels
- new arrivals to Hillingdon above those forecast to arrive
- some pupil movement between schools to satisfy parental preference, or to meet the needs of children and young people

3.2 Childcare and Early Education

The Council has a statutory duty (contained in the Childcare Act 2006 and 2016) to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that there are sufficient childcare places to ensure that families can:

- access the funded early education entitlements for their child
- take up, or remain in work
- undertake education or training, which could reasonably lead to work

Delivery of early learning and childcare provision in Hillingdon is through a mixed market of private and voluntary providers, including childminders, day nurseries and pre-schools, and through schools, including academies. As of January 2026, Hillingdon has:

- 174 registered childminders
- 58 school-based nurseries
- 151 Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) settings
- 1 Council-maintained nursery school

Five schools have consulted to change their age range to be able to offer funded places to eligible children from the term after their second birthday. For 2 of the schools this took effect September 2024 and for the other 3 this took effect from September 2025. A further primary school has completed a consultation recently to lower their age range and another school is also considering making this change.

Provision of early education and childcare is vital for the local economy, and for developing stronger communities. The support delivered to early years settings in Hillingdon ensures that children are school ready when they move into statutory education and are best placed to achieve a Good Level of Development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Council aims to ensure that all children have access to provision that is 'Good' or better, which is the case for 99% of group care settings that have been inspected up to August 2025 (data source: 'Childcare providers and inspections as of 31st August 2025'). Support for settings to improve is provided by the Early Years Quality Improvement Team, who provide training and support to settings on a range of pedagogical and curriculum-based topics. Ongoing support is focused on settings being confident to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the EYFS and next steps for children's learning.

Planned Growth

The childcare market remains relatively stable, and the Council receives regular enquiries from group childcare providers interested in establishing new or additional provision within the Borough, albeit that the availability of suitable premises remains the biggest hurdle to new providers in establishing their business.

Where a provider ceases to operate, a new or alternative provider frequently opens in their place, ensuring the sufficiency of childcare for the local community. However, there are wards in the Borough where sufficiency of early years childcare remains a challenge, and the Families' Information Service continues to work with group childcare providers, childminders, and school nurseries to increase provision in response to rising demand. This varies according to the age of children and the type of funded entitlement that children are eligible for. For example, the Wards where there are the biggest shortfalls in funded childcare for disadvantaged two-year-olds, are Charville, Harefield Village, Heathrow Villages, Hillingdon East and Wood End. For children whose parents qualify for the working parents entitlement to funded childcare, the Wards with the biggest challenge for insufficient funded childcare are Colham & Cowley, Hayes Town, Harefield Village, Heathrow Villages, Pinkwell, Uxbridge and Wood End.

The priority for Early Years place planning is ensuring that there are sufficient places for children aged under two who will be eligible for up to 30 hours of funded childcare. The Council will continue to engage with all new and existing childcare providers, including childminders, schools, and private nursery settings, to ensure we are able to provide sufficient places for all children across Hillingdon.

As detailed earlier, the live birth rate in Hillingdon has fallen in the last 5 years and is projected to stabilise at this lower level over the next 2-3 years. However, parents' entitlement to funded childcare for 2-year-olds increased from April 2024, with working families now entitled to up to 15 funded hours of childcare per week, over 38 weeks a year. This entitlement was extended to children from nine months old, from September 2024.

Families must meet eligibility criteria to qualify, and children can only receive funded childcare from the term after they are nine months old. In September 2025, this entitlement expanded to offer up to 30 hours funded childcare a week, for 38 weeks a year, for eligible children.

In response to the expected increased demand, additional places will be needed, although it is expected that some existing childcare places will convert from family funded provision, to

provision that is partly paid by the Council and partly paid by families. The Council are working with settings to understand what the full impact of these changes is likely to be and will look for appropriate solutions and additional capacity in response, especially for children aged under two years old. This will include:

- working with existing providers to look at expansion or opening new settings
- promoting the childcare sector to prospective childminders
- supporting the government early years recruitment campaign

For more information on Early Years Places please refer to the [childcare sufficiency assessment](#).

Wraparound childcare for school aged children.

In Hillingdon we have been developing a wraparound offer in schools to provide childcare for children from breakfast to after school. This is aimed at children from five to twelve years of age, giving parents the opportunity to train, be in education or get back into work.

We have been working with a range of providers to ensure children attending schools across the Borough have sufficient opportunities to access wraparound care, the programme has been developing over the past year complimenting those settings already offering childcare for school aged children.

Currently 21 providers have accessed funding to set up Wraparound provision for school aged children across the LA. This funding grant is still available for providers to access until April 2026.

Table 6. Wraparound Provision for Schools in Hillingdon January 2026.

| Name of provider | Full Wraparound spaces |
|---|------------------------|
| Belmore Academy | 30 |
| Bishop Winnington Ingram* | 2 |
| Botwell House Catholic Primary School | 15 |
| Bourne Primary School | 10 |
| Brookside School | 30 |
| Coteford Infant School | 20 |
| Childminder - Newnham | 9 |
| Childminder - Whiteheath | 6 |
| Childminder - Warrender | 12 |
| Grange Park School | 20 |
| Harefield Infant and Junior Schools | 30 |
| Harmonsworth Primary School | 35 |
| Hayes Park School | 40 |
| Heathrow Primary School | 10 |
| Hewens Primary School | 56 |
| Holy Trinity | 13 |
| Rosedale Primary School | 54 |
| St Bernadette Catholic Primary School | 43 |
| William Byrd Academy | 38 |
| Whiteheath Infant School | 8 |
| Yeading Infant School | 40 |
| Total places created across Hillingdon | 521 |

*12 additional places were created in the provision, however based on DfE calculations this equates to 2 full wraparound places

Based on increasing demand for places we will continue to work with schools and settings to develop the childcare offer for school aged children through:

- Quality of provision
- Identifying areas of insufficient childcare
- Marketing wraparound within schools to promote parental choice.

3.3 Primary Place Planning

In Hillingdon, the statutory duty to plan school places (for Reception to year 11) is undertaken by assessing places in pupil planning areas (PPAs). The Council has a duty to provide a “reasonable offer” of a school place to all children. In the primary phase, a “reasonable offer” is one that is within 2 miles of home. Hillingdon uses 14 PPAs which are broadly based on Hillingdon’s electoral ward boundaries. By dividing the Borough into 14 primary planning areas, Officers can ensure that places are provided near to where children live. However, children can travel across planning areas to attend school, particularly when they live close to the borders.

The table below outlines the number of schools in each area, and **Appendix 5** shows which schools are within each planning area.

Table 7. Planning Areas

| Planning Area Number | Number of Schools |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| PPA 1 | 2 |
| PPA 2 | 5 |
| PPA 3 | 6 |
| PPA 4 | 2 |
| PPA 5 | 10 |
| PPA 6 | 7 |
| PPA 7 | 5 |
| PPA 8 | 4 |
| PPA 9 | 4 |
| PPA 10 | 3 |
| PPA 11 | 9 |
| PPA 12 | 3 |
| PPA 13 | 2 |
| PPA 14 | 5 |



The forecast for the Borough of Hillingdon is below, and forecasts are shown by Planning Area and set out in **Appendix 6**. These planning areas provide the basis for the annual DfE School Capacity (SCAP) return submitted in the Summer term that determines the level of grant funding the Council is allocated. They are groups of schools, defined by geography and admissions patterns, wherein a sufficiency of places across the group will generally ensure every child can access a local school place (even if some schools are oversubscribed).

School Place Planning and Admissions Officers liaise with schools individually and collectively to discuss current demand for places, future demand for places and any projects that need to be completed to ensure there are sufficient school places. Officers from the team also engage with planning authorities, local councillors, residents and communities, faith groups, developers, and Central Government.

Primary Projections

Applications to Hillingdon schools on National Offer Day for Reception in 2025 were 287 places less than projected, although some of this gap is likely to be filled by late applications. Approximately 40% of our primary phase schools are currently full. Surplus places have risen overall but are expected to stabilize over the next few years. Surplus places are often concentrated in a small number of primary schools across the Borough.

Officers are working closely with primary schools regarding the large number of surplus places due to PAN reductions and continue to monitor other schools that may also have surplus capacity in the next few years. These reductions will be managed in line with the options in the strategy outlined above.

Reception Pupil Forecast – The London Borough of Hillingdon

| Year | 25/26 | 26/27 | 27/28 | 28/29 | 29/30 | 30/31 | 31/32 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Year-on-Year +/- | +163 | +138 | -129 | -4 | -2 | -20 | -17 |
| Reception Surplus | 532 | 394 | 523 | 527 | 529 | 549 | 566 |



| Number on Roll (Reception only) | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Year | NOR |
| 24/25 | 3,535 |
| 25/26 | 3,698 |
| 26/27 | 3,836 |
| 27/28 | 3,707 |
| 28/29 | 3,703 |
| 29/30 | 3,701 |
| 30/31 | 3,681 |
| 31/32 | 3,664 |

| Number on Roll (Whole phase) | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Year | NOR |
| 24/25 | 26,301 |
| 25/26 | 26,091 |
| 26/27 | 25,999 |
| 27/28 | 25,741 |
| 28/29 | 25,458 |
| 29/30 | 25,194 |
| 30/31 | 24,920 |
| 31/32 | 24,838 |

“Reception Pupil Forecast” shows the year-on-year change in projections e.g., for the whole Borough, 2025/26’s reception projection is 163 pupils higher than the 2024/25 census actuals.

“Reception Surplus” shows the expected number of vacant school places against the approved PAN for each year.

“Number on Roll” is using January Census actuals for 2024/25, and projections for future years.

3.4 Secondary Place Planning

Secondary aged children are expected to travel longer distances to school. A reasonable offer for a secondary place is one that is within 3 miles of home. However, secondary planning areas allow the Council to understand localised pressures for schools and where additional places would help more children attend a school near to where they live. However, this must be balanced with any resource implications.

The October 2025 census shows a year-on-year fall in secondary numbers to 17,934 (not including 6th form) for the second consecutive year (190 less than October 2024). Year 7 roll in the October 2025 Census stabilising at 3,479 (1 more than October 2024), but pressure in this phase still remains as some schools are currently accommodating bulge classes in upper year groups. There is also a higher number of pupils in years 10-11 due to a combination of in-year admissions, and the additional capacity for those year groups in two studio colleges and two UTC schools which attract pupils from out of Borough.

The Year 7 roll in October 2025 was 135 above the number of offers made on National Offer Day. This is partially due to 60 pupils at Guru Nanak Sikh Academy (an all-through school) aging through from year 6 to 7 without needing to apply for a place.

Preferences for Year 7 in September 2025 and actions

National Offer Day was 3rd March 2025, and although most secondary school pupils attend a school two miles from home or nearer, some pupils choose to travel further including in and out of the Borough. In 2025, 400 Hillingdon residents were offered Out of Borough schools, which is 141 less than 2024. The Council use two different metrics:

- Ensuring every resident pupil has a school place – increasing the supply of places in schools in the Borough if necessary.
- The proportion of resident pupils gaining one of their top preferences – which includes them securing places in out of Borough schools.

The council received 3,626 secondary school applications for September 2025, and ninety-four per cent of pupils were offered one of their preferred places.

Hillingdon also achieved slightly below than the London average for applicants offered one of their top three preference schools at 88.16 per cent, compared to London's 90.48 per cent. From those, 67.15 per cent of Hillingdon pupils received their first choice.

Secondary projections

Parental choice fills most secondary schools but leaves capacity in some schools underutilised. Some of this capacity can be further than 3 miles away from the pupils' homes who require a place and may mean that children need to travel further to access a place. This complicates the process of pupil place planning as projections can assume all places are equally full and popular which is not the case for all schools. This demonstrates the need for analysis at a PPA level to ensure a true reflection of demand, and ensure pupils have a school place close to home where possible.

The tables below show the most recent projections, with secondary pupil numbers (including sixth form) continuing to rise to a peak in 2025/26 before starting to fall. It is best practice to retain additional capacity between 5% - 10% during the year to support any transition and movement of pupils, therefore the LA aim to provide a surplus in line with above parameters.

Year 7 Pupil Forecast – The London Borough of Hillingdon

| Year | 25/26 | 26/27 | 27/28 | 28/29 | 29/30 | 30/31 | 31/32 |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| +/- | +68 | +23 | -11 | -78 | -80 | -71 | -53 |
| Year 7 Surplus | 179 | 156 | 167 | 245 | 325 | 396 | 449 |



| Number on Roll | |
|----------------|-------|
| (Year 7 only) | |
| Year | NOR |
| 24/25 | 3,475 |
| 25/26 | 3,543 |
| 26/27 | 3,566 |
| 27/28 | 3,555 |
| 28/29 | 3,477 |
| 29/30 | 3,397 |
| 30/31 | 3,326 |
| 31/32 | 3,273 |

| Number on Roll | |
|----------------|--------|
| (Whole phase) | |
| Year | NOR |
| 24/25 | 22,435 |
| 25/26 | 22,712 |
| 26/27 | 22,880 |
| 27/28 | 22,818 |
| 28/29 | 22,640 |
| 29/30 | 22,417 |
| 30/31 | 22,058 |
| 31/32 | 21,704 |

The actual number of offers made to schools in the Borough on 2025 National Offer Day

(including to pupils with EHCPs) was 3,546, slightly below the overall PAN, and the latest projections.

Secondary rolls are far less linked to locality than primary, and more to parent's preferences and perception of the education experience, high standards, faith, and their willingness to travel to a school of choice. Each year, we review the projections, school census data and national offer day data to check and understand where projections are most accurate. Although the current forecast is for a reduction in surplus capacity in the short term, the longer-term forecast is a continued reduction after 2027 / 28 as you can see from the table above. We continue to work with schools to ensure we are able to meet our statutory duties, and the demand for places, and ensure that schools remain financially viable during this time of fluctuating demand.

3.5 Post 16 Planning

The Education and Skills Act 2008 applies to any person who has ceased to be of compulsory school age, has not reached the age of 18, and has not attained a level 3 qualification. The Council works in partnership with schools, stakeholders and the local Further Education colleges to ensure young people aged 16-18 (and up to the age of 25 for those who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) have access to a range of opportunities to continue their education or training at a wide range of post-16 providers, apprenticeships, and supported internships.

The total number of young people aged 16 to 18 are in Education, Employment and Training is 7570.

In April 2026, a new provision will be opening at Barra Hall in Uxbridge, which was acquired by Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges (HRUC) and will cater for young people who have Severe or Moderate Learning Difficulties (SLD or MLD) which was identified as a gap in provision in Hillingdon. HRUC's partnerships with Heathrow will provide great pathways for supported internship opportunities as well as industry insight for young people with SEND.

In partnership with HRUC we also saw the launch of the Vocational Carousel which saw 55 young people between the ages of 14-16 take part in a 1 day a week 6 week programme, allowing them to experience a post 16 provision, and open up opportunities when they finish Year 11 education. This programme has also been listed in the new (RONI) Risk of NEET indicator guidance by the DfE. In recent times however this has been removed as an offer by HRUC due to the lack of participation from schools.

The Council is developing its post 16 offer for young people with 'unique' needs through a variety of strategies:

- A newly created Post 16 transition guidance document with RONI indicator tool which helps schools identify the risk of NEET cohorts.
- A Post 16 SEND pathways information sheet created by our very own supported interns working within the Council.
- In partnership with Heathrow Airport
- A Post 16 prospectus which is now a mobile friendly website which is more affordable for schools, and an opportunity to advertise local businesses to generate funding for the Local Authority.
- A preparing for adulthood document which is clear and will align with the local offer-along with a young persons version to help with advice for young people at key stages of their life.

- A partnership with Elevate Mentoring is in its early stages and is due to deliver workshops and 1:1 mentoring to young people who are at risk of exclusion and known to key services like: Early Help, Youth Justice and LAC. This piece of work will be evaluated and reflected upon to help with ongoing work with the Australian Government.

Through the 14–19-year-old steering group, headteachers agreed that NEET prevention and vocational pathways for 14–16-year-olds were directions that the Borough should take. This group will continue to develop solutions during the coming year for this identified priority.

Following the success of our 14-19 steering group we have seen the following:

- Vocational Carousel
- GCSE results hub
- ELEVATE mentoring supporting 3 schools (500 students) around employability/behaviour programmes.

3.6 Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - Special Schools & Alternative Provision

There are two community special schools and six academy special schools in Hillingdon, all of which are full, as demand is high. The largest growth in demand is for pupils with Autism Spectrum Conditions, many with additional complex secondary needs.

The Council also use Independent Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS) to educate a number of pupils, where their needs cannot be met within our own special schools. The majority of these are within the Borough, but some children and young people travel outside the Borough for specialised provision. The Council have been working very hard to reduce the number of children in INMSS provision and ensure that local state-funded provision is available.

This has resulted in additional local capacity being planned and provided to meet the needs of these children and young people, including additional special school places, and specialist provision within mainstream schools. However, it will take time for the current cohort pupils to transition from their current INMSS provision which will remain under review.

SEND & AP Strategy 2023-28

The [Hillingdon Local Area SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy](#) for CYP with SEND sets out key priorities in developing further new, ambitious, and innovative specialist provision that meets the need of Hillingdon CYP locally. Within the new strategy there are five Ambitions that focus on early intervention, inclusion, [SEND sufficiency](#), post 16 provision and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, as well as on Alternative Provision. The Council's SEND governance structure has been redesigned to reflect these, and new Ambition Groups have been created to ensure progress towards outcomes. The Ambition Group 3 has a specific focus on specialist provision and monitors the progress of all new developments as well as managing any changes required in existing specialist provision to make it sustainable and to meet the current and future demand.

Ambition 3



Provision meets the needs of Hillingdon's children and young people

The intended outcomes of this group are:

- The proportion of children with EHCPs in mainstream and SEND schools is in line with national.
- Children who require specialist provision are placed without delay in appropriate local provision.
- Children and young people and their families are positive about their experiences of the SEND provision in Hillingdon and tell us the services are meeting their needs.
- Review of banding is completed through co-production with stakeholders and a new model created which is fit for purpose long term, ensures equity, and supports children appropriately in all settings.
- The number of placements in SRPs increases, developing areas of expertise and outstanding practice across the borough.
- Mainstream settings access outreach support from local SEND schools to further develop outstanding inclusive practice.
- Alternative Provision in Borough meets needs
- ds and is used effectively to improve outcomes by supporting transition back into mainstream at the earliest opportunity.
- A reduction in SEND transport demand as more children will be attending their local school

As most of the new specialist provision has been created within the primary sector our next step is to develop a continuum of support through to secondary provision, with additional Specialist Resource Provision's (SRP's) and Designated Unit's (DU's).

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit recovery safety valve agreement

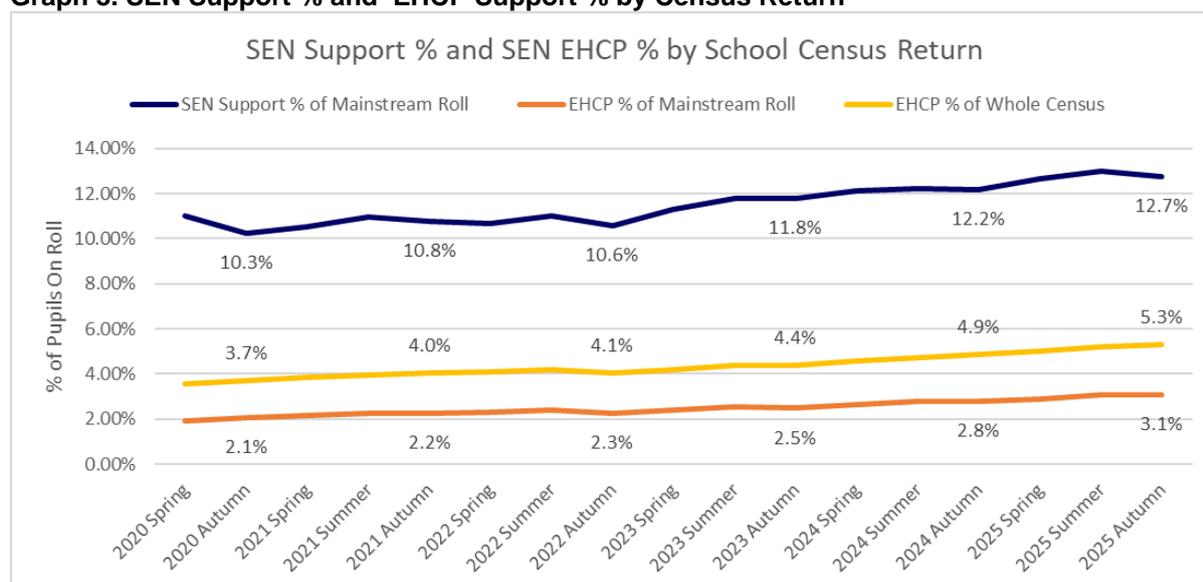
Hillingdon Council is one of the many Local Authorities that have successfully secured a Safety Valve agreement with the DfE. This is a result of the deficit in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs block, which funds SEND provision for children and young people in Hillingdon. Rising demand and costs have put pressure on the DSG and the LA has developed a DSG Deficit Recovery Programme following the 'safety valve' agreement which has supported revenue and capital funding required for the Borough. Ensuring there is appropriate provision to meet Hillingdon's children and young people's needs is a key strategic priority for the Council, underpinned by sufficient resource and capability to ensure timely and successful delivery. The purpose of the recovery plan is to:

- Put mainstream inclusion and high-quality SEND services at the heart of education in Hillingdon
- Reduce total costs of specialist placements
- Add more local maintained specialist places in the Borough in line with the needs of our children and young people
- Embed financial sustainability

Extra specialist places are being developed in Hillingdon in the next few years to meet the rising demand, to minimise use of independent provision and longer travel times for children and young people. The aim is to maximise the use of local maintained education spaces and promote integration of pupils into mainstream where possible. Projects selected have been delivered in partnership with schools and academies that have surplus physical capacity and have commitment to inclusion and expertise in managing change.

Hillingdon's SEND Context

Graph 3. SEN Support % and EHCP Support % by Census Return



Children with SEND Support and EHCPs in mainstream have increased term on term since we launched the strategy. In Autumn 2024, 12.2% of our children and young people in mainstream settings were receiving SEND Support, and 2.8% of our children and young people in mainstream settings were in receipt of an EHCP. In Autumn 2025, 12.7% were in receipt of SEND Support, up by 0.5%, and 3.1% were in receipt of an EHCP in mainstream schools, up by 0.3%. This evidences that more children and young people on SEN Support and with EHCPs are being educated in mainstream schools. There is still a significant difference between primary and secondary SEND children attending mainstream schools across the borough – primary children with EHCPs are currently at 3.3% and secondary is 2.7%.

Table 10. Changes in SEN Support and EHCP levels in mainstream schools (based on Autumn census data for each year):

| | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 | | 2024-25 | | 2025-26 | |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| | SEN Support | SEN EHCP |
| Primary Phase | 11.8% | 2.4% | 13.0% | 2.6% | 13.4% | 3.0% | 14.1% | 3.4% |
| Secondary Phase | 9.1% | 2.2% | 10.3% | 2.3% | 10.7% | 2.5% | 11.4% | 2.7% |
| All Through | 7.5% | 1.5% | 7.8% | 1.9% | 8.4% | 2.2% | 7.6% | 2.5% |
| Mainstream Total | 10.6% | 2.3% | 11.8% | 2.5% | 12.2% | 2.8% | 12.7% | 3.1% |

EHCPs Maintained by Hillingdon: As of January 2025, there are 3,469 EHCPs, a 38% increase since January 2020. This number fluctuates due to various factors, including pupils moving in and out of the borough (SEN2 data 2025)

EHCPs in Hillingdon Schools: As of October 2025, there are 2,716 pupils with EHCPs attending Hillingdon schools, a 29.5% increase since October 2021. Of these, 43.3% are in special schools, and 18.9% of pupils in Hillingdon special schools are from other local authorities. (October 2025 census data)

EHCP Growth: There has been a 38% increase in EHCPs maintained by Hillingdon since January 2020, with the most recent year showing a -1.0% change in January 2025 (SEN2 data 2025). As of January 2026, there are 3758 EHCPs, an increase of 8.3% from January 2025.

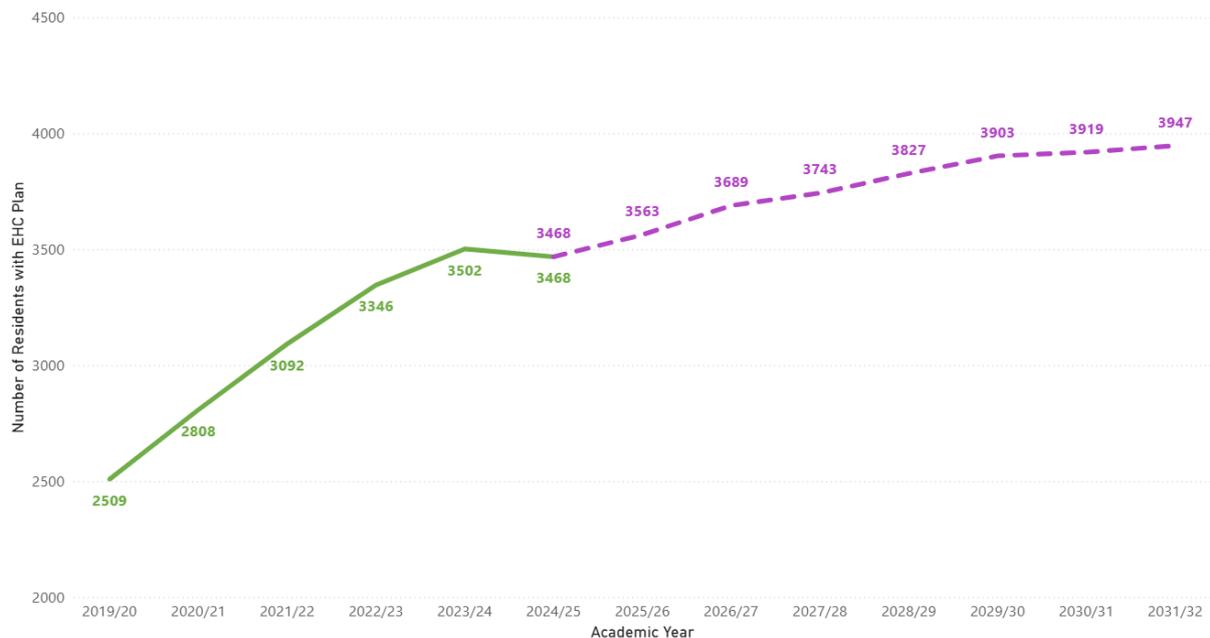
SEN Support: As of October 2025, 12.7% of Hillingdon pupils in mainstream schools receive SEN support, below the national average of 14.2% (from DfE publication - "Special educational needs in England": June 2025).

EHCP Prevalence: As of October 2025, 5.3% of pupils in Hillingdon schools have an EHCP, matching the national average but below the London average of 5.4% (from DfE publication - "Special educational needs in England": June 2025).

Primary Need of Autism: The number of pupils with autism as their primary need has almost doubled from 920 in January 2020, to 1,845 in January 2025, and currently remains the highest need in the borough. (internal SEN data 2020 v SEN2 data 2025)

Special vs. Mainstream Schools: As of January 2025, 37.9% of total EHCP pupils from Hillingdon attend special schools, higher than the national average of 30.4%. Meanwhile, 54.3% are in mainstream schools, also above the national average of 43.6%. (SEN2 data 2025)

Graph 4. Hillingdon Residents with EHCPs – Actuals and 24/25-based Projections (based on January data each year)



Many of the pupils with new EHCPs require a specialist place, and at the Phase Transfer in February 2025 (transfer to Reception, Year 3, and Year 7), 46% of this cohort were placed at specialist provision. The majority of primary need was Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) but many of the pupils had a complex combination of needs. Other London Councils (and Councils nationally) are experiencing similar increases, as parents and schools request assessments and more pupils are diagnosed with complex issues soon after birth.

Special schools have expanded but the demand from resident pupils requiring specialist provision continues to grow, ahead of the planned expansions, new schools, and other specialist provision that opened in 2024.

It is clear that in addition to supporting more pupils to remain within mainstream settings, additional specialist provision capacity must be added, including SRPs and DUs. This will ensure that less pupils will need to be placed out of Borough from Reception onwards.

Diagram 1. A Spectrum of Provision



As you can see in the diagram above, there is a graduated approach to the structure of our education provision, starting with mainstream school for the overwhelming majority of pupils, and reaches specialist provision for pupils with the most complex needs. It is expected that pupils will access the level of educational provision that best meets their individual needs, which are assessed and reviewed regularly by a range of professionals.

SRPs and DUs provide additional specialist facilities on a mainstream school site for a small number of pupils. In an SRP pupils spend most of their time in mainstream classes whereas pupils in a DU spend the majority of their time outside mainstream classes, only attending them for a few lessons. There are 210 specialist places across the 1 Early Years Assessment Base, 14 SRP's, and 2 DU's, with 150 places in primary and 60 places in secondary, to meet the needs of pupils requiring some specialist support and therapies.

Current Position

Below are several tables to explain the type of special schools within Hillingdon, and the number of pupils by year group. We are able to meet a range of needs across the schools, and there is a mix of Community and Academy schools. There are two special school that can accommodate primary and secondary pupils, and the other 6 schools have fixed age ranges.

Table 11. October 2025 – Special Schools in LBH

| School | School Type | Phase | Designated Need |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Grangewood School* | Academy | Primary | SLD/PMLD/MSI |
| Hedgewood School | Community | Primary | MLD/ASD |
| Meadow High School | Community | Secondary | MLD (Complex) |
| Moorcroft School | Academy | Secondary | SLD/PMLD/MSI |
| Pentland Field School | Academy | All through | MLD/ASD |
| The PRIDE Academy | Academy | Secondary | SEMH |
| The Willows School | Academy | Primary | SEMH/MLD/ASD |
| Grand Union Village** | Academy | Primary | SLD/PMLD |

*From 1st January 2026, Grangewood School became Pinn River School

**From 1st January 2026, Grand Union Village opened

Current total special school rolls are set out in the table below. The total roll is now 1,177, a rise of 4.7% presented in the School Organisation Plan 2025 (1,124 in October 2024), and an overall rise of 48.4% in the past 7 years (793 in October 2018). The majority of the pupils are Hillingdon residents although some schools near borough borders take higher levels of out of borough pupils.

Table 12. October 2025 – Primary Special School Roll

| School Name | Nursery | R | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Total |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Grangewood | - | 9 | 19 | 20 | 17 | 28 | 22 | 18 | 133 |
| Hedgewood | - | - | 20 | 27 | 30 | 40 | 28 | 40 | 185 |
| Pentland Field | - | 4 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 5 | 14 | 9 | 55 |
| The Willows | - | - | - | 2 | 12 | 33 | 20 | 32 | 99 |
| Primary Total | 0 | 13 | 45 | 55 | 71 | 106 | 84 | 98 | 472 |

Table 13. October 2025 – Secondary Special School Roll

| School Name | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | Total |
|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Grangewood* | 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15 |
| Meadow | 51 | 47 | 49 | 41 | 35 | 32 | 18 | 31 | 304 |
| Moorcroft | 14 | 24 | 16 | 21 | 16 | 18 | 21 | 16 | 146 |
| Pentland Field | 13 | 14 | 12 | 15 | 23 | 16 | 12 | 15 | 120 |
| The PRIDE Academy | 25 | 28 | 22 | 22 | 16 | 3 | 4 | - | 120 |
| Secondary Total | 118 | 113 | 99 | 99 | 90 | 69 | 55 | 62 | 705 |

* Grangewood is a Primary phase special school, but the school reported 15 Year 7 pupils on roll in the October 2025 school census due to the move to the new school Pinn River in January 2026

Extra places currently in development – DfE funded capital programmes

There are currently 2 DfE funded and managed Free School projects, which will create additional places. All these places will be commissioned for Hillingdon residents and will reduce out of Borough provision and costs, though some cross-borough movement and use of specialist provision will always be needed.

Free School Projects

- **Grand Union Village** is a new primary Severe Learning Difficulties /Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties (SLD/PMLD) school with 80 new places. The build was completed in the Autumn Term 2023 but is being used to decant pupils from Grangewood to allow for the building of the new Pinn River school.
- **Pinn River** Free School with 80 additional places that include expanded SLD/ PMLD/ Multi-Sensory Impairment MSI provision which has opened in January 2026, who have previously been educated at Grangewood and RNIB Sunshine House within Eden Trust.

Demand for additional places

With the additional places being provided above, the additional SRP and DU provisions that are in the process of being made available this academic year, and projected falling school rolls, it is expected that the Council will be able to meet the increasing demand. This work will continue alongside workstreams in the SEND & AP Strategy, to align the needs of the pupils with the most appropriate provision, and a desire to ensure mainstream schools are inclusive and can meet a range of needs. New admissions guidance for special schools is being created to enable parents and schools to better understand the needs each of our special schools can meet, and this will allow a better understanding of the projection of needs coming through the system. Data will be closely monitored moving forwards to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet the needs of the children and young people across the borough.

The current challenge is to continue to develop more specialist provision within mainstream settings through SRPs and DUs in secondary schools. The recently increased provision in primary schools must now be reflected in secondary schools to ensure that pupils have appropriate pathways through transition. Around 68% of the total number of places in these SRPs and DUs are for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), which represents the largest cohort. This is followed by pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), who account for around 14% of places. Projections indicate that demand for both of these designations is expected to continue increasing over the next seven years, reflecting ongoing growth in these areas of need.

Officers are engaging in a review of suitable opportunities. Once the review is complete, the Council will engage with secondary schools to discuss next steps. The review is expected to be completed by the summer at which time engagement with schools can begin. The intention is to identify any provision that is likely to have the capacity to accommodate a specialist provision within their current site in the short to medium term, to ensure that a cost-effective solution can be designed. This work will take place in partnership with schools and is expected to be completed by the end of the academic year 2025/26, after which time any necessary works can be agreed and planned.

In line with the Council's intentions, improved support and expertise for mainstream schools will help them to meet the needs of pupils with EHCPs and will be provided by the SEND Advisory Service. The numbers of pupils with EHCPs and SEND varies substantially between schools. In naming a specific school on an EHCP, the Council must take parental preferences into account, amongst other criteria, and contact schools where the parent has stated it as a preference on the EHCP. If the Council believes another school is equally suitable, it can be

named, having considered the overall impact on the schools and the best provision for each child.

DfE Capital Grants for SEND expansion and improvements 2019-2024.

Since 2019, extra DfE capital grants for special needs have been allocated to Local Authorities each year. This grant can be used to provide more places, meet the needs of existing pupils through adaptation works, and reduce the use of expensive independent provision to support a reduction of deficits on the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The grant funding has been used to adapt buildings and add extra classrooms and places at existing schools, with Member and schools' approval.

Alternative Provision

Hillingdon's strategy for Alternative Provision (AP) has been aligned with the SEND strategy to create the [Hillingdon Local Area SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy](#) for Children and Young People 0-25 years, 2023-28. Ambition 5 of this strategy sets out our vision for AP which is that there is a flexible offer and range of intervention for children to access alternative provision.

The aim is for every child accessing Alternative Provision in Hillingdon to be:

- Given access to a diverse, imaginative, and engaging curriculum that is relevant, appropriate and includes core subjects
- Involved in developing a plan which focuses on their reintegration back into mainstream school, where appropriate
- Supported by a flexible, multi-disciplinary intervention according to need which considers the whole child within their family context
- Educated in their local community, where possible and appropriate

The main provider of AP in the Borough for children without a school place continues to be the Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust (OHCAT). The Council commissions places with OHCAT for children who are:

- Permanently excluded
- Newly arrived in the Borough
- Unable to attend school due to medical reasons

There are typically around 45 students accessing AP as a result of a permanent exclusion, 20 who have newly arrived in the Borough and 20 who are unable to attend their mainstream setting due to medical reasons.

Hillingdon successfully launched a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for AP in May 2024 allowing officers to create and maintain an approved pool of AP providers to ensure market availability and best value to meet the needs of the children in the Borough who require access to alternative provision.

There are four Lots within Hillingdon's DPS:

- Lot 1: Full time education provision
- Lot 2: Part time education provision
- Lot 3: Bespoke provision
- Lot 4: Support for post-16 Education and Preparation for Adulthood

There are currently 29 AP providers signed up to the DPS, providing officers with a broad range of provisions to consider when seeking alternative provision for a Hillingdon child.

3.7 Next Steps

The School Organisation Plan has set out the responsibilities the Council holds with regards to school place planning for early years, mainstream and special provision. The continued review of data and options provided will allow Officers to be able to meet their statutory duty of ensuring sufficient school places within Hillingdon.

The Council will continue to engage with schools and settings at the appropriate time to respond to any changing needs and demands and will ensure that the relevant committees and groups remain updated on progress. This will include strategic groups such as Schools Strategic Partnership Board (SSPB). 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 partner.

