

Children's Services
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Report of: Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 9 February 2023

Ward(s): Borough-wide

Admission to Islington Community Schools 2024-25

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. The School Admissions Code, 2021 requires all admission authorities to determine their admission arrangements by **28 February 2023** for admission in **2024-25**.
- 1.2. Admission authorities must publish a copy of the determined admission arrangements on their website by **15 March 2023**. Where an admission authority has determined a Published Admission Number (PAN) that is higher than in previous years, they must make specific reference to the change on their website.
- 1.3. Admission authorities need only consult every seven years, unless substantial changes are being proposed to the arrangements made following the previous consultation. Where substantial changes are proposed, the consultation period must be for a minimum of six weeks running between **1 October 2022 and 31 January 2023**.
- 1.4. As changes to primary admission numbers are being proposed, a consultation took place between **19 October and 30 November 2022**.
- 1.5. This report outlines proposals and recommendations for the co-ordination of, and arrangements for Primary and Secondary Transfer and local protocols for the management of in-year applications to Islington primary and secondary schools.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To agree the co-ordinated schemes and timetables for admission to Islington primary, secondary schools, and academies in 2024-25, and in-year admission protocols for 2024-25 as set out in **Appendices 1, 4, and 7**.
- 2.2. To agree the policy and oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary and secondary schools and Highbury Fields Sixth Form for 2024-25 as set out in **Appendices 2, 5, 8 and 9**.
- 2.3. To agree the admission numbers for Islington community primary and secondary schools and for external applicants to Highbury Fields Sixth Form for 2024-25 as set out in **Appendices 3, 6 and 10**.

3. Background

- 3.1. All admission authorities must consult others locally before determining their admission arrangements.
- 3.2. Admission authorities must consult every seven years, unless substantial changes are being proposed to the arrangements made following the last consultation.
- 3.3. Where significant changes are proposed, admission authorities must:
 - consult on their proposed arrangements by **31 January** in the determination year
 - allow at least a 6-week period for consultation
 - in light of consultation, determine their admission arrangements by **28 February** in the determination year
 - publish the determined admission arrangements on their website by **15 March** in the determination year.
- 3.4. All admission authorities must determine admission arrangements by **28 February** even if they have not changed from the previous years and a consultation has not been required.
- 3.5. Therefore, the Executive is required to agree the admission arrangements and admission numbers for all Islington community primary and secondary schools, and Highbury Fields Sixth Form for admission in 2024-25 and local protocols for in-year admissions in 2024-25.

CONSULTATION

- 3.6. All local authorities are required, by section 88M of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and the Co-ordination Regulations, to have in place a scheme each year for co-ordinating admissions arrangements for maintained schools within their area.
- 3.7. The School Admissions Code requires every local authority to draw up a scheme for maintained schools which ensures that every parent living in the local authority area applying for a place in the normal round receives the offer of one, and only one school place.

- 3.8. It also requires local authorities to provide a common application form and that it is made available to every resident in its area. Consultation must relate to admission arrangements. It must therefore include:
- The admissions policy
 - The procedures and timing for applications
 - Proposed admission numbers
 - Details of over-subscription criteria and how they will be applied.
- 3.9. The School Admissions Code imposes mandatory requirements, and provides guidance to local authorities and admitting authorities, for achieving good practice in setting oversubscription criteria to ensure admission arrangements are fair and transparent to all children and their families and promote social equity. The Code also details oversubscription criteria that are considered unlawful.
- 3.10. Any objections to the admission arrangements for 2024-25 must be referred to the Schools' Adjudicator by **15 May 2023**.
- 3.11. Local authorities must formulate and publish on their website a coordination scheme for all publicly funded schools within their area by **1 January** in the relevant determination year.
- 3.12. Where the scheme is substantially different from the scheme adopted the previous academic year, the local authority must consult the other admission authorities in the area and where relevant, any other local authority it determines.
- 3.13. Where the scheme has not changed from the previous year, there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement to consult at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during this period.
- 3.14. As changes to the admission number of three community primary schools are proposed, consultation took place between **19 October and 30 November 2022**.
- 3.15. The consultation paper and link to the response form were published on [Islington Council's website](#), and circulated to all London local authorities, Diocesan representatives and published in the Islington Schools' Bulletin distributed to Early Years Providers, Schools and School Governors (18 October 2022 edition).
- 3.16. **4** responses were received as outlined in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Respondents to the consultation

Primary School	Secondary School	London Diocesan Board for Schools	Other	TOTAL
2	0	1	1	4

- 3.17. A summary of consultation responses is provided in **Appendix 11**.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2024-25

A. Coordinated scheme for admission to secondary school 2024-25

- 3.18. The high level of applications to schools outside the child's home local authority (and the requirement for eradicating multiple offers) means there is a need to co-ordinate admissions across the 33 London authorities.
- 3.19. A computer-based Pan-London Admissions System enables this co-ordination to take place. The effectiveness of this system is contingent on the adoption of a common set of procedures across London authorities. Many elements of the scheme must be common to all London authorities to ensure effective Pan-London arrangements.
- 3.20. Once all applications are duly processed, arrangements for waiting lists and residents without a school place are for local determination. These arrangements must, however, be made in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code, 2021.
- 3.21. The consultation sought views on the proposed coordinated scheme for admission to secondary school in **2024-25**.
- 3.22. No changes to Islington's existing scheme were proposed. The scheme and timetable for 2024-25 are set out in **Appendix 1**. (*Please note that although Arts and Media School, Islington is technically its own admission authority, the school has asked the local authority to treat it as community school for the purpose of school admissions*).

Consultation Responses (Question 1)

- 3.23. All four respondents agreed with the proposed secondary scheme and timetable.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.24. To agree the co-ordinated scheme and timetable for admission to Islington secondary schools and academies in **2024-25** as outlined in **Appendix 1**.

B. Policy and oversubscription criteria for admission to community secondary schools 2024-25

- 3.25. There is no requirement for admission authorities within a local area's coordinated scheme to operate the same over-subscription criteria. Admission authorities must therefore set and apply their own admission criteria.
- 3.26. The School Admissions Code requires admission authorities to set out the criteria against which places at each school will be allocated in the event of more applications being received than there are places available.
- 3.27. Some oversubscription criteria are mandatory, for example all admission authorities are required to give highest priority to looked-after children and all previously looked-after children, including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England.

- 3.28. Other criteria are at the admission authority's discretion, so long as they comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation, and are reasonable, clear, objective, and procedurally fair.
- 3.29. The council also seeks to ensure that its admission criteria enable residents to secure a local school place should they wish. Prioritising siblings as an admission criterion also supports family management, good attendance, and punctuality.
- 3.30. Islington's criteria for admission to community secondary schools have remained substantially unchanged for several years, save technical amendments to clarify definitions or implement required changes resulting from revisions to the School Admissions Code.
- 3.31. Islington's existing criteria for admission to community secondary schools are considered in the following order of priority:
1. **Looked-after and previously looked after children:** Children who are in the care of a local authority in England and children who have been adopted or made subject to a child-arrangements order or special guardianship order immediately after being looked-after, including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England.
 2. **Sibling:** A sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half-brother or sister, step-brother or sister or adopted brother or sister whose main residence is at the same address. This criterion will apply to applicants with a sibling living at the same address who is on the roll of the preferred school (Years 7 to 11), or co-located Special School, at the time of proposed admission in the new academic year.
 3. **Exceptional Social, Medical or Special Educational Needs:** The Director of Children's Services, on an individual basis, may give priority to applicants who can demonstrate that admission to a particular school is necessary on the grounds of professionally supported exceptional medical, social, or special educational needs.
 4. **Distance:** Applicants who live nearest to the preferred school.
- 3.32. Officers have reviewed existing arrangements to assess whether Islington's admission criteria for community secondary schools continue to provide residents with equitable access to local schools as set out above. An analysis of the proportion of children admitted under each of the community school oversubscription criteria over the last three years was undertaken.
- 3.33. Our expectation is that most applicants will be admitted under the distance criterion, followed by admissions under the sibling criterion. Given that requests for consideration under the social-medical criterion should only be agreed in exceptional circumstances, the expectation is that relatively few applicants will be prioritised for admission under this criterion. *(Please note that the 'looked after and previously looked after children' criterion has not been included in the analysis as it is mandatory for eligible children to be given top priority in admission arrangements).*
- 3.34. **Table 2** below summarises the findings of the analysis and confirms that over a three-year period, Islington's criteria for admission to community secondary schools are operating as intended, with most applicants being admitted under the distance criterion, followed by the sibling criterion.

- 3.35. The figures also confirm that offers made under the social-medical criterion remain ‘exceptional’ as intended, with an average of only 1% of applicants being offered a school place under this criterion over the three-year period.

Table 2: Breakdown of criteria offers for secondary community schools

Secondary Transfer	Community school places	Offers made for community schools	Offers made for community schools under the Sibling criterion		Offers made for community schools under the Exceptional Social-Medical Criterion		Offers made for community schools under the Distance Criterion	
Year of entry	Number of Places available	Total community school offers	Sibling offers	As a % of total community school offers	Exceptional social-medical offers	As a % of total community school offers	Distance offers	As a % of total community school offers
2020/21	590	590	116	20%	3	1%	350	59%
2021/22	590	590	107	18%	2	0%	381	65%
2022/23	590	590	131	22%	4	1%	343	58%
3-year average	590	590	118	20%	3	1%	358	61%

Please note - percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole; offers are as at National Offer Day.

- 3.36. In conclusion, the criteria for admission to Islington community secondary schools appear to be effective in securing fair access for residents in the eligible cohort.

- 3.37. The consultation sought views on the proposed policy and oversubscription criteria. No changes were proposed.

3.38. **Consultation Responses (Question 2)**

All four respondents agreed with the proposed policy and oversubscription criteria.

3.39. **RECOMMENDATION**

To agree the admissions policy and oversubscription criteria for admission to Islington community secondary schools in 2024-25 as outlined in **Appendix 2**.

C. Community secondary school admission numbers 2024-25

- 3.40. The local authority must publish admission numbers for secondary schools within its admission arrangements. Published numbers must take account of the school’s net capacity as determined by the Department for Education (DfE) formula. Schools must be consulted before deciding their admission number.

- 3.41. The consultation sought views on the proposed admission numbers for Islington secondary community school admission numbers for 2024-25 as outlined in **Table 3** below. No changes were proposed.

- 3.42. At the time of writing, we are aware that City of London Academy, Highbury Grove are consulting to reduce their published admission number by 30 places for admission to Year 7 with effect from 2024-25. This will take their published admission number from 240 to 210 and will not have any adverse impact on the council’s duty to ensure sufficient secondary school places in line with our school roll projections.

Table 3: Proposed secondary community school admission numbers 2024-25

Community School	Published Admission Number (PAN) 2023-24	Proposed Published Admission Number (PAN) 2024-25
Arts and Media School Islington*	150	150
Beacon High	120	120
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School	180	180
Highbury Fields School	140	140
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUNITY SCHOOL PLACES	590	590

**Please note that although Arts and Media School, Islington is technically its own admission authority, the school has asked the local authority to treat it as community school for the purpose of school admissions.*

Consultation Responses (Question 3)

- 3.43. All four respondents agreed with the proposed secondary community school admission numbers for 2024-25.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.44. To agree the numbers for admission to Islington secondary community schools in 2024-25 as outlined in **Appendix 3**.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2024-25

D. Coordinated scheme for admission to primary school 2024-25

- 3.45. The high level of applications to schools outside the child's home local authority (and the requirement for eradicating multiple offers) means there is a need to co-ordinate admissions across the 33 London authorities.
- 3.46. A computer-based Pan-London Admissions System enables this co-ordination to take place. The effectiveness of this system is contingent on the adoption of a common set of procedures across London authorities. Many elements of the scheme must be common to all London authorities to ensure effective Pan-London arrangements.
- 3.47. Once all applications are duly processed, arrangements for waiting lists and residents without a school place are for local determination. These arrangements must, however, be made in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code, 2021.
- 3.48. The consultation sought views on the proposed coordinated scheme for admission to primary school in **2024-25**.
- 3.49. No changes to Islington's existing scheme were proposed. The scheme and timetable for 2024-25 are set out in **Appendix 4**.

Consultation Responses (Question 4)

- 3.50. All four respondents agreed with the proposed primary admission scheme and timetable.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.51. To agree the co-ordinated scheme and timetable for admission to Islington primary schools and academies in **2024-25** as outlined in **Appendix 4**.

E. Policy and oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools 2024-25

- 3.52. There is no requirement for admission authorities within a local area's coordinated scheme to operate the same over-subscription criteria. Admission authorities must therefore set and apply their own admission criteria.
- 3.53. The School Admissions Code requires admission authorities to set out the criteria against which places at each school will be allocated in the event of more applications being received than there are places available.
- 3.54. Some oversubscription criteria are mandatory, for example all admission authorities are required to give highest priority to looked-after children and all previously looked-after children, including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England.
- 3.55. Other criteria are at the admission authority's discretion, so long as they comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation, and are reasonable, clear, objective, and procedurally fair.
- 3.56. The council also seeks to ensure that its admission criteria enable residents to secure a local school place should they wish. Prioritising siblings as an admission criterion also supports family management, good attendance, and punctuality.
- 3.57. Islington's criteria for admission to community primary schools have remained substantially unchanged for several years, save technical amendments to clarify definitions or implement required changes resulting from revisions to the School Admissions Code.
- 3.58. Islington's existing criteria for admission to community primary schools are considered in the following order of priority:
1. **Looked-after and previously looked after children:** Children who are in the care of a local authority in England and children who have been adopted or made subject to a child-arrangements order or special guardianship order immediately after being looked-after, including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England.
 2. **Sibling:** A sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half-brother or sister, step-brother or sister or adopted brother or sister whose main residence is at the same address. This criterion will apply to applicants with a sibling living at the same address who is on the roll of the preferred school (Years 7 to 11), or co-located Special School, at the time of proposed admission in the new academic year.
 3. **Exceptional Social, Medical or Special Educational Needs:** The Director of Children's Services, on an individual basis, may give priority to applicants who

can demonstrate that admission to a particular school is necessary on the grounds of professionally supported exceptional medical, social, or special educational needs.

4. **Distance:** Applicants who live nearest to the preferred school.

- 3.59. Officers have reviewed existing arrangements to assess whether Islington’s admission criteria for community primary schools continue to provide residents with equitable access to local schools as set out above. An analysis of the proportion of children admitted under each of the community school oversubscription criteria over the last three years was undertaken.
- 3.60. Our expectation is that most applicants will be admitted under the distance criterion, followed by admissions under the sibling criterion. Given that requests for consideration under the social-medical criterion should only be agreed in exceptional circumstances, the expectation is that relatively few applicants will be prioritised for admission under this criterion. *(Please note that the ‘looked after and previously looked after children’ criterion has not been included in the analysis as it is mandatory for eligible children to be given top priority in admission arrangements).*
- 3.61. **Table 4** below summarises the findings of the analysis and confirms that over a three-year period, Islington’s criteria for admission to community primary schools are operating as intended, with most applicants being admitted under the distance criterion, followed closely by the sibling criterion that supports family management of young children.
- 3.62. Although the proportion of sibling offers is much higher at primary than at secondary, this is unsurprising as the aim of the sibling criterion is to support families with young children in managing the school journey most effectively. At secondary, children are more likely to travel to school independently and therefore being offered a place at the same school as an older sibling is less important.
- 3.63. The figures also confirm that offers made under the social-medical criterion remain ‘exceptional’ as intended, with an average of only 1% of applicants being offered a school place under this criterion over the three-year period.

Table 4: Breakdown of criteria offers for primary community schools

Primary Transfer	Community school places	Offers made for community schools	Offers made for community schools under the Sibling criterion		Offers made for community schools under the Exceptional Social-Medical Criterion		Offers made for community schools under the Distance Criterion	
			Sibling offers	As a % of total community school offers	Exceptional social-medical offers	As a % of total community school offers	Distance offers	As a % of total community school offers
2020/21	1400	1284	476	37%	9	1%	665	52%
2021/22	1400	1233	476	39%	11	1%	643	52%
2022/23	1340	1172	459	39%	13	1%	646	55%
3-year average	1380	1230	470	38%	11	1%	651	53%

Please note - percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole; offers are as at National Offer Day.

- 3.64. In conclusion, the criteria for admission to Islington community primary schools appear to be effective in securing fair access for eligible residents.
- 3.65. The consultation sought views on the proposed policy and oversubscription criteria. No changes were proposed.

Consultation Responses (Question 5)

- 3.66. All four respondents agreed with the proposed policy and oversubscription criteria.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.67. To agree the admissions policy and oversubscription criteria for admission to Islington community primary schools in **2024-25** as outlined in **Appendix 5**.

F. Community primary school admission numbers 2024-25

- 3.68. The local authority must publish admission numbers for primary schools within its admission arrangements. Published numbers must take account of the school's net capacity as determined by the Department for Education (DfE) formula. Schools must be consulted before deciding their admission number.
- 3.69. Islington's school roll projections are based on a combination of local intelligence (e.g., housing developments with planning approval, pupil roll and demographic changes), and trend data provided by the Greater London Association (GLA) that incorporates national and regional developments, including inward and outward migration. To date, these projections have proved reliable and have supported the Council in making the most efficient use of its resources.
- 3.70. The birth rate in Islington has fallen in recent years, in line with regional trends across London. As a result, the GLA has introduced a new low-fertility model to forecast school roll projections.
- 3.71. Our latest evidence on births, health visiting and GP registrations (of children under 12 months), indicate that a year-on-year reduction in births across the local area is likely to remain an ongoing trend.
- 3.72. We have therefore used the GLA's low-fertility model for our school roll forecasts as it is essential that the school estate continues to provide residents with value for money, and that surplus capacity is carefully managed. This is particularly important at a time of economic and political uncertainty.
- 3.73. Although the Department for Education (DfE) recommends that local authorities maintain surplus capacity at approximately 5%, along with several other London boroughs, we are of the view that a vacancy rate of up to 10% is a reasonable assumption as it provides the flexibility to respond to sudden changes in the school age population.
- 3.74. As the figures in **Table 5** indicate, current surplus capacity across Islington's primary estate exceeds 10%. Therefore, a series of managed reductions to the existing primary capacity are proposed for implementation from 2024-25.

Table 5: Vacancy rates by Planning Area as at National Offer Day (19/04/2022)

Planning Area	Number of places available	Vacancies	Vacancy rate
Planning Area 1: Holloway	465	83	18%
Planning Area 2: Hornsey	465	92	20%
Planning Area 3: Highbury	360	30	8%
Planning Area 4: Barnsbury	260	66	25%
Planning Area 5: Canonbury	340	45	13%
Planning Area 6: Finsbury	300	45	15%
Totals	2190	361	16%

- 3.75. For the past three years, Highbury Quadrant Primary (Planning Area 3), Pooles Park Primary (Planning Area 2) and Montem Primary (Planning Area 2) Schools have held surplus capacity well above 10%.
- 3.76. With the agreement of both Highbury Quadrant and Pooles Park Primary Schools, the admission number for each school was reduced from 60 to 45 for reception entry in 2022. While this has supported both schools with financial management over the short term, the impact of the falling birth rate modelled in our GLA projections indicate that places at these schools will continue to remain unfilled for the foreseeable future.
- 3.77. In addition, over the past three years the falling birth rate has continued to have a significant impact on the local area resulting in approximately a third of available reception class places at Montem Primary remaining unfilled. As a result, the school's governing body have asked to reduce their admission number from 60 to 45 to support the school's financial planning over the medium term.
- 3.78. It is therefore proposed with the agreement of all three schools to reduce the admission number for entry in 2024-25 for Highbury Quadrant Primary from 45 to 30; for Pooles Park Primary from 45 to 30; and for Montem Primary from 60 to 45.
- 3.79. The proposed removal of 45 community school places will contribute to the overall reduction of surplus capacity across the primary school estate while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to unforeseen changes in the school age population. For example, should the birth rate rise unexpectedly, and additional primary capacity be required, the decommissioned places could be brought back into immediate use at no extra cost.
- 3.80. Alongside the proposed reductions outlined above, other options for managing Islington's primary school estate are being considered, with the aim of securing its financial viability over the longer term through the efficient use of public resources.
- 3.81. It is worth noting that a consultation is currently underway on proposals to amalgamate Vittoria and Copenhagen Primary Schools by moving Vittoria Primary to the Copenhagen school site and for pupils at both schools to be part of a single combined school.

- 3.82. The consultation sought views on the council's proposals to reduce the admission number of three Islington community primary schools from 2024-25:
- Highbury Quadrant Primary from 45 to 30
 - Pooles Park Primary from 45 to 30 and
 - Montem Primary from 60 to 45.

Consultation Responses (Question 6)

- 3.83. All four respondents agreed with the proposed primary community school admission numbers for 2024-25.
- 3.84. We are also aware that own admission authority primary schools in Islington with surplus capacity consistently above 10% are keeping their admission numbers under close review.
- 3.85. Following consultation on proposals to reduce the published admission number (PAN) of The New North Academy from 45 to 30, The Learning in Harmony Trust have determined this PAN reduction which is due to come into effect for admission in 2024-25. This reduction supports the council's proposals to reduce surplus capacity across the primary school estate.

RECOMMENDATION

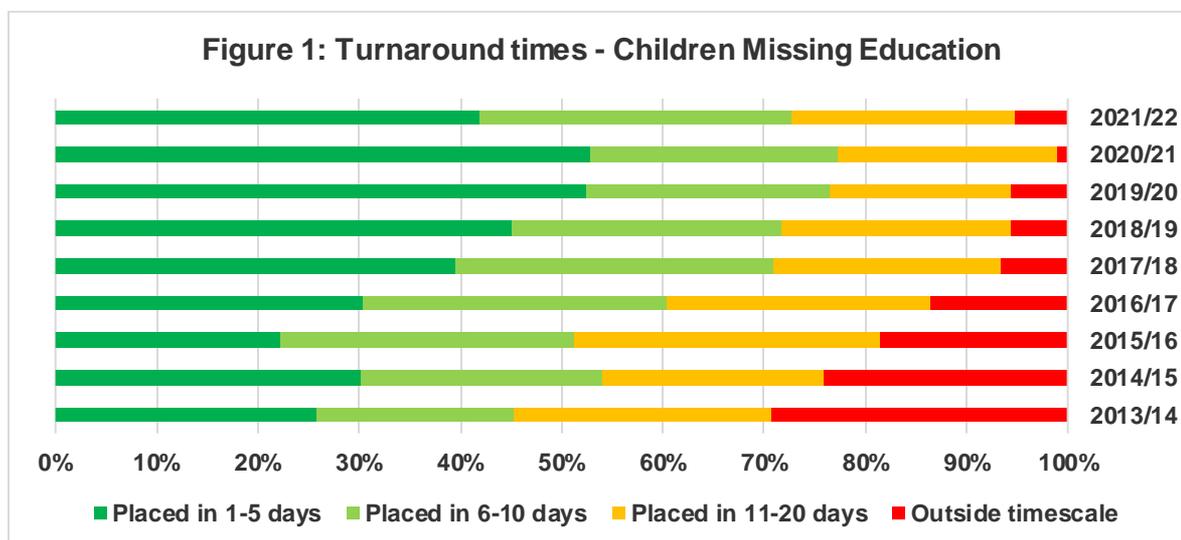
- 3.86. To agree the primary admission numbers for Islington community schools in **2024-25** as outlined in **Appendix 6**.

IN-YEAR ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2024-25

G. Local protocols for the management of in-year admission applications and waiting lists for Islington schools: 2024-25

- 3.87. The requirement for local authorities to coordinate in-year admission applications was removed by the 2012 School Admissions Code. This continues to remain the case in the School Admissions Code 2021.
- 3.88. Following consultation with all Islington schools, the management of in-year applications was delegated to schools, inclusive of own admission authority and community schools from September 2013.
- 3.89. The aim of delegating the management of applications in this way was to simplify the admission process for parents applying outside the normal points of entry (Primary and Secondary Transfer). It was also felt that delegating the management of in-year applications to community schools would ensure parity between different admission authority schools, reinforcing a local 'community of schools' approach.
- 3.90. As part of this development, an online application process was created to ensure simultaneous notification of applications to the preferred school and the local authority. Protocols were also agreed with schools on how applications should be processed and waiting lists managed. These protocols enabled the local authority to maintain an overview of offers to ensure they were being made in line with the relevant published admission criteria, as well as safeguarding against unplaced children 'falling through the net'.

- 3.91. In addition, Islington’s in-year protocols are underpinned by robust ‘Children Missing Education’ procedures to ensure that no child will ever be without the offer of a school place as close as possible to their home address.
- 3.92. Over time, these protocols have had a significant impact in reducing the amount of time unplaced children have spent out of education as evidenced in **Figure 1** below:



- 3.93. Applicants can apply for up to three schools at any one time. This can include a mixture of Islington and out-of-borough schools. Schools must provide applicants with an outcome letter within 15 school days in line with statutory guidance (School Admissions Code 2021). Applicants refused a place must be provided with the reason for refusal and offered the right of appeal.
- 3.94. Waiting lists are cleared at the end of each term. Applicants who wish to change schools after this period are required to submit a fresh application as highlighted on the online application form. Unplaced children, however, are automatically carried forward to the school’s new waiting list.
- 3.95. These arrangements have been in place for several years and have for the most part, succeeded in providing residents with speedier admission to a preferred school. We are therefore not proposing any changes to the existing protocols.
- 3.96. The consultation sought views on the proposed local protocols for the management of in-year admission applications and waiting lists for Islington schools in 2024-25.

Consultation Responses (Question 7)

- 3.97. All four respondents agreed with the proposed in-year protocols for admission to Islington schools in 2024-25.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.98. To agree the local protocols for the management of in-year admission applications and waiting lists for Islington schools in 2024-25 as set out in **Appendix 7**.

H. In-year admission criteria for community primary and secondary schools: 2024-25

- 3.99. For admission in 2024-25, where more applications are received than there are places available for in-year admission to Islington community primary and secondary schools, oversubscription criteria will mirror those for the normal points of entry:
Criterion 1: Looked-after and previously looked after children
Criterion 2: Sibling
Criterion 3: Exceptional Social, Medical or Special Educational Needs
Criterion 4: Distance.
- 3.100. Full definitions are set out in **Appendix 8**. The existing local arrangements have continued to work effectively over a sustained period and therefore no changes were proposed for in-year admission in 2024-25.
- 3.101. The consultation sought views on the proposed local protocols for the management of in-year admission applications and waiting lists for Islington schools.

Consultation Responses (Question 8)

- 3.102. All four respondents agreed with the proposed in-year protocols for admission to Islington schools in 2024-25.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.103. To agree the local protocols for the management of in-year admission applications and waiting lists for Islington schools in 2024-25 as set out in **Appendix 8**.

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR Highbury Fields Community School Sixth Form

I. Admission Policy and Oversubscription Criteria for Highbury Fields Community School Sixth Form 2024-25

- 3.104. Highbury Fields Sixth Form is a community secondary school with attached sixth form provision. The school was formerly part of the Islington Sixth Form Consortium (iC6) which ceased to operate at the end of the 2020/21 academic year.
- 3.105. Places at Highbury Fields Sixth Form continue to be available to all Year 11 students on roll at the school who meet subject entry requirements.
- 3.106. For admission in **2024-25**, where more applications are received than there are places available, the proposed oversubscription criteria for external applicants that will apply is outlined below:
1. **Looked-after and previously looked after children:** Children who are in the care of a local authority in England and children who have been adopted or made subject to a child-arrangements order or special guardianship order immediately after being looked-after by a local authority in England including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England.
 2. **Students in Year 11 who attend Highbury Fields School** and meet the entry requirements for their chosen course.
 3. **External applicants** who meet the entry requirements for their chosen course.

- 3.107. Distance will be used in the event of a tie-break.
- 3.108. The existing arrangements have continued to work effectively over a sustained period and therefore no changes were proposed to either the admission policy or oversubscription criteria for entry to Highbury Fields Community School Sixth Form in **2024-25**.
- 3.109. The consultation sought views on the proposed admission policy and oversubscription criteria for admission to Highbury Fields Community School Sixth Form.

Consultation Responses (Question 9)

- 3.110. All four respondents agreed with the proposed admission policy and oversubscription criteria for entry to Highbury Fields Community School Sixth Form in **2024-25**.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.111. To agree the admission policy and oversubscription criteria for entry to Highbury Fields Community School Sixth Form in **2024-25** as set out in **Appendix 9**.

J. Admission Number for External Applicants to Highbury Fields Sixth Form in Year 12 for 2024-25

- 3.112. The School Admissions Code 2021 requires secondary schools that operate a sixth form where external students from other schools are admitted for the first time at age 16 to publish an admission number for entry to the school in Year 12. This is in addition to the published admission number for Year 7.
- 3.113. The admission number for **external applicants** to Highbury Fields Sixth Form is currently **25**. No changes are proposed for first-time admission to Highbury Fields Sixth Form in **2024-25**.
- 3.114. The consultation sought views on the proposed admission number for external applicants to Highbury Fields Sixth Form in Year 12.

Consultation Responses (Question 10)

- 3.115. All four respondents agreed with the proposed admission number for external applicants to Highbury Fields Sixth Form in Year 12.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.116. To agree the admission number to Highbury Fields Community Sixth Form in Year 12 for 2024-25 as set out in **Appendix 10**.

4. Implications

○ **Financial Implications**

Schools are funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant. The level of funding schools receive through the schools' funding formula is based on the numbers of registered pupils and their characteristics. There are therefore no direct financial implications from the proposals in this report.

○ **Legal Implications**

The council has a duty to undertake consultation on admission policies in order to determine admission arrangements, including admission numbers under Part III of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012/8. The council must comply with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021 and have due regard to the discretionary elements of the Code.

○ **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

The main environmental impact of the arrangements is how pupils travel to school, sometimes accompanied by parents; there is a risk that longer journeys are more likely to be made by vehicles and lead to emissions. The admission criteria mitigate this by using distance as an admission criterion, with the majority of children allocated a place under the distance criterion. This report recommends there be no changes made to the existing admissions arrangements, meaning no change to the existing environmental implications of the arrangements.

In addition, schools work with the council through the creation of school travel plans to promote safer, healthier, and more environmentally friendly ways to travel to schools including walking, cycling, and using public transport. The introduction of 34 School Street schemes since 2019 that specifically target air pollution outside the school gate and two environmental improvement schemes at schools on main roads, have already seen significant reductions in pollution levels in and around the school sites.

○ **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The admission arrangements for community schools are designed to ensure all parents have an equal chance of securing the community school of their choice irrespective of the child's ethnicity, religion, or socio-economic group.

An Equalities Impact Assessment Screening was completed on 27/11/2022. No adverse impacts were noted for children and their parents/carers.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- The proposed admission arrangements for both primary and secondary community schools and Highbury Fields Sixth Form promote fair access to educational opportunity and are compliant with the mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code, 2021.
- The Executive is therefore asked to agree the proposed primary and secondary admission arrangements for 2024-25; in-year admission protocols for 2024-25 and Highbury Fields Community Sixth Form arrangements 2024-25.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Proposed Arrangements for Secondary Transfer 2024-25

Appendix 2: Proposed Admission Criteria to Islington Community Secondary Schools 2024-25

Appendix 3: Proposed Secondary Admission Numbers 2024-25

Appendix 4: Proposed Arrangements for Primary Transfer 2024-25

Appendix 5: Proposed Admission Criteria to Islington Community Primary Schools 2024-25

Appendix 6: Proposed Primary Admission Numbers 2024-25

Appendix 7: Proposed In-Year Admission Protocols for Islington Schools 2024-25

Appendix 8: Proposed In-Year Admission Criteria to Islington Community Schools 2024-25

Appendix 9: Proposed Highbury Fields Sixth Form Admissions Policy and Criteria 2024-25

Appendix 10: Proposed Highbury Fields Sixth Form Admission Number for External Applicants 2024-25

Appendix 11: Summary of consultation responses

Appendix 12: Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Tool (School Admission Arrangements 2024-25)

Background papers:

None

Final report clearance:

Authorised by: **Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families**

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