

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

School Admissions Update – for In Year applications and Allocations for September 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In Year applications

When comparing the data to the previous academic year, Hillingdon has received and processed fewer In Year applications during 2024/25. The table below demonstrates data specific to the number of In Year applications submitted to the borough for the last three academic years, including how many have been received so far this academic year.

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 - 31/08/2025	2132	1155	3287
01/09/2025 - 22/03/2026*	1246	859	2105

* Sept 2025- 22 Mar 2026

The reduction in the total number of applications received between September 2024 and August 2025 is primarily due to a significant decrease in the number of families being placed in hotels in the south of the borough. While we have continued to receive applications from families arriving in the UK, many of these households are now being accommodated in settings other than hotels.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, we received 3,287 applications, representing a 16.3% decrease compared to the previous year.

For the current academic year (1 September 2025 – 22 March 2026), 2,105 applications have been received so far. Of these, 358 were submitted by families who had recently moved to the UK from overseas, accounting for 17% of all applications to date.

Current position of In Year Admissions

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
Bishop Ramsey CofE School	2	7	0	2	3
De Salis Studio College	N/A	N/A	19	9	0
Guru Nanak Sikh Academy	2	8	2	7	0
Harefield School	27	42	26	38	50
Haydon School	138	145	83	67	2
Hewens College	17	60	37	4	0
Oak Wood School	0	24	17	10	6
Park Academy West London	22	0	9	0	0
Parkside Studio College	N/A	N/A	44	38	37
Rosedale College	6	14	20	0	0
Swakeleys School for Girls	0	4	6	13	12
The Douay Martyrs Catholic School	0	4	5	4	9

*Accurate up to 11/03/26

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

Fair Access Panel

So far, this academic year, 49 children have been presented through the Fair Access Panel, compared with 62 during the same period last year. This represents a 21% decrease in demand for places via the Fair Access Panel since 2024-25. Most of the Fair Access placements continue to be for Year 11 children (75%).

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. It also reflects the strong commitment of our schools, which are now processing In-Year applications more swiftly and offering places to children without delay. As a result, children are receiving offers from schools with available places much sooner, leading to a notable reduction in the number of children needing to be presented through Fair Access.

Allocations

Secondary Allocations for September 2026

We received and processed 3521 Hillingdon applications submitted on time. All children received an offer on National Offer Day, 2nd March 2026. Of these, 67.13% received an offer at their first preference school, 86.94% received an offer at their 1st to 3rd preference school and 93.75% received their 1st to 6th preference school. The remaining 6.25% received an unallocated offer.

Parents had until Monday 16th March 2026 to respond to their National Offer Day school offer. After this date, the team has chased parents who have not responded to offers and will contact parents wishing to decline their child's offer. A range of reasons are given for declining a place, 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 was made in the first week of April 2026, which incorporate any late preferences or applications received. Late offers are scheduled to be made on a regular basis until the end of July 2026, where offers will then be made as and when places become available.

Primary Allocations for September 2026

National Offer Day for Primary Allocations is Thursday 16th April 2026.

The team have received 3222 on time Hillingdon applications from children applying for Reception in September 2026. Officers are in the final stages of the allocation process before National Offer Day on Thursday 16th April. 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. The first round of late offers will be made by the beginning of June.

Consultation

During the consultation window (1st October 2025 – 31st January 2026), the team consulted to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for Field End Infant School from 90 to 60. This was agreed to give the school greater flexibility to manage its resources effectively whilst continuing to deliver high-quality education for the local community. The Local Authority will continue to monitor demographic trends and, if demand increases in the future, additional places can be reinstated at the school.

Plans moving forward:

As a Council, we are continuing to 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 Place Planning colleagues and Education Improvement Advisors to manage these changes and conversations.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

The report provides assurance to residents that the Council is actively managing in-year demand and September 2026 allocations, supporting timely access to school places, fair allocation processes, and effective planning for changes in local need.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

APPENDICES

NIL.