



## 1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 Our work in school place planning is to ensure that there are, and continue to be, enough school places across the borough to meet demand. As part of our work, we provide an annual summary that includes information on primary, secondary and special schools. The [School Place Planning Report 2022 \(PDF, 3.65MB\)](#) is the 19th annual report. As part of the summary birth and school roll projections for the next ten years are provided for the 5 planning areas in the borough.
- 1.2 The demand for school places is affected by a range of factors including:
- birth rates and population movements
  - school standards
  - popularity of schools
  - location
  - mobility
  - new housing development

## 2. **Primary Growing surplus places at Primary**

- 2.1 Peak years for the number of first place reception preferences received were 2012 (3,163) and 2014 (3,116)<sup>1</sup>. Demand for reception places has been lower for several years since and is projected to continue to be lower for the next few years. Data for first place reception preferences received for September 2021 were at 2,562, significantly lower than the September 2020 figure of 3,039. First place preferences for September 2022 have picked up very slightly to 2,658 but are still at a very low level compared to the period since 2011.
- 2.2 The council has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one. To ensure there are sufficient places a surplus of around 5% is usually required (DfE guidance). Haringey currently has a surplus in excess of 10% for Reception places and reducing the published admission number (PAN)<sup>2</sup> of schools would help bring the surplus closer to optimum levels set by the DfE.
- 2.3 For September 2022, we have made temporary 1fe PAN reductions at the following schools via an in-year variation request approved by the Schools Adjudicator: Lordship Lane, Risley Avenue, St Francis de Sales, St Mary's Priory and The Mulberry. All these schools did not fill any spaces within their second or third class. We are proposing to reduce the PAN at these schools permanently as part of our annual consultation on our admission arrangements for 2024/25. The full details of the proposed arrangements can be found in the Cabinet report presented at the November Cabinet meeting - [Issue - items at meetings - Admission to Schools - Proposed Admission Arrangements for 2024/25 | Haringey Council](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Reception 2011-19 Entry preference information

<sup>2</sup> Admission Number (or Published Admission Number – (PAN) The number of school places that the admission authority must offer in each relevant age group of a school for which it is the admission authority. Admission numbers are part of a school's admission arrangements.

**Figure 1 – Proposed ‘permanent’ reductions in PAN for 2024/25 – consultation**

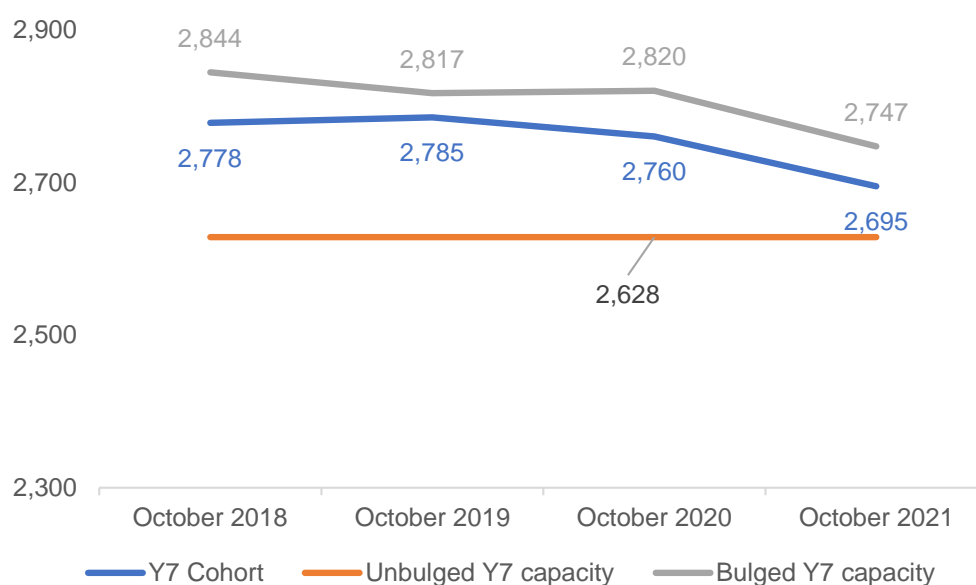
School	Published Admission Number (PAN)		
	Current	Proposed	Reduction
Risley Avenue Primary School, N17 7AB	90	60	-30
St Francis de Sales Catholic Infant and Junior Primary School, N17 8AZ	90	60	-30
The Mulberry Primary School, N17 9RB	90	60	-30
Lordship Lane Primary School, N22 5PS	60	30	-30
St Mary’s Priory Catholic Primary School, N15 5RE	60	30	-30
Earlham Primary School, N22 5HJ	60	30	-30
Bruce Grove Primary School, N17 6UH	60	30	-30
Seven Sisters Primary School, N15 5QE	60	30	-30

**Public Consultation and discussions held with schools**

- 2.4 Demand for primary school places have consistently fallen in recent years and our future projections for demand show a further fall. The Council is proposing to reduce the PAN at several schools as part of the consultation on admission arrangements for 2024/25 (see table above).
- 2.5 The aim of this proposal is to help stabilise each school’s intake and enable school leaders to plan and deliver school provision effectively and meet local demand. This is being undertaken as part of a fully collaborative process with key stakeholders and with two specific guidelines: a) that parental preference will not be undermined and b) that any school that reduces PAN “permanently” will be able to immediately revert to their substantive PAN should local demand warrant it.
- 2.6 We will collate and present all feedback from this consultation to the Cabinet of the Council in February 2023 for decision, and if agreed, will then approach the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) for approval to amend the PAN of the school **with effect from September 2023 thereafter**.
- 2.7 Future projections of demand for Reception places from the 2022 School Place Planning report suggest they will fall to 2,600 by the end of the decade. This contrasts sharply with the peak years of demand for Reception places in 2012 (3,163) and 2014 (3,116).

- 2.8 As mentioned above, we have secured agreement to consult on reducing PAN for 8 primary schools and we think this is enough to stabilise our current position. Our latest projections confirm we will need further reductions going forward and will keep the option to remove another 5 or 6 forms of entry for 2025/26 and beyond under strict review. Since approaching Cabinet for agreement to consult, a further own admission authority school (Our Lady of Muswell RC) has also decided to consult separately on reducing their PAN from two to one form of entry.
- 2.9 The public consultation has commenced with a survey which is currently (December 2022) live. Reminders to participate will be sent before and after the Christmas break. Current responses (12) suggest disagreement with the proposal to reduced capacity at 8 of our primary schools as listed in the table above.
- 2.10 Full responses and rebuttals where appropriate will be given to the responses received by the consultation including tackling some misconceptions about current levels of demand for primary school places and recent birth rates.
- 2.11 More detail on actions undertaken in 2020 and 2021 to help reduce planning admission numbers are shown in the Appendices. Data is also provided on the 6 cluster areas developed for the PAN reduction exercise which set broadly if any further action is required to reduce capacity at our primary schools.
- 2.12 The latest Office for National Statistics birth rate data for 2021 have been updated in the School Place Planning report (SPPR). These continue to show birth rates below 3,400 (3,376) and are the lowest recorded since 2002. For perspective, birth rates fell below 4,000 in 2017 (3,881). The continuation of low birth rates supports the urgent need for reductions in capacity at our primary schools.
- 3. Secondary - Demand starting to diminish after several years of bulge class provision**
- 3.1 For several years there was an upward trend in the demand for Y7 places in Haringey based on the larger cohorts working their way through the primary phase into the secondary phase.
- 3.2 Figure 2 below shows October school census data for the years 2018 to May 2022 and the impact of bulging over this period compared to the notional Y7 capacity of 2,628.

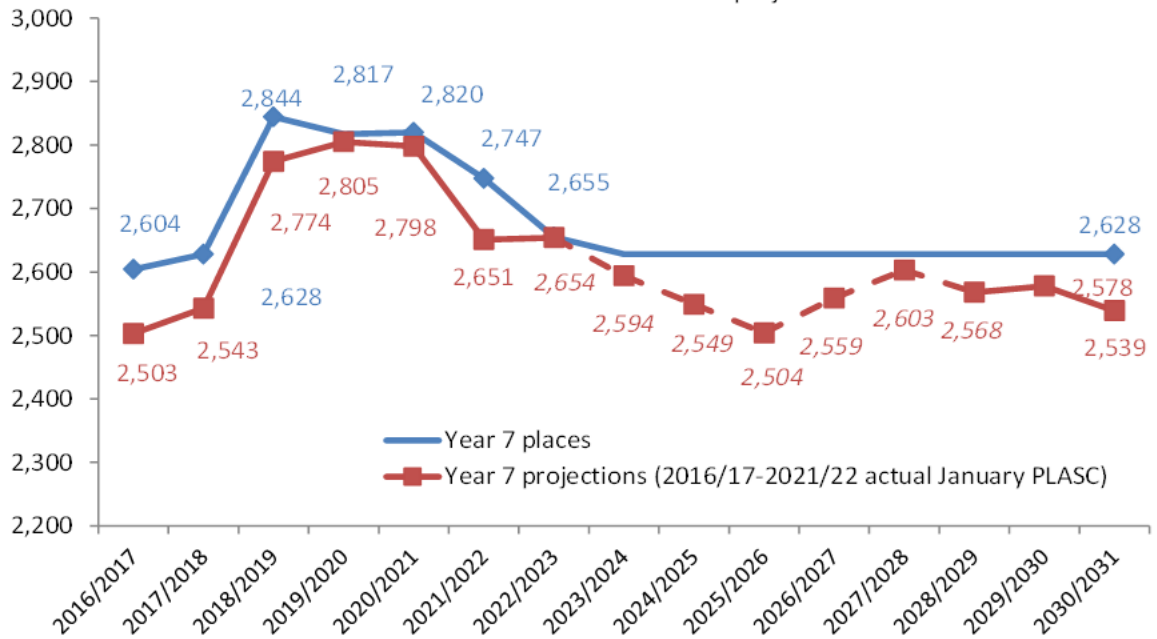
*Figure 2 – October Year 7 cohorts vs. unbulged and bulged Year 7 capacity, 2018-2022*



- 3.3 This trend has begun to recede over the last two years, reducing the number of additional bulge classes needed to continue to provide pupil place sufficiency.
- 3.4 We now need to consider how we will reduce capacity in our secondary schools to allow for the step-change down seen in primary cohorts since 2016/17. We will have to manage this among a mixture of different types of schools (community, academies, a free school and foundation) with varying popularity. To avoid any adverse impact, any decisions to reduce will need to be fair and proportionate with a view on how the change might influence the intake at other local schools.
- 3.5 The latest GLA data (Figure 4a) and in-house experimental projections (Figure 4b) show declines in Year 7 demand below our notional capacity of 2,628 from 2023 onwards. The in-house data shows larger declines than the GLA data especially by 2028/29.

**Figure 4a - Year 7 projections vs. places (GLA projections)**

Source: 2022 GLA School Roll projections



- 3.6 Experimental projections were first developed in 2018 when the original GLA projections were found to be under-estimating recent growth in secondary cohorts. They have been retained ever since 2018 as a useful time-series of data. They use a very simple methodology which is derived by deducting the proportional fall in the Year 6 cohort as at January compared to the Year 7 cohort as at October. In 2021 this drop was 12.2% (3,069 Y6 in October vs. 2,695 Y7 in January).
- 3.7 This proportional difference is applied to existing school cohorts lower down (Y5,Y4,Y3) etc to arrive at a simple prediction based solely on existing cohort sizes and historical trends. It is a useful “sense check” against our official GLA data. The GLA projections are considerably more complex and take into account ward level planned housing development with some accounting for cross-border mobility.

**Figure 4b - Year 7 projections vs. places (Experimental projection)**  
 Source: Haringey Education Services

