Report for:	Council's Cabinet on 10 November 2026
Item number:	**12**
Title:	Council's School Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2028/29 – consultation
Report authorised by:	Ann Graham, Corporate Director of Children's Services
Lead Officers:	Jack Newton, Director for Schools and Learning & SEND, Jack.Newton@haringey.gov.uk Carlo Kodsi, Head of Admissions and School Organisation, Carlo.Kodsi@haringey.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	All
Report for Key/ Non-Key Decision:	Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration.

1.1. This report seeks Cabinet approval to commence the statutory consultation on Haringey's school admission arrangements for the 2028/29 academic year. The consultation will cover admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools, including nursery, infant, junior, primary, secondary, and sixth form provision for which the Council is the admission authority.

1.2. In accordance with the School Admissions Code (2021), Haringey undertakes an annual review of its admission arrangements and consults where required on proposed changes. The Council has adopted a practice of consulting annually, irrespective of whether substantive changes are proposed, to promote transparency and ensure that parents, carers, schools, governing bodies, neighbouring authorities, diocesan bodies and other interested stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on the arrangements. This approach enables emerging local issues and stakeholder views to be considered as part of the formal determination process.

1.3. The annual admissions timetable requires Cabinet to consider consultation proposals in the autumn term. Following the consultation period, the outcomes and any representations received are reported back to Cabinet in February 2027, at which point Cabinet will be asked to formally determine the admission arrangements for implementation in the 2028/29 academic year.

1.4. For the 2028/29 admissions round, no changes are proposed to the oversubscription criteria, admissions policies, or Pan-London coordinated admission schemes that apply to Haringey's community and voluntary controlled primary, junior and secondary schools. However, Cabinet is asked to approve consultation on a proposed reduction to the Published Admission Number (PAN) at **St Mary's CE Primary School (N8)** from 60 to 30 places. This is the only school for which a PAN change is proposed and forms part of the Council's ongoing strategic response to changing demographic trends and school place demand across the borough.

1.5. The governing body of St Mary's CE Primar School (N8) proposes this reduction, recognising that it will help to reduce surplus capacity and enable resources to be deployed more effectively, while maintaining high-quality educational provision. The proposal is intended to support the school's long-term educational and financial

sustainability by ensuring that staffing and budget decisions better reflect the number of pupils on roll. As St Mary's CE Primary School is its own admission authority, the governing body has agreed that the Council should undertake the statutory consultation on its behalf, with the outcome of the consultation informing the final decision-making process.

1.6. The proposal is set against a backdrop of sustained reductions in the primary-aged population, driven principally by declining birth rates, changing housing patterns and outward migration from London. These demographic changes have resulted in a significant reduction in demand for reception places across the borough and have required the Council, working in partnership with schools, to review the organisation and capacity of the school estate. Over recent years, a number of schools have reduced their PANs to better align capacity with projected demand and to support the long-term sustainability of educational provision.

1.7. While the impact of falling rolls initially affected the primary phase, demographic trends are increasingly beginning to influence demand for secondary school places. There are currently 146 unfilled places within existing Year 7 cohorts across Haringey's secondary schools. In addition, the current Year 6 to Year 7 transfer cycle indicates that there are presently 159 vacant Year 7 places available for September 2026 entry. This represents a significant shift when compared with previous years, when additional capacity, including bulge classes and temporary PAN increases, was required to meet parental demand and fulfil the Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient school places. The emerging pattern suggests that parts of the secondary sector are moving from a position of capacity pressure to one of increasing surplus provision.

1.8. In response to these changes, a number of secondary schools have already implemented reductions to their Published Admission Numbers. Heartlands High School reduced its PAN from 240 to 210 with effect from September 2025. Hornsey School for Girls reduced its PAN from 162 to 135 with effect from September 2026. In addition, Park View School will reduce its PAN from 189 to 180 from September 2027, and both Highgate Wood School and Gladesmore Community School will reduce their PANs from 243 to 240 from the same admissions year. These changes have been implemented to better align school capacity with projected demand, support financial sustainability and maintain stable staffing and curriculum structures.

1.9. Alongside these PAN reductions, secondary schools have reviewed their curriculum and staffing models to ensure they remain financially sustainable. Historically, several Haringey secondary schools operated a planning model based on average class sizes of 27 pupils. Through engagement with staff and recognised trade unions, schools have agreed revised class size arrangements based on cohorts of up to 30 pupils per teaching group. This aligns more closely with national funding assumptions and Department for Education (DfE) expectations regarding efficient school organisation and resource utilisation.

1.10. The PAN reductions approved for implementation from September 2027 (Park View, Highgate Wood and Gladesmore) were therefore designed to facilitate a managed transition from admission structures based on average class sizes of 27 pupils to structures based on 30 pupils per class. This approach enables schools to maintain educational standards whilst achieving greater financial resilience, improved curriculum efficiency and more sustainable staffing arrangements. These changes were subject to consultation and were formally determined through the Council's admissions decision-making process in the previous admissions cycle.

1.11. The proposed consultation forms part of the Council's wider approach to school place planning and delivery of the Borough's Education Strategy. The Council has a statutory

duty to ensure a sufficient supply of high-quality school places whilst also supporting the long-term sustainability of schools. Through ongoing engagement with headteachers, governing bodies, academy trusts and other stakeholders, the Council continues to monitor demographic trends, forecast future demand and identify opportunities to strengthen resilience across the education system. This strategic approach seeks to ensure that school capacity remains aligned to pupil demand, public resources are used effectively, and schools are well placed to continue delivering high-quality educational outcomes for children and young people in Haringey.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1. All schools are required to have clearly defined admission arrangements that set out how children are admitted, including the oversubscription criteria that apply where applications exceed the number of places available. Admission arrangements are proposed and determined by the relevant admission authority. For community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools within Haringey, the Council acts as the admission authority and is responsible for consulting upon and determining those arrangements in accordance with statutory requirements.

2.2. Each local authority is also required to publish a coordinated admissions scheme which sets out the processes and timescales that must be followed by all schools and academies for Reception, junior and secondary transfer admissions. These arrangements ensure that school places are allocated in a fair, transparent and efficient manner and that parents receive a single offer of a school place through a coordinated process.

2.3. As the local authority, Haringey has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places and ensure that children and young people can access high-quality education provision. Alongside this duty, the Council must also consider the efficient use of educational resources and the long-term sustainability of the school estate. Like many London boroughs, Haringey continues to experience significant demographic change, characterised by declining birth rates and reduced demand for school places, particularly within the primary phase.

2.4. School funding is largely driven by pupil numbers through the National Funding Formula. Where schools experience sustained reductions in enrolment, this can have a significant impact on their financial position and their ability to maintain staffing structures, curriculum breadth and operational resilience. As a result, the Council has worked closely with schools, governing bodies, academy trusts and diocesan partners over recent years to ensure that school capacity remains aligned with projected pupil demand.

2.5. Significant work has already been undertaken across the borough to respond to changing demographics and falling rolls. In recent admissions cycles, a number of schools have reduced their Published Admission Numbers (PANs) following consultation and formal determination processes. These measures have helped to align capacity with demand, support financial sustainability and ensure the efficient use of educational resources across the borough. In addition, several secondary schools have implemented organisational changes, including revised class size models, to strengthen their long-term resilience in the context of declining pupil numbers.

2.6. For the 2028/29 admissions round, no changes are proposed to the oversubscription criteria, admissions policies, or coordinated admissions schemes for Haringey's community and voluntary controlled schools. The only proposed change is a reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) at St Mary's CE Primary School (N8) from 60 to 30 Reception places. This proposal reflects the continued decline in demand for

primary places within the local area and seeks to ensure that the school's capacity is better aligned with current and projected pupil numbers.

2.7. The Council will continue to work closely with school leaders, governing bodies, diocesan representatives and other stakeholders to monitor demographic trends and support the effective planning of school places across the borough. This collaborative approach forms an important part of the Council's wider Education Strategy, ensuring that schools remain financially sustainable, educationally effective and well placed to meet the needs of their communities.

2.8. This report seeks Cabinet approval to initiate a six-week statutory consultation. Further details of the proposals are set out in paragraph 3 below.

3. Recommendations

3.1. Cabinet is asked to:

3.1.1. **Agree** to consult on the proposed admission arrangements for Haringey's community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2028/29 academic year, including the coordinated schemes for the admission of children to primary and secondary schools.

3.1.2. **Agree** to consult on the proposed fair access protocol[1] which, subject to Cabinet approval following consultation, will come into effect from **1 March 2027**

3.1.3. **Agree** to consult with stakeholders on the school's proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) at St Mary's CE Primary School (N8) from 60 to 30 Reception places with effect from the 2028/29 academic year. The proposal has been developed in response to continuing reductions in demand for primary school places and seeks to ensure that school capacity remains aligned with projected pupil numbers and the efficient use of educational resources.

3.1.4. **Note** that, following the consultation period, a further report will be presented to Cabinet summarising the representations received and recommending the final admission arrangements for determination in accordance with the statutory timetable.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1. In common with many London boroughs, Haringey has experienced a sustained decline in demand for Reception places over a number of years. This trend has been driven by a combination of factors, including falling birth rates, changes in migration patterns, housing affordability pressures, rising living costs and demographic changes across London. These factors are largely outside the Council's control and are not reflective of the quality, performance or leadership of individual schools.

4.2. The reduction in demand for primary school places has resulted in increasing levels of surplus capacity across parts of the borough. As the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools, the Council has a statutory responsibility not only to secure sufficient school places but also to ensure that school places are planned and maintained efficiently. In response, the Council has worked closely with schools,

[1] In line with para. 3.14 of the Code, each local authority must have a Fair Access Protocol to ensure that unplaced and vulnerable children, and those who are having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, are allocated a school place as quickly as possible.

governing bodies, academy trusts and diocesan partners to review pupil place planning data and implement appropriate measures to align capacity with demand.

4.3. A report on managing School rolls and maintaining educational standards in London published by London Councils in January 2026 provides further context on the challenges facing local authorities and schools across the capital. The report highlights the financial and operational pressures created by falling pupil numbers and the importance of maintaining a sustainable school estate that is responsive to changing demographic conditions.

4.4. Whilst the most significant impact of falling rolls has been felt within the primary phase, similar demographic trends are now beginning to emerge within the secondary sector. This contrasts with previous years when additional capacity was required to meet demand. Consequently, the Council continues to monitor both primary and secondary pupil forecasts closely to ensure that school place provision remains aligned to projected need.

4.5. In recent years, a number of schools have already reduced their Published Admission Numbers (PANs) following consultation and formal determination through the Council's admissions processes. At the secondary phase, Heartlands High School reduced its PAN from 240 to 210 from September 2025, Hornsey School for Girls reduced its PAN from 162 to 135 from September 2026, and Park View School, Highgate Wood School and Gladesmore Community School will implement previously approved reductions from September 2027. These decisions have already been taken and do not form part of the proposals contained within this report.

4.6. For the 2028/29 admissions round, no changes are proposed to the oversubscription criteria, admissions policies, coordinated admissions schemes or the Published Admission Numbers of any secondary school. The only proposed change is a reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) at **St Mary's CE Primary School (N8)** from **60 to 30 Reception places**.

4.7. The proposed PAN reduction at St Mary's CE Primary School reflects the continued decline in demand for Reception places within the local area and seeks to ensure that school capacity more accurately reflects current and forecast pupil numbers. Reducing the PAN would help to minimise surplus places, support the efficient use of resources and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the school's educational and financial planning arrangements.

4.8. The proposal has been developed as part of the Council's wider school place planning strategy, which seeks to balance parental preference, sufficiency of school places and the efficient use of public resources. Forecasts indicate that a PAN of 30 would continue to provide sufficient capacity to meet anticipated local demand whilst maintaining access to high-quality school provision for families in the area.

4.9. The consultation proposed in this report will provide parents, carers, schools, governing bodies, diocesan authorities, neighbouring local authorities and other interested stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the proposed reduction to the Published Admission Number at St Mary's CE Primary School and on the wider admission arrangements for the 2028/29 academic year. Following the consultation, all representations received will be carefully considered before final recommendations are presented to Cabinet for determination in accordance with the statutory admissions timetable.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1. No changes are proposed to the oversubscription criteria, admissions policies or coordinated admissions schemes for Haringey's community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2028/29 academic year. The Council has reviewed the current arrangements and considers that they continue to provide a fair, transparent and legally compliant framework for the allocation of school places. Accordingly, no alternative changes to admissions criteria are being proposed as part of this consultation.

5.2. In developing the proposals set out in this report, the Council considered whether existing school capacity should be maintained at current levels despite the continuing decline in demand for Reception places. However, retaining surplus capacity where there is no forecast need would result in an inefficient use of educational resources and could increase financial pressures on schools already managing the impact of falling rolls.

5.3. The Council therefore considers that a reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) at **St Mary's CE Primary School (N8)** from **60 to 30 places** represents a proportionate and appropriate response to local demographic trends. The proposal would better align the school's admission capacity with current and projected demand while preserving parental choice and ensuring sufficient Reception places remain available within the local area.

5.4. The proposed PAN reduction should also be viewed within the context of the wider school place planning measures that have already been implemented across the borough. In recent years, a number of schools have reduced their PANs following consultation and formal determination processes in order to address declining pupil numbers and support long-term sustainability. Those decisions have already been taken and are not the subject of this report.

5.5. The Council recognises that PAN reductions are only one mechanism available to support the long-term sustainability of schools. Other approaches include greater collaboration between schools through partnerships, federations, shared leadership arrangements and other forms of joint working. The Council continues to work closely with schools, governing bodies, academy trusts and diocesan partners to explore opportunities that strengthen resilience across the education system and ensure high-quality education provision is maintained across the borough.

5.6. More significant options, such as school amalgamations or closures, have also been considered by local authorities across London where levels of surplus capacity have become unsustainable. Whilst Haringey has previously undertaken statutory processes to address surplus places within parts of the primary sector, no such proposals are being brought forward as part of this consultation. The Council considers that the proposed PAN reduction at St Mary's CE Primary School represents the most proportionate response at this stage, balancing the need for sustainable provision with the continued availability of sufficient school places for local families.

6. Background information

6.1. **Why do we consult?** - This report seeks approval to commence consultation on Haringey's proposed admission arrangements for the 2028/29 academic year. The consultation will ensure that the Council's admission arrangements and coordinated admissions schemes are reviewed and determined in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021 ("the Code") and all relevant legislation.

6.2. The Code requires admission authorities to consult on their admission arrangements where changes are proposed. Where no changes are proposed, admission authorities must consult at least once every seven years. In addition, paragraph 1.42 of the Code requires admission authorities to undertake statutory consultation where a reduction in a school's Published Admission Number (PAN) is proposed.

6.3. The Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools maintained by the local authority and is therefore responsible for consulting on and determining the admission arrangements for those schools.

6.4. Maintaining a fair, transparent and objective admissions system is a key statutory responsibility of the Council. Admission arrangements must be clear, reasonable, procedurally fair and compliant with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. Admission authorities must ensure that admission arrangements do not directly or indirectly disadvantage children with protected characteristics, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, or children from particular social or ethnic groups.

6.5. Academies, foundation schools and voluntary aided (VA) schools are their own admission authorities and are responsible for consulting on and determining their own admission arrangements. The Council nevertheless has a statutory role in coordinating admissions across the borough and monitoring arrangements to ensure compliance with the Code. All admission authorities must maintain clearly defined admission arrangements that specify how places will be allocated where applications exceed the number of places available.

Fair Access Protocol (FAP)

6.6. An in-year fair access protocol has been agreed with all schools in Haringey to ensure unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a school place without delay. This is a statutory requirement set out in the Code. In using the protocol, Haringey ensures that these children and young people are shared fairly across all Haringey schools and that this process is open and transparent.

6.7. All Haringey schools, including schools that are their own admission authority continue to support the principles and approach of the fair access protocol. Paragraph 3 at Appendix 5 sets out that “it is essential to the success of the fair access protocol that all headteachers and governing bodies agree to the aims, principles and procedures and give their fullest support.” As part of this consultation, we ask key stakeholders (headteachers and governing boards) to review the protocol in order to make an assessment of its effectiveness. In line with para. 3.30 (b) of the Code, there is a requirement on all Local Authorities to assess their effectiveness of fair access protocols including how many children were admitted to each school under it. An annual report is produced and sent to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator with this information.

6.8. *Is there any change this year and what is the potential risk?* The Council continues to experience a sustained decline in demand for primary school places as a result of wider demographic changes affecting Haringey and London more generally. This has led to increasing levels of surplus capacity across parts of the primary sector and has required the Council to review school place provision to ensure that capacity remains aligned with forecast demand.

6.9. In recent years, the Council has worked with schools, governing bodies, academy trusts and diocesan partners to implement a number of PAN reductions across both the primary and secondary sectors. Those changes have already been consulted upon and

formally determined through previous admissions cycles and are not the subject of this consultation.

6.10. For the 2028/29 admissions round, the only proposed change to Published Admission Numbers (PAN) is at St Mary's CE Primary School (N8). The proposal has been brought forward in response to a sustained reduction in demand for Reception places within the school's local planning area and seeks to align the school's capacity more closely with projected pupil numbers.

6.11. The governing body supports the proposed reduction, recognising that it will help to reduce surplus capacity and enable resources to be deployed more effectively, while maintaining high-quality educational provision. The proposal is intended to support the school's long-term educational and financial sustainability by ensuring that staffing and budget decisions better reflect the number of pupils on roll.

6.12. School leaders and governors have been monitoring declining local demand for a number of years and consider that a lower PAN is now appropriate. The reduction will help the school avoid maintaining unnecessary capacity, allowing it to focus resources more effectively on teaching, learning and school improvement, while retaining an appropriate number of Reception places to meet anticipated demand.

6.13. The governing body has confirmed its support for the proposal and will continue to keep local demand under review. Should demand for places increase in future years, there is flexibility within the admissions framework to increase the PAN or admit above PAN on either a temporary or permanent basis. While reducing PAN requires consultation and formal decision-making processes, increases can be implemented more readily in response to changing local circumstances.

6.14. The Council recognises that St Mary's CE Primary School is its own admission authority. The governing body has delegated responsibility for undertaking the PAN reduction consultation to the Local Authority, with the final decision to be taken by Cabinet. The governing body does not intend to propose any other changes to its admission arrangements for 2028/29 and therefore will not be consulting on any amendments to its oversubscription criteria. The governing body has agreed to keep pupil-place demand under review and, if required, can increase its PAN or provide additional places on a temporary basis.

6.15. The Council considers that the proposed reduction represents a proportionate and evidence-based response to current demographic trends and declining demand for Reception places in the area. The reduction would continue to ensure sufficient school places are available locally while supporting the efficient use of public resources. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, Cabinet will be asked to approve the revised PAN as part of the determination of the 2028/29 admission arrangements.

Table 1 - Proposed amendment to Published Admission Number (PAN)

School	Current PAN	Proposed PAN for 2028	Reduction
St Mary's CE Primary School (Infant)	60	30	-30

St Mary's CE Primary School (Infant)

6.16. St Mary's CE Primary School (N8) is a voluntary aided Church of England primary school located within Planning Area 2. The school currently has a Published Admission

Number (PAN) of 60 Reception places, equivalent to two forms of entry. As part of the Council's ongoing review of school place provision and admission arrangements, it is proposed that the PAN is reduced from 60 to 30 Reception places with effect from the 2028/29 academic year.

6.17. The proposal builds on action already taken to manage capacity at the school in response to falling demand for Reception places. Following significantly lower than anticipated applications for September 2026 entry, the school, supported by the Council, submitted an application to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) for an in-year variation[2] to temporarily reduce its PAN from 60 to 30 places. The Schools Adjudicator approved the request, recognising the local demographic circumstances and reduced demand for places within the area. The temporary reduction will take effect from September 2026 and has provided a practical and evidence-based approach to aligning capacity with local demand.

6.18. The school is now seeking to make this reduction permanent through the statutory admissions consultation process. The proposal is informed by continued analysis of pupil forecasts, application patterns and demographic trends, all of which indicate that demand for Reception places within Planning Area 2 remains significantly below the level required to sustain a two-form-entry intake at the school.

6.19. Forecasting data indicate that there is sufficient primary school capacity within Planning Area 2 and the surrounding area to meet anticipated demand over the medium term without maintaining a PAN of 60 places at St Mary's CE Primary School. Current projections suggest that demand will remain below previous levels throughout the forecast period and that there is no additional need for Reception capacity between 2025 and 2030. Consequently, it is becoming increasingly challenging for the school to consistently recruit enough pupils to support two Reception classes.

6.20. The proposal is also informed by the requirements of infant class size legislation, which limits infant classes to a maximum of 30 pupils per qualified teacher. Retaining a PAN of 60 where pupil numbers fluctuate only marginally above 30 can create significant operational and financial challenges, as the school may be required to employ an additional teacher to comply with statutory class size requirements despite having relatively small overall cohorts. A PAN of 30 would provide greater certainty for curriculum, staffing and financial planning and would better reflect the number of places likely to be required locally.

Can any risk be mitigated?

6.21. The proposed reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) at St Mary's CE Primary School (N8) is intended to align the school's capacity more closely with current and projected demand for Reception places. Failure to adjust capacity where there is sustained surplus provision may place additional financial pressure on schools, as funding is largely driven by pupil numbers. Maintaining excessive surplus places can therefore impact a school's ability to plan effectively and maintain long-term financial sustainability.

6.22. The School Admissions Code requires admission arrangements, including PANs, to be determined at least 18 months before implementation. Consulting on the proposed PAN reduction for the 2028/29 admissions round provides sufficient time for the school to plan appropriately for implementation and ensures that parents, carers and other

[2] The Office of the Schools Adjudicator has jurisdiction to consider a proposed reduction of PAN via an in-year variation request.

stakeholders have an opportunity to comment on the proposal before a final decision is taken.

6.23. The proposed reduction has been developed in response to local demographic and pupil forecasting data, which indicate a continuing decline in demand for Reception places in the school's local area. The Council's analysis suggests that reducing the PAN from 60 to 30 would better align capacity with anticipated demand, whilst continuing to ensure that there are sufficient school places available locally for children requiring admission.

6.24. The proposal is not expected to have an adverse impact on parental preference or access to high-quality local school provision. Current and projected school place planning data indicate that there will remain sufficient Reception places available across the local area, ensuring that families continue to have access to suitable school places within a reasonable distance of their home.

6.25. Haringey continues to benefit from a strong school system, with the vast majority of schools judged by Ofsted to be either Good or Outstanding. The proposed PAN reduction is not based on school performance considerations but is a response to demographic trends and changing patterns of demand. The Council is satisfied that sufficient high-quality provision will remain available to meet the needs of local children and families.

6.26. School place planning is a key statutory function of the Council. The Council must ensure that there are sufficient school places available whilst avoiding significant levels of surplus capacity across the school estate. Effective place planning helps to ensure that public resources are used efficiently and that schools remain sustainable and resilient over the longer term. Without regular review and adjustment of school capacity, there is a risk of either failing to meet future demand or maintaining levels of surplus provision that place unnecessary pressure on school budgets.

6.27. The proposed PAN reduction represents a proportionate response to current and forecast demand and forms part of the Council's wider strategy for managing school places across the borough. The Council will continue to monitor application patterns, birth rates and population forecasts closely. Should local demand increase significantly in the future, the school's PAN can be reviewed through future admissions consultation processes.

6.28. Further information on the Council's approach to forecasting demand and planning school places is available in the annual School Place Planning Report, which can be accessed at: **www.haringey.gov.uk/schoolplaceplanning.**

Demand for Reception places – downward trajectory

6.29. Table 2 below shows the number of Reception pupils between 2012 and 2026 in Haringey has generally been on a downward trajectory from a high of 3,259 in 2012 to 2,606 in January 2026 (equivalent to around 22 forms of entry). The latest projections from our 2026 School place planning report (SPPR) suggest demand for school places will not exceed 2,500 between 2027/28 and 2032/33.

Table 2 - Reception rolls between 2012/13 and 2025/26.

Year	Reception roll as of January	Annual change	Percentage change over previous year	As a proportion of Jan 2013
2012/13	3,259 (Jan 2013)	61	1.9%	100%

2013/14	3,139 (Jan 2014)	-120	-3.7%	96%
2014/15	3,181 (Jan 2015)	42	1.3%	98%
2015/16	3,185 (Jan 2016)	4	0.1%	98%
2016/17	3,067 (Jan 2017)	-118	-3.7%	94%
2017/18	2,979 (Jan 2018)	-88	-2.9%	91%
2018/19	3,029 (Jan 2019)	50	1.7%	93%
2019/20	2,952 (Jan 2020)	-77	-2.5%	91%
2020/21	2,934 (Jan 2021)	-18	-0.6%	90%
2021/22	2,683 (Jan 2022)	-251	-8.6%	82%
2022/23	2,720 (actual Jan 2023)	+37	1.4%	83%
2023/24	2,652 (actual Jan 2024)	-68	-2.5%	81%
2024/25	2,657 (actual Jan 2025)	+5	0.2%	82%
2025/26	2,606 (actual Jan 2025)	-51	-1.9%	80%

Source: 2012/13-2025/26 PLASC School Census

6.30. First place preferences data (which is a strong indicator of the overall demand for places) for September 2026 were lower than in September 2025. See planning area level (last year's data in brackets). PA1: 491 (526) PA2: 609 (624) PA3: 297 (331) PA4: 552 (573) PA5: 592 (598). Total first place preferences since 2020 are as follows: 2020: 3,039, 2021: 2,562, 2022: 2,658, 2023: 2,688, 2024: 2,624, 2025: 2,652, 2026: 2,541.

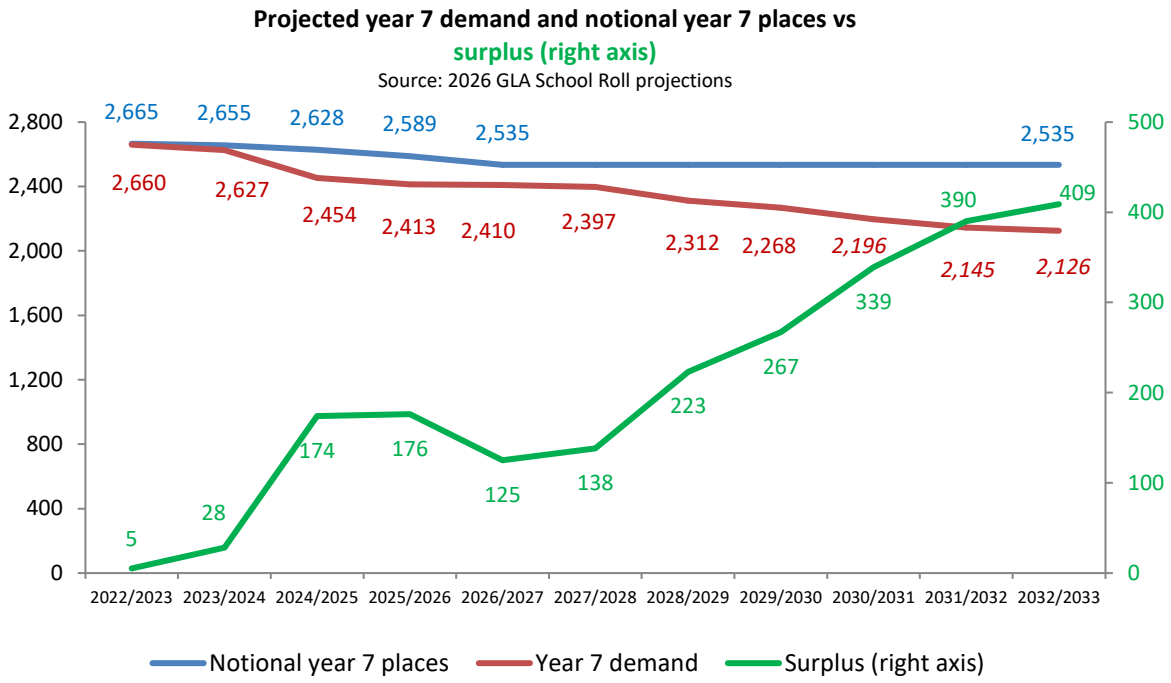
6.31. Haringey currently has a surplus of **214** Reception school places (year of entry) equivalent to around 7 forms of entry. This equates to a 7.6% surplus across our primary school estate. The 2026 School Place Planning Report (SPPR) projects further growth in primary school vacancies between 2026 and 2032 which will place a growing financial burden on Haringey primary schools.

6.32. Pupil numbers can fluctuate year on year, but the aim is to have 5-10% vacancies which will ensure there will be places to meet parental demand in each planning area and for those moving in mid-year, and secure stability for all schools. Having several schools with a PAN over 30 pupils above the level of their local demand means some schools attract a few pupils from further away requiring more classes to be run, but they are not economic, with a risk that if pupils join or leave, a class may need to be opened or closed. This disrupts education for all the pupils in the year group.

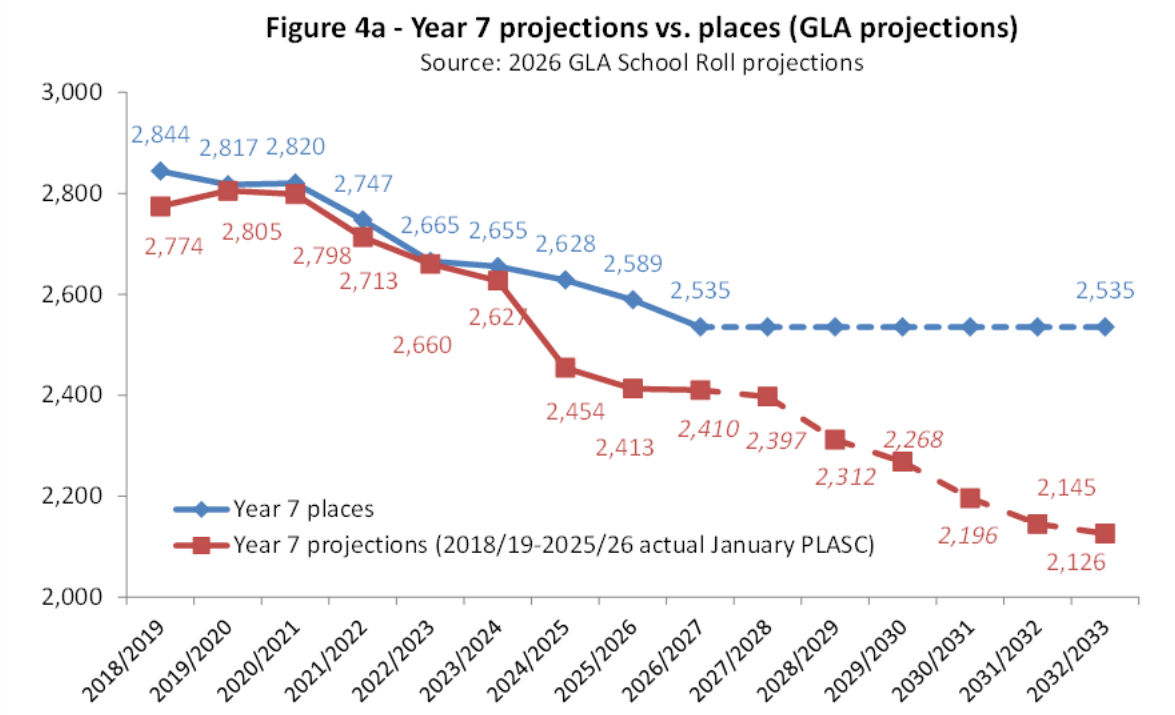
6.33. To balance school budgets, classes need to include 24 or more pupils. Schools with declining or volatile rolls face big changes in their annual budget, and consequent cuts in staff and risk financial deficit. The aim of PAN reductions is to match the operational level of schools to local demand and improve the focus of resources in each school on their pupils and reduce the risk of deficits. Meanwhile the physical capacity will remain available if demand rises, when it is possible to increase the PAN immediately, without consultation. It is considered prudent that in future PANs may be increased temporarily a year at a time, whilst parental demand is kept under review.

Demand for Year 7 places

6.34. A secondary place planning briefing was produced in2024 for all Secondary Headteachers prior to the publication of the 2024 School Place Planning report (SPPR) in June 2024. The data shown below has been reproduced showing the latest 2026 projections and reflecting changes in secondary capacity as shown below. Reducing our Y7 capacity to 2,535 from 2026 onwards has reduced the number of surplus place but further reductions in capacity are required.



6.35. The latest data from the 2026 SPPR (Figure 4a) which features the latest projections from the GLA are shown below:

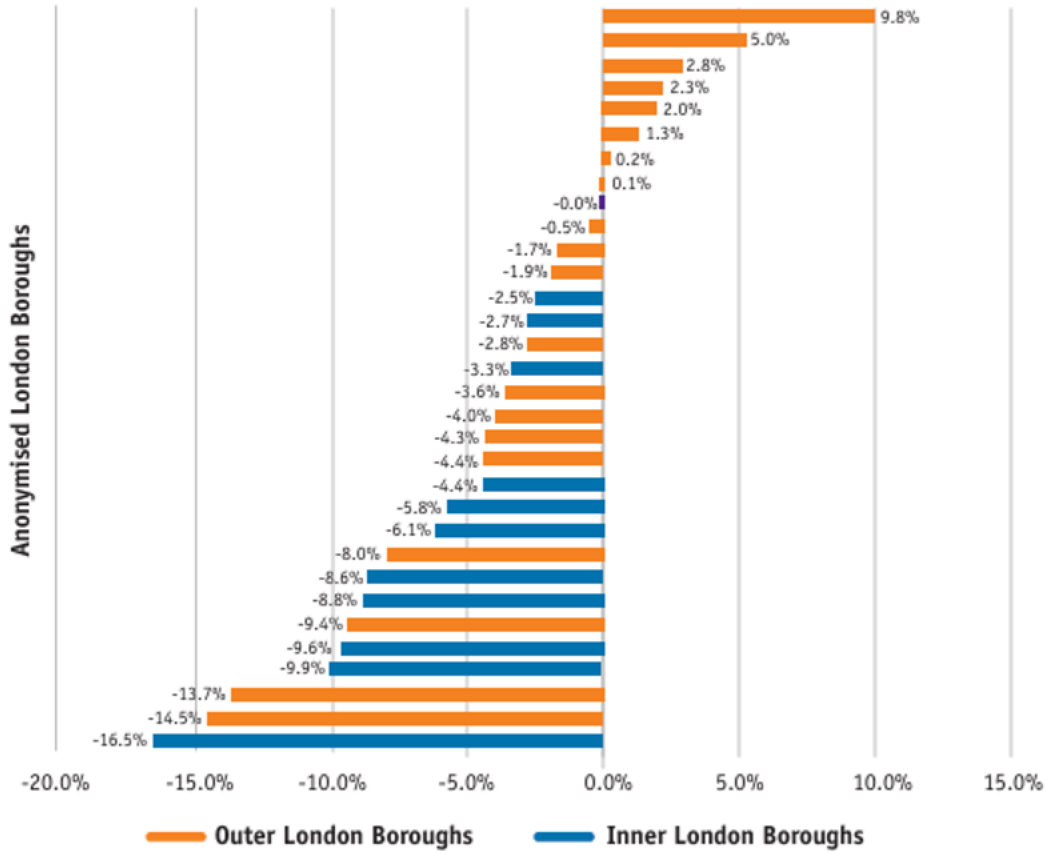


6.36. They show little material difference in the predominant issue of growing surpluses in Year 7 between now and the end of the decade (339 places). The 2026 projections are based on a new secondary PAN of 2,535 following the permanent reduction in capacity at Heartlands High from 2025 (240 to 210) and reductions in PAN at Hornsey school for Girls and at Park View in 2026 to 135 and 180 respectively.

6.37. This decline in secondary demand is not related specifically to Haringey. Data from London Councils (Graph 2) shows that only 6 boroughs are reporting an increase in projected change in Year 7 demand between 2025-26 and 2029/30 in excess of 1%. The average drop across London is 3.8%. This is important since it reduces the

likelihood of our secondary schools from being “rescued” by demand from our neighbouring boroughs.

Graph 2: **Percentage change in London Reception school places, 2025/26 to 2029/30**



Source: London Councils – Managing school rolls and maintaining education standards in London (January 2026)

6.38. The data below shows year by year projections for Year 6 and Year 7 places using the latest data from the 2026 SPPR. It shows some variability but vacancies of between 4 and 14 forms of entry (based on standard class sizes of 30) between now and the end of the decade.

6.39. Based on the above decline reductions in secondary capacity should be undertaken to bolster sustainability across the school estate and ensure the provision of places meets projected demand.

6.40. As the Year 7 surplus grows year by year there will be a sustained growth in vacancies across the entire secondary cohort. Data on 11-15 year old projections and planned places is shown below. It clearly shows surpluses across the secondary cohort growing to around 1,300-1,400 places by the end of the decade.

6.41. To put 1,000 secondary places into a Haringey context data from the May 2025 School census indicates that our existing 12 secondary settings (Y7-Y11) vary in total pupil rolls between 668 and 1,342 with an average of 1,075 and a median average of 1,108.

Table 3 - Year 6 and 7 projections and planned places (Original GLA projection data)

	Year	Number of year 7 places	Number of year 6 pupils	Number of year 7 pupils	year 7 place shortfall / surplus	% of year 7 surplus places
Actual	2018/2019	2,844	3,160	2,774	70	2.5%
Actual	2019/2020	2,817	3,073	2,805	12	0.4%
Actual	2020/2021	2,820	3,069	2,798	22	0.8%
Actual	2021/2022	2,747	2,874	2,713	34	1.2%
Actual	2022/2023	2,665	2,863	2,660	5	0.2%
Actual	2023/2024	2,665	2,825	2,627	38	1.4%
Actual	2024/2025	2,628	2,750	2,454	174	6.6%
Actual	2025/2026	2,589	2,745 (actual Jan 2026)	2,413 (actual Jan 2026)	176	6.8%
Projection	*2026/2027*	*2,535*	*2,745*	*2,410*	*125*	*4.9%*
Projection	*2027/2028*	*2,535*	*2,634*	*2,397*	*138*	*5.4%*
Projection	*2028/2029*	*2,535*	*2,597*	*2,312*	*223*	*8.8%*
Projection	*2029/2030*	*2,535*	*2,614*	*2,268*	*267*	*10.5%*
Projection	*2030/2031*	*2,535*	*2,568*	*2,196*	*339*	*13.4%*
Projection	*2031/2032*	*2,535*	*2,508*	*2,145*	*390*	*15.4%*
Projection	*2032/2033*	*2,535*	*2,401*	*2,126*	*409*	*16.1%*

Source: 2018-2026 PLASC counts and GLA 2026 School Roll projections 10 year constrained and 3/4 Model.

Table 4 - 11-15 year old projections and planned places

Year	11-15 capacity (2018/19 – 2023/24) and planned places (2024/25 – 2031/31)	Number of 11-15 year old pupils *(projections from 2024/25 onwards)*	11-15 year old place shortfall/ surplus	% surplus / shortfall of 11-15 year old places
2025/26	13,284	12,769	515	3.9%
2026/27	*13,072*	*12,573*	*499*	*3.8%*
2027/28	*12,942*	*12,396*	*546*	*4.2%*
2028/29	*12,822*	*12,191*	*631*	*4.9%*
2029/30	*12,729*	*12,050*	*679*	*5.3%*
2030/31	*12,675*	*11,794*	*881*	*7.0%*
2031/32	*12,675*	*11,562*	*1,113*	*8.8%*
2032/33	*12,675*	*11,319*	*1,356*	*10.7%*

Source: 2026 PLASC counts and GLA 2026 School Roll projections 10 year constrained and 3/4 Model

Housing development across the borough

6.42. At this stage it is unclear how much additional demand for school places will come from planned housing development. Our projections use data from the GLA (Greater London Authority) which make assumptions about the “child yield” from new developments, essentially the number of children that you might expect from the mix of proposed new housing.

6.43. In recent years and across most London boroughs these child yields have been considerably lower than anticipated. This may be in part related to the character of new properties, many of which are 1–2-bedroom apartments and which are not necessarily optimal for family living.

6.44. Further factors also include the affordability of larger housing in Haringey and across London and the additional impacts of Brexit and Covid-19, both of which have been linked to lower levels of demand for future school places as both factors have impacted birth rates across London and led to out-migration from Haringey and London.

6.45. Irrespective of whether new housing or some other dynamic creates additional demand for Reception places in future years the priority now is to ensure the sustainability and broad mix of all our secondary schools. This will ensure their continued success today and ability to absorb of potential additional pupils in future years.

Fully collaborative process and schools of all types

6.46. The approach to managing school place capacity in Haringey has been developed through a **fully collaborative process involving schools of all types**, including maintained schools, academies, voluntary aided schools, diocesan partners, governing bodies and trusts. This work has been informed by two key principles:

a) **Protecting parental preference** by ensuring that Haringey families continue to have access to sufficient high-quality school places across the borough, with places remaining available at local schools within a reasonable travelling distance.

b) **Maintaining flexibility within the school estate** so that admission arrangements can respond to future changes in demand. Where demographic trends change and additional capacity is required, admission authorities retain the ability to revert immediately to their original PANs.

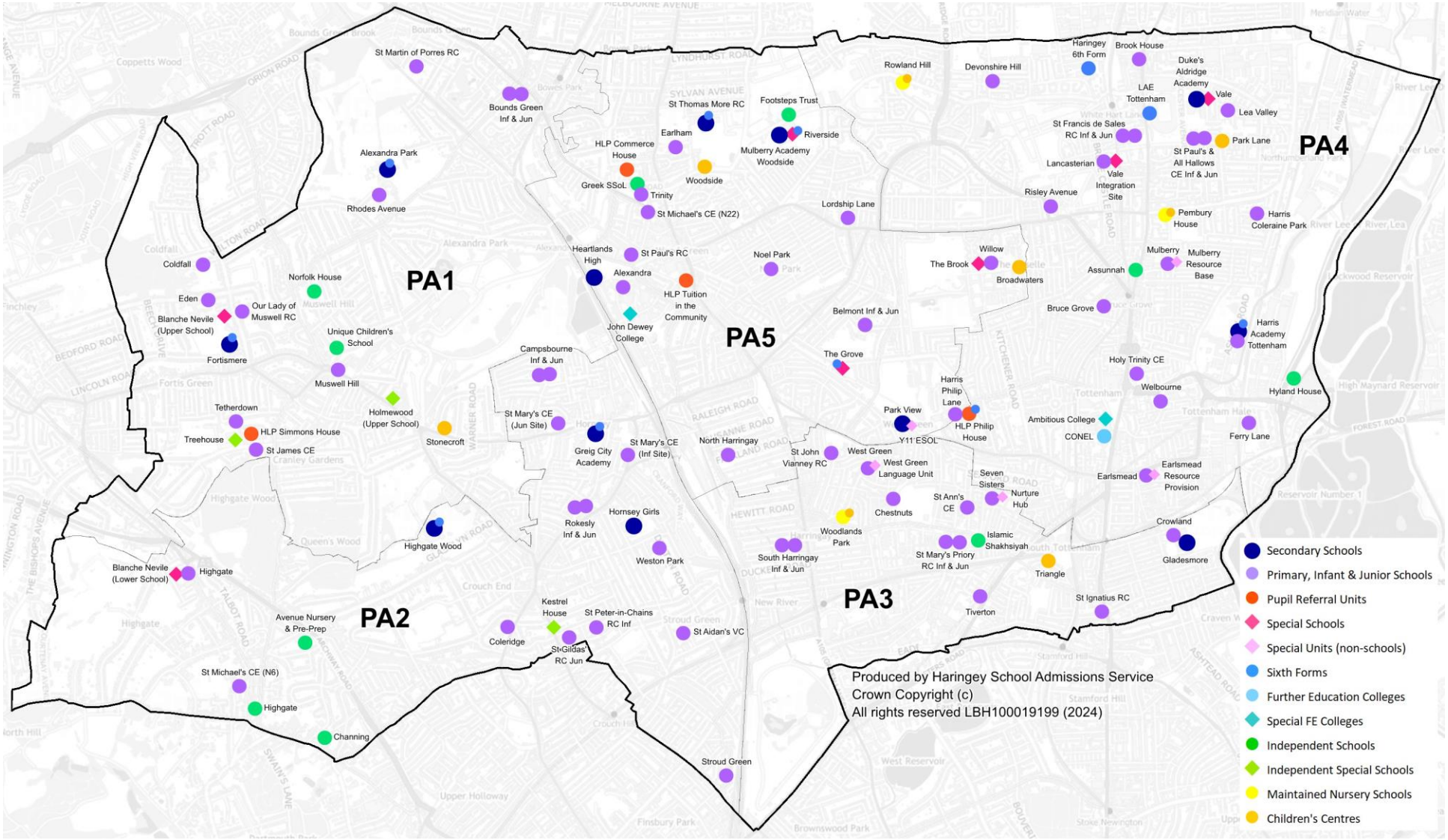
6.47. The overarching objective is to ensure that school capacity remains aligned with current and projected demand, supporting the efficient use of resources while maintaining a sustainable and resilient education system across the borough.

6.48. The Council has worked closely with schools of all phases and governance types, including academies, maintained schools, the London Diocesan Board for Schools and the Diocese of Westminster, to consider the implications of falling pupil numbers and increasing levels of surplus capacity. This collaborative approach has enabled partners to develop a shared understanding of demographic trends and school place planning pressures across the borough.

6.49. The Council has worked closely with schools of all governance types, including maintained schools, academies, faith schools, the London Diocesan Board for Schools and the Diocese of Westminster, to respond to the demographic changes affecting demand for school places across the borough. A number of schools have already implemented previously agreed reductions to their Published Admission Numbers (PANs) as part of a coordinated and strategic approach to managing surplus capacity and maintaining the long-term sustainability of educational provision. The proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) at St Mary's CE Primary School (N8) from 60 to 30 places has been developed within this wider context and reflects ongoing collaboration between the Council, the governing body and diocesan representatives. The Council remains committed to a phased and partnership-based approach to school place planning, ensuring that provision remains responsive to local demand, financially

sustainable and capable of meeting the future needs of children and families across Haringey.

Map of Haringey Planning Areas



Consultation

6.50. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the Code sets out that an admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least once every 7 years. Consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the year before those arrangements are to apply.

6.51. All admission authorities must consult in accordance with paragraph 1.42 of the Code where they propose a decrease to the PAN. This report will ask for approval from Cabinet to consult on our proposed admission arrangements, including the proposal to reduce the PANs at the above-named schools set out in this report from September 2027. We will collate and present all feedback from this consultation to the Cabinet of the Council in February 2026 for decision.

6.52. The purpose of our consultation is to ensure that all voices and views are heard, and it will allow parents, schools, religious authorities, and the local community to comment about our proposed admission arrangements and proposals to reduce PANs.

6.53. To meet statutory requirements (para. 1.47 of the Code) but also to ensure as wide an engagement as possible, we will be consulting with:

a. parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
b. other persons in the relevant area who may have an interest in the proposed admissions;
c. all other admission authorities within the relevant area
d. whichever of the governing body and the local authority who are not the admission authority;
e. any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority; and
f. in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.

Proposed consultation timetable

Stage	What happens?	Dates and Timescales
1	Consultation on the Council's proposed admission arrangements including proposals to reduce PANs at selected primary and secondary schools	**November 2026 – January 2027**
2	Analysis of consultation representations and preparation of information to be considered by the Council's Cabinet	**January – February 2027**
3	Meeting of the Cabinet to consider representations and determine future arrangements including decision on proposal to reduce PAN	**February 2027**

6.54. To ensure as wide a consultation as possible we intend to provide details in the following ways:

- through the bi-weekly (term-time only) Haringey Schools Newsletter which is distributed to the headteacher and chair of governors of all schools in the borough

- to all children's centres in the borough
- to all registered nurseries and child minders and any other early year's providers
- on the Council's online admissions pages
- Individual school websites and noticeboards
- via information in all libraries across the borough
- to all councillors
- to MPs in Haringey
- to the diocesan authorities and any other religious bodies
- other groups, bodies, parents and carers as appropriate

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026

7.1. Ensuring we have a transparent and objective school admissions process with oversubscription criteria that is reasonable, clear, objective, and compliant with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation, underpins theme 3 within the Corporate Delivery Plan which seeks to enable every child to have the best start in life with access to high-quality education. By reducing the PANs at some schools, the council will ensure that schools remain viable, standards are maintained and improved, and that parents and carers still have a choice of good or outstanding schools to choose from for their children.

7.2. Ensuring that we prioritise forms of school organisation that will remain financially viable under a range of different funding scenarios (i.e., organisational structures within and between schools that provide flexibility to address population change. Exploring creative and lasting solutions for school re-organisation, that minimise the risk of having to close schools in future and maintaining the current balance of provision across the borough that matches local need and strengthens local communities (including sufficient affordable SEND provision, balance of faith provision and LA/Academy Schools).

8. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Director of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

8.1. Below are financial, governance and legal and equality comments.

Finance

8.2. The Director of Finance has been consulted in the production of this report and confirms that apart from a small administrative cost there are no direct financial implications as a result of the consultation and engagement proposals. However, it will help reduce the financial pressure on these individual schools and the risk of these schools running into deficit.

8.3. It is in the interest of the local authority to ensure that demand is as closely matched to supply as possible. Reducing PANs to match the demand would reduce school expenditure on staff not needed to teach classes that are not required. Reducing the PAN may mean fewer teachers are required by the schools, there is a risk that this could create redundancy costs in the short term, potentially the reduction could be met by not replacing staff.

8.4. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities to secure that there are sufficient primary and secondary school places in their area. There is a small risk that reducing school capacities could potentially leave the Council vulnerable to legal action for not meeting its target duty to provide sufficient primary school places, if we were in any danger of not being able to offer a "reasonable offer" to an applicant.

However, the level of vacancies presently observed at both primary and secondary level would mitigate against that risk.

Director of Legal and Governance

8.5. The Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted on the contents of this report and comments as follows: The current School Admissions Code ('the Code') came into force in September 2021 and was issued by the Department for Education under section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Code is to be read alongside the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 ('the Regulations''). In determining its admission arrangements for 2028-2029 the Council has a statutory duty as an admissions authority to act in accordance with the Regulations and with the relevant provisions of the Code. It must also as a result of its duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct which is prohibited by or under that Act, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations in relation to persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.6. Paragraph 15 of the Code states that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school. As part of determining its admission arrangements, the Council must set an admission number (called the Published Admission Number or PAN) for each school's "relevant age group" i.e. the age group at which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school.

8.7. School admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities. Generally, the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools is the local authority. Admission authorities must set ('determine') admission arrangements annually. Generally, where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements. If no changes are made to the admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least once every 7 years. Consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply (the determination year). Consultation must be undertaken when proposals are still at a formative stage. It must include sufficient reasons for particular proposals to allow those consulted to give intelligent consideration and an intelligent response, adequate time must be given for this purpose, and the product of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account when the ultimate decision is taken.

8.8. In relation to consultation the Council must consult with parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen; other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions; all other admission authorities within the relevant area; whichever of the governing body and the local authority who are not the admission authority; any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority and in the case of faith schools, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination. The authority must also for the duration of the consultation publish a copy of the full proposed admission arrangements (including the PAN) on its website together with details to whom comments should be sent and the areas on which comments are not sought.

8.9. It is the responsibility of the authority to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the Code and relevant legislation. Arrangements mean overall procedures, practices, criteria and supplementary information to be used in deciding on

the allocation of school places. In drawing up the arrangements, the authority must ensure that the practices and criteria used are reasonable, fair, clear and objective and comply with the relevant legislation including equalities legislation. Parents should be able to look at the set of arrangements and understand easily how places will be allocated. It is for the authority to decide which criteria would be the most suitable according to local circumstances.

8.10. Each year all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website a scheme by 1 January in the relevant determination year, a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for the normal admissions round and late applications for all publicly funded schools within their area. All admission authorities must participate in co-ordination and provide the local authority with the information it needs to co-ordinate admissions by the dates agreed within the scheme. There is no requirement for local authorities to co-ordinate in-year applications, however, Haringey centrally co-ordinates for the vast majority of schools and has safeguarding protocols in place for tracking pupils admitted directly by some schools that administer their own in-year admissions.

8.11. The Code requires that the Council must have a Fair Access Protocol (FAP), agreed with the majority of schools in its area, to ensure that, outside the normal admissions round, unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. The Cabinet Members will see the Proposed In-Year Fair Access Protocol at Appendix 5.

8.12. The proposed admission arrangements for 2028-2029, the proposed co-ordinated scheme, the proposed FAP and the proposed consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for 2028-2029 are in compliance with the Code and the Regulations.

Equality

8.13. The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act 2010 ('the 2010 Act') to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a "relevant protected characteristic" and people who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between people who share those a "relevant protected characteristic" and people who do not share it.
- A "relevant protected characteristic" is age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation.

The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

8.14. The proposed admission arrangements for 2028/29, including the proposed reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) at **St Mary's CE Primary School (N8)** from **60 to 30 Reception places**, comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The proposal has been developed in response to declining demand for primary school places and is intended to align school capacity with forecast pupil numbers. The proposal does not alter the school's oversubscription criteria and would not directly or indirectly disadvantage any individual or group with a protected characteristic.

8.15. The Council's pupil forecasting data indicate that sufficient Reception places will continue to be available within Planning Area 2 and neighbouring areas to meet anticipated demand. As a result, the proposed PAN reduction is not expected to have a disproportionate impact on children and young people who share protected characteristics, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), those from minority ethnic communities, or those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Families will continue to have access to high-quality local school provision through the coordinated admissions process.

8.16. The proposal may have implications for future staffing structures at the school if lower pupil numbers continue over time. However, any staffing decisions would be a matter for the school's governing body and leadership team and would be subject to appropriate employment policies, consultation requirements and HR procedures. Every effort would be made to minimise any adverse impact through workforce planning, redeployment opportunities and the management of vacancies where possible.

8.17. The Council will continue to work closely with St Mary's CE Primary School, the governing body and diocesan representatives to ensure that any implications arising from the proposal are carefully managed and that appropriate support is available where required.

8.18. The proposed admission arrangements for 2028/29 do not otherwise differ materially from those determined in previous years. The principal change under consideration is the proposed reduction in PAN at St Mary's CE Primary School. An updated Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been prepared and will continue to be reviewed throughout the consultation process to assess whether the proposal could have any unforeseen impact on protected groups and to identify any appropriate mitigating actions.

8.19. Feedback received through the consultation will be used to inform the final EQIA and will be considered by Cabinet in February 2027 when determining the admission arrangements for the 2028/29 academic year.

9. Use of Appendices

9.1. The following appendices support this report:

Appendix 1 Proposed admission criteria for nursery 2028
Appendix 2 Proposed admission criteria for reception and junior admissions 2028
Appendix 3 Proposed admission criteria for secondary 2028
Appendix 4 Proposed admission criteria for in-year admissions 2028
Appendix 5 Proposed Fair Access Protocol for Haringey schools
Appendix 6 Proposed admission criteria for Sixth Form 2028
Appendix 7 EqIA
Appendix 8 Co-ordinated admissions scheme 2028-29

9.2. The full papers for this report can be viewed electronically on the Council's website at or in paper form at Level 5, 48 Station Road, Wood Green, N22 7TY.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1. This report contains no exempt information.

Background

1. The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

2. The Education Act 2002.
3. The Education and Inspections Act 2006.
4. Education and Skills Act 2008.
5. The School Admissions Code (September 2021)
6. School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012
7. The School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 2012.
8. The School Admissions (Appeals Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012.
9. The Education Act 2011.
10. The School Admissions Appeals Code (2022).