



**LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT
SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STRATEGY
2019-2023**

Refresh - November 2020

BRENT SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STRATEGY 2019 – 23

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1. Introduction

As the champion for all children and young people in the borough, Brent Council has statutory duties to promote the wellbeing, safety and achievement of Brent children and to promote high standards that help all children to fulfil their potential. Brent Council also holds the statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places for Brent children.

This strategy sets out how Brent will deliver sufficient school places in context of the Council's statutory duties, ensuring that school place delivery supports the achievement of the best outcomes for Brent children.

1.1 Brent Context

Brent is one of the most culturally diverse areas in England. The dynamic mix of communities continues to enrich and inform the social, economic and cultural make-up of the borough. The largest ethnic groups of statutory school in Brent age are: Asian Indian (16%), White British (8%), White Eastern European (8%), Black Somali (7%), Black Caribbean (6%), Asian Pakistani (4%) and Afghan (3%). In addition to new arrivals, socio-economic pressures placed on many of Brent's families combined with a housing stock which relies heavily on privately rented accommodation, contribute to relatively high levels of pupil turnover in many of our schools. The proportion of Brent pupils who are disadvantaged is 22%, below the national figure of 29% and London average of 27% (based on pupil premium allocations).

1.2 School Effectiveness in Brent

Over the last five years, Brent's self-improving system has become firmly embedded in the borough, with a shared responsibility for school effectiveness and improvement between the Local Authority and schools.

As a result, the quality of education provision is high. At the end of the 2019-20 academic year, Ofsted had judged the overall effectiveness of 96% of Brent schools as good or outstanding. This put Brent ten percentage points above the national average of 86% and 3% percentage points above the London average of 93%. This level of school inspection performance places Brent in the top quartile, top quintile and eighth percentile of performance of Local Authority areas in England and the second quartile of Local Authority areas in London. All nursery, secondary schools, special schools and pupil referral units have been judged good or outstanding. Two primary schools are not yet judged as good or outstanding.

In 2017, Brent's Strategic School Effectiveness Partnership Board approved a Strategic Framework for School Effectiveness in Brent 2017-20. The Framework has been updated and extended to 2021 in the context of the impact of the Covid-19. The Framework sets the following priorities which will be supported by the delivery of this Place Planning Strategy:

- Sustaining Ofsted good and outstanding judgements for all schools
- Raising the standards and progress of pupils at the lowest performing schools
- Raising the attainment of priority groups
- Maintaining high quality education provision for all pupils

Within this context, the School Place Planning Strategy 2019-23 presents the objectives and operating principles that underpin the council's approach to school organisation to deliver the

best quality of education provision to support the best outcomes for Brent children. The Strategy outlines the projected demand for school places in Brent based on the latest forecasts. These are updated annually to ensure that any new factors that impact on pupil forecasts are taken into account and refine the council's understanding of future place need.

The original School Place Planning Strategy 2019-23 set the following expectations:

School Place Planning Strategy Measures of success

- All Brent schools are good or outstanding, with an increased proportion of schools outstanding, over the duration of this strategy
- All Brent schools thrive in effective partnerships with other schools, promoting resilience and mutual support
- The Council and schools work together to meet the challenge of providing sufficient school places
- The delivery of sufficient school places enables the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Brent Strategic Framework for School Effectiveness 2017-2021
- All schools operate in good quality, safe premises
- Children are educated close to home
- Schools work with the local communities they serve
- The Council and schools work in partnership to effectively meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- The Council and schools make efficient use of resources.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Demand for Mainstream Provision

Much of the focus on demand for mainstream provision is on places in Reception for infant and primary schools and Year 7 for secondary schools. These year groups reflect key points when demand patterns can shift. However, planning for school places also takes into account in-year growth as a result of in-migration and new housing.

2.1.1 Demand for Primary Places

Following unprecedented growth in demand for primary school places in Brent from 2006-2015, demand for Reception places across the Borough plateaued in September 2016 and has reduced since September 2017. The latest Greater London Authority (GLA) projections (based on January 2020 school census) indicate that demand for Reception will remain at current rates for the next five years.

The means that Brent will continue to have a high number of spare places across the system and that at a borough-level there is sufficient capacity to meet any increase in demand for mainstream primary places. While overall demand is forecast to remain at current levels, in some areas of the borough demand is forecast to reduce. The local authority, therefore, will continue to support particular schools where necessary in managing the impacts of reduced pupil numbers with measures such as temporarily reducing admission numbers. The School Place Planning Strategy 2019-23 identifies a number of areas where primary places will be kept under review to ensure that provision is sustainable over the next five years (see Section

6). The local authority has taken the decision to implement a phased closure of provision on the Roe Green Strathcona site from September 2020 due to low demand.

In other areas, where there are a number of new housing developments, growth in demand is anticipated that could change school place demand patterns. Brent's housing target in the London Plan is set to significantly increase. While new growth areas may be identified over the period of this School Place Planning Strategy, the majority of these homes will be located in the Borough's growth areas: Alperton, South Kilburn, Wembley, Church End and Burnt Oak Colindale. These areas are being kept under close review. This includes Wembley Park where demand is expected to grow as new housing becomes occupied.

2.1.2 Demand for Secondary Places

Demand for places in Year 7 increased in 2017 and this is expected to continue as the significant growth in pupil numbers in the primary phase in Brent progresses into the secondary phase. However, the latest GLA forecasts indicate slower growth than previously anticipated. The School Place Planning Strategy 2019-23 update in November 2019 identified the need for an additional 4 forms of entry beyond that being provided by the new North Brent School, which opened in September 2020. The 2020 forecasts indicate that there are sufficient secondary school places to meet forecast demand up to 2028/29 in all year groups, including a 5% operating margin.

The North Brent School, a free school approved by DfE in November 2016, will provide 900 secondary places. The school opened in September 2020 initially on the Wembley High Technology College site providing 120 Year 7 places, and is expected to move to its permanent location on the Chancel House site in 2022.

The Council is working with secondary schools that have expressed interest in expanding should the position as set out in the current forecasts change and additional places be required to meet demand.

2.2 Special Provision

Despite lower pupil forecasts for mainstream places, demand for places that meet the needs of children and young people with SEND is increasing due to increased diagnosis and the expansion of the age range to 25. The prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) continues to rise and, as more children survive premature birth or severe disabilities, the number of children of school age presenting with significant additional needs is also increasing. Increased cohorts of primary children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are now moving through to the secondary and post-16 phase. To meet this demand and reduce dependence on out-of-borough independent special schools, which are expensive and can mean stressful journeys for vulnerable children and limit the access of children and their families to support networks, Brent is planning to commission additional secondary special places to cater for pupils with ASD/Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)/Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD). This is in addition to The Avenue School sponsored by the Brent Specialist Academy Trust (BSAT) that opened in September 2019 in temporary accommodation and will move to its permanent accommodation in January 2022, providing 100 places for children aged 5-18.

Brent is also working alongside an independent provider in the borough to access school places for primary aged pupils with social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMHD) as this remains a growing area of need. The Corner School opened in 2018 to cater for primary aged children and provides up to 35 places. The school is providing access to mental well-being therapeutic support. Brent commissions places at this provision (along with other local authorities), reducing the number of primary aged children with an SEMH need being placed out of the borough.

There is a need for the borough to develop post-19 SEND provision to meet demand for places for young people with SEND, in particular young people aged 19-24 with complex learning difficulties.

At secondary level, a new Alternative Provision is being developed which will offer a bespoke curriculum for pupils whose SEMHD needs cannot be met within mainstream. A new Alternative Provision Free School with integrated youth provision is planned to open at the Roundwood Centre in January 2021 to increase the availability and quality of local provision, including individualised packages for secondary age pupils. This provision will offer access to mental well-being therapeutic support, and will include vocational options alongside a core academic curriculum.

2.3 Childcare and Early Education

Alongside the statutory duty to provide school places the Council has an allied duty to secure sufficient childcare and early education. In addition to the existing entitlements of 15 hours of free early education for some two year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds, in September 2017, a statutory entitlement to 30 hours of free childcare and early education for all 3 and 4 year olds from working families was introduced. Implementation of the new entitlement in Brent has been successful and take-up was 92% of eligible families in the summer of 2019. Over the coming years, monitoring and review of this will be key, not only to maintain momentum but also to assess the impact of this on existing 2 year and 3 and 4 year 15 hour places as take-up of these has not followed the upward trajectory of the extended entitlement.

Since September 2017, the Council has administered the free entitlement for both schools and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers. This enables a full overview of early years provision, including take up across the Borough and at ward level and allows development of targeted actions to address gaps. The impact on the PVI sector in particular of Covid-19 has been significant and could affect overall sufficiency in the months to come as many settings are concerned about their financial viability.

2.4 Post-16 Provision

The Education and Skills Act 2008 requires all young people in England to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday. The Council works in partnership with schools and the local Further Education college, the College of North West London (part of United Colleges), to ensure that young people aged 16-18 and up to the age of 25 for those who have an Education, Health and Care Plan have access to a range of opportunities to continue their education or training at a wide range of post-16 providers or through apprenticeships.

3. School Place Planning - Frequently Asked Questions

3.1 The Council's Role in School Place Planning

1. What is the Council's role in providing school places?

In addition to the statutory duties set out in the introduction above, the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to act as commissioners, rather than providers of schools places. The Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient school places available for all Brent children and young people who need one. The Council also has overarching responsibilities for school admissions, co-ordinating admissions at Reception, Year 3 (from infant to junior school) and at secondary transfer in Year 7.

In addition to securing school places for pupils aged five to 16, the Council has related statutory responsibilities in relation to:

- **Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** where the Council has to make suitable provision to meet their needs
- **Early years provision**, where the Council has responsibility for childcare sufficiency and for provision for disadvantaged two year olds and all three and four year olds
- **Post 16 education and training** where the Council leads the local 16 to 19 partnership and takes overall responsibility for the sufficiency and suitability of provision, so that all young people can stay in education or training until at least their 18th birthday.

The Local Authority works with all schools and multi-academy trusts to deliver its statutory duties, as well as local trusts and Dioceses and the Regional Schools Commissioner where this involves academies and free schools.

2. Can the Council open new schools?

It is not possible for the Council to open new community schools, unless the school is formed by an amalgamation of existing infant and junior schools (Education Act 2011). New schools are academies or free schools that are approved by the Secretary of State. Once the Council identifies a need for a new school it may use one of the following two routes to establish it:

- The **academy presumption** route whereby the Council would put forward a school proposal which it would advertise and promote to potential academy sponsors. Under this route, the Council would supply the site and use its own capital to build the school.
- The Council could 'support' a **free school** promoter to apply to the DfE to build a school, which could be on a Council owned site, depending on whether the DfE has an open application round for specific types of school. The decision would be entirely at the discretion of the DfE.

3. Who decides if a school will close, expand or amalgamate?

The Council has the power to instruct community schools to expand, but not academies, foundation or voluntary aided schools. The Council also has the power to close community schools or to require them to amalgamate. These are not powers that Brent has exercised hitherto as the aim, wherever possible, is to work collaboratively with schools. In the case of Academies any expansion must be approved by the Regional Schools Commissioner.

3.2 Pupil Projections

1. Where do the projections come from?

The projections that Brent and most other London authorities use to inform place planning are provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA):

- The GLA projections are informed both by centrally held demographic data, such as census, fertility rate and birth rate data provided by the Office of National Statistics (ONS), together with locally held information on migration patterns and planned housing growth (ward level housing development data provided by the Borough).
- The projection model calculates the number of children resident in each ward who are expected to attend each school by each national curriculum year from Reception to Year 11. The number of children projected for each new intake is calculated as an average of the proportion of children in those wards that attended the school in the previous 3 years multiplied by the ward level age population data. This helps to smooth out any unusual variations that are unlikely to reoccur each year. For other year groups the model calculates the current proportion of children in the ward attending the school and applies this to the ward level population data. School level projections are then aggregated to planning area projections and Borough totals.
- The methodology also takes account of the percentage of children who historically move into the following academic year in an area. This is particularly important in Brent where there is a high level of pupil mobility and migration to schools in other boroughs.

2. Are the projections accurate?

The GLA projections are a good indicator of place need, but they remain a statistical model which should be seen as a valuable tool rather than a definitive position. There are a number of factors which can lead to the projections being revised up or down:

- Underlying data, such as birth rates and migration patterns and the impact of local regeneration projects, can change significantly in a short period of time. For example, the GLA projections for Reception numbers in Brent are showing a gradual increase this year, in part due to a change in assumptions about pupil yield from new housing.
- Secondary projections are more secure as they largely take account of children already in the system. However, the percentage of children who historically move into the following academic year is a particularly important factor in Brent which is currently a net exporter of secondary pupils. This may change if pressures on secondary places in neighbouring boroughs lead to an increase in demand beyond that in the current projections.
- The Local Authority monitors both current and emerging local and national factors, such as Brexit, that can impact on school place demand by changing migration patterns. It is difficult to predict the impact of Brexit on demand for school places and in particular demand from families of Eastern European origin. Demand at schools that serve these communities will be closely monitored.

3. What are primary planning areas and why do we have them?

The Council has a duty to provide a “reasonable offer” of a school place to all children. In the primary phase a “reasonable offer” is one that is within 2 miles of home. By dividing the Borough into five primary planning areas officers can more easily ensure that places are

provided near to where children live. However, they are only a guide to help officers. In reality children can travel across planning areas to attend school, particularly when they live close to the borders.

4. What are secondary planning areas?

Secondary aged children are expected to travel longer distances to school. A reasonable offer for a secondary place is one that is within 3 miles of home, which given the size of Brent and the good transport links mean that children can travel to any school. However, secondary planning areas allow the Council to understand localised pressures for schools and where additional places would help more children attend a school near to where they live.

5. What do the projections indicate in the secondary phase?

The January 2020 projections indicate that demand for Year 7 places will increase as larger primary cohorts move through the system.

How does the Council forecast demand for special provision?

In order to understand demand for special school places, the Council analyses current and historical data to track trends in the number of children and young people aged 0-25 with EHCPs. This includes assessment of pupil numbers by year group and type of need, as well as the type of provision attended. Analysis of trends is used to predict likely future patterns of demand.

3.3 Providing Additional Places

1. Is it better to provide temporary or permanent classes?

Generally it is more cost effective to provide permanent places if they are needed for the longer term, but there are times where site and time constraints mean that this is not possible. There are also occasions where the bulge in numbers only applies to one cohort of students. In these circumstances, it is better to provide a temporary bulge class.

Expansion in the secondary phase is more complex than primary, partly because specialist facilities (e.g. sport, science, technology) may need to be provided alongside standard classrooms. Students also need to access these facilities during the building process which makes decant more challenging and can impact on cost.

2. Is it better to expand existing schools or provide new schools?

Where additional school places are needed, the Council seeks to provide places that provide high quality provision. This could be through expanding existing schools or through new schools. There are benefits to both:

- Expanding existing schools that are judged to be good or better by Ofsted gives the Council greater confidence that provision will be good and that it will be popular. It also helps to maintain stability in the existing school system. However, it is important that the challenges of expansion are well managed to avoid impacting on standards in good or outstanding schools and on any particular groups of children and young people who are under-achieving.
- New schools offer a chance to provide new learning environments and to attract high quality providers. However, the Council does not control the provision of free schools. The Regional Schools Commissioner, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State,

decides if a school should open. In a borough such as Brent there are also considerable challenges in finding sites for new schools.

- Expansions of existing provision are funded by the Council from Basic Need grant funding or the Special Provision Capital Fund for Additionally Resourced Provision and SEND units for pupils with EHCPs. New free schools are largely funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

3.4 Spare places

1. How does the Council manage spare places?

When demand for school places falls significantly and the number of spare places increases, this can cause difficulties for individual schools, in particular with regards to managing school budgets. Where this occurs, the Council analyses a range of local data, including recent intakes, parental preferences, availability of places within the local area and school standards, before recommending strategies that support schools within a local area to ensure the sustainability of provision.

4. Brent's Operating Principles for School Organisation

The following operating principles underpin Brent's approach to school place planning.

Principle 1: We will work with schools to put in place strategies to manage changing demand and support schools within a local area to ensure the sustainability of provision.

Principle 2: We will only undertake expansions at high quality schools where leadership is secure.

Principle 3: We will seek to expand schools that have high levels of parental preferences for admission, in particular schools that are regularly oversubscribed.

Principle 4: We will seek to minimise disruption to schools during any changes to provision, , paying particular attention to impacts on vulnerable groups, and support school leaders to manage the challenges.

Principle 5: We will expect expanded and re-structured schools generally to meet government guidance on space standards but will be prepared to consider innovative design solutions to achieve this.

Principle 6: We will develop local capacity to sponsor or promote new schools, working with academies in all phases.

Principle 7: We will consider how community benefits from school facilities can be maximised when we expand or build new schools.

Principle 8: We will consult with local communities as part of the planning process to minimise/mitigate the impact of new school developments.

Principle 9: We will build inclusive provision into expansion and new school proposals and work with neighbouring authorities on the planning of special school places.

Principle 10: We will plan secondary school places by planning area, but also on a borough wide basis to make sure the offer meets community needs.

Principle 11: We will continue planning primary places using planning areas.

Principle 12: We will promote federations between schools, both to address any quality issues and to address the future viability of one form of entry primary schools, and will work towards the amalgamation of separate infant and junior schools.

Principle 13: We will actively consider two-site schools and large schools where there is leadership and management capacity and where this is a genuine expansion and not a new school.

Principle 14: We will not currently seek to develop more all-through schools.

Principle 15: We will consider expanding voluntary aided schools only where there is local Brent demand, working with the relevant partners.

Principle 16: After assessing educational suitability, schemes for expansion or new schools will be judged in terms of value for money, deliverability and strategic fit with wider investment programmes.

5. The Need for Secondary Places

5.1 Demand Overview

The significant growth that has been seen in the primary phase since 2010 began to move through to the secondary phase in 2016. Table 1 shows secondary projections by year group against capacity. Year 7 intakes are forecast to increase, although at a much slower rate than previously forecast. The forecasts indicate that cohorts will grow as they move through the school system but not to the degree previously forecast

Table 1: Secondary projections 2020 and capacity

		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
2020/2021	Capacity	3628	3508	3478	3352	3316
	Projections	3226	3235	3264	3188	3187
	surplus/deficit	402	273	214	164	129
2021/2022	Capacity	3628	3628	3508	3478	3352
	Projections	3276	3261	3247	3288	3228
	surplus/deficit	352	367	261	190	124
2022/2023	Capacity *	3688	3628	3628	3508	3478
	Projections	3302	3311	3273	3275	3331
	surplus/deficit	386	317	355	233	147
2023/2024	Capacity *	3688	3688	3628	3628	3508
	Projections	3346	3342	3324	3305	3320
	surplus/deficit	342	346	304	323	188
2024/2025	Capacity *	3688	3688	3688	3628	3628
	Projections	3270	3381	3356	3355	3348
	surplus/deficit	418	307	332	273	280
2025/2026	Capacity *	3688	3688	3688	3688	3628
	Projections	3352	3306	3408	3394	3401
	surplus/deficit	336	382	280	294	227
2026/2027	Capacity *	3688	3688	3688	3688	3688
	Projections	3339	3380	3327	3437	3434
	surplus/deficit	349	308	361	251	254
2027/2028	Capacity *	3688	3688	3688	3688	3688
	Projections	3421	3363	3395	3354	3468
	surplus/deficit	267	325	293	334	220
2028/2029	Capacity *	3688	3688	3688	3688	3688
	Projections	3463	3446	3383	3424	3391
	surplus/deficit	225	242	305	264	297

*Capacity reflects North Brent school offering 180 places

The local authority's school place planning assumptions include an operating margin of 5% spare places to ensure that there is sufficiency to support in-year pupil movement and forecast growth in pupil cohorts as they move through the system, as well as any unforeseen increase in demand. The planning assumption that all schools will fill to their current Published Admission Numbers underpins assessment of the need for additional places across the borough.

Table 2 shows Year 7 forecasts against current capacity and capacity to be provided by the North Brent School. The School Place Planning Strategy 2019-23 update in November 2019 identified the need for an additional 4 forms of entry beyond that being provided by the North Brent School. The 2020 forecasts suggest that there may not be a need for additional secondary school capacity, beyond that being provided by the North Brent School. The 2020 forecasts suggest that there will be sufficient secondary school places to meet forecast demand up to 2028/29 in all year groups, including a 5% operating margin.

Table 2: Year 7 projections and planned capacity

Year	Year 7 projected intake	Year 7 places available*	Surplus/ Deficit of places	Surplus/ deficit %
2020/21	3226	3628	402	11%
2021/22	3276	3628	352	10%
2022/23	3302	3688	386	10%
2023/24	3346	3688	342	9%
2024/25	3270	3688	418	11%
2025/26	3352	3688	336	9%
2026/27	3339	3688	349	9%
2027/28	3421	3688	267	7%
2028/29	3463	3688	225	6%

5.2 Actions to increase capacity

The North Brent School was approved by DfE in 2016 to provide 180 places per year (6FE). The school opened in September 2020 offering 4 forms of entry on the Wembley High Technology College site. The school expects to relocate in 2022 to its permanent site, the Chancel House site, close to the North Circular, which was selected by the ESFA after an extensive site search.

A number of secondary schools have expressed an interest in expanding should additional places be required to meet demand.

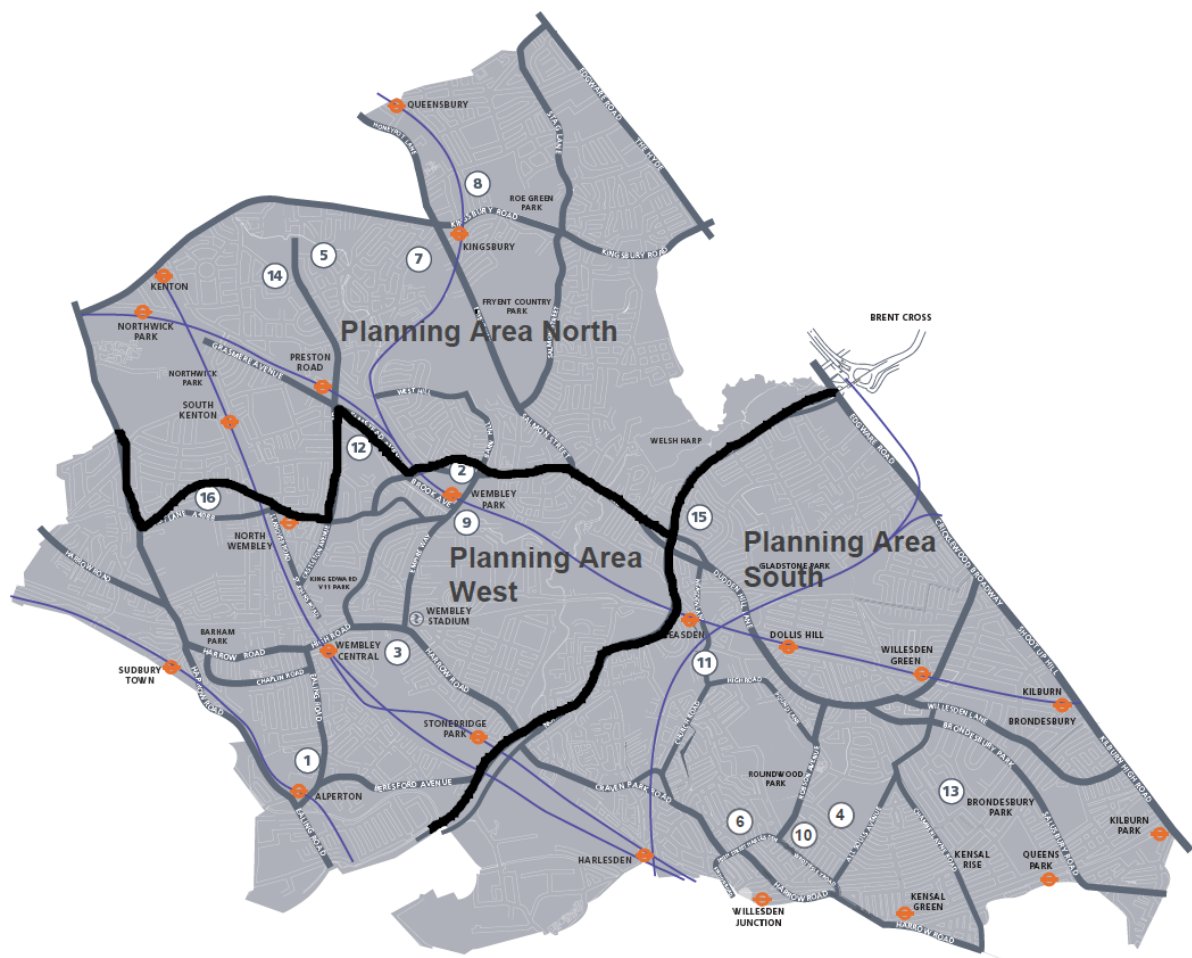
5.3 Secondary Planning Areas

Brent divides its secondary schools into 3 planning areas that reflect geographical groupings of schools – Secondary Planning Area North, Secondary Planning Area West and Secondary Planning Area South (Figure i).

The data by planning area suggest that the greatest pressure on Year 7 places will be in the planning areas in the North and West, rather than in the South where the North Brent School will be located. However, this analysis reflects historical preference and school attendance patterns, which are expected to change in the future with the establishment of the North Brent School.

Figure i: Secondary Planning Areas

- | | |
|--|--|
| ① Alperton Community School | ⑨ Michaela Community School |
| ② Ark Academy | ⑩ Newman Catholic College (Boys) |
| ③ Ark Elvin Academy | ⑪ North Brent School – Based at the Wembley High Technology College site until July 2022 |
| ④ Capital City Academy | ⑫ Preston Manor High School |
| ⑤ Claremont High School | ⑬ Queens Park Community School |
| ⑥ Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College (Girls) | ⑭ St. Gregory's Catholic Science College |
| ⑦ JFS | ⑮ The Crest Academy |
| ⑧ Kingsbury High School | ⑯ Wembley High Technology College |



Secondary Planning Area North

Wards	Fryent / Barnhill / Kenton / Northwick Park / Preston / Queensbury / Welsh Harp
Schools	Claremont High School, JFS, Kingsbury High School, St Gregory's Catholic Science College

Demand: Based on historical preference patterns, demand for Year 7 places is expected to increase in this area. While a shortfall is forecast from 2020/21, in reality pupils will travel to other secondary schools across the borough.

Planned action: The feasibility of expanding schools in this area if additional local places are required is currently being explored.

Table 3: Secondary Planning Area North 2020 projections and capacity

		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
2020/2021	Capacity	1098	1098	1098	1098	1082
	Projections	1138	1088	1109	1079	1091
	surplus/deficit	-40	10	-11	19	-9
2021/2022	Capacity	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098
	Projections	1158	1133	1096	1111	1090
	surplus/deficit	-60	-35	2	-13	8
2022/2023	Capacity	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098
	Projections	1164	1153	1140	1099	1126
	surplus/deficit	-66	-55	-42	-1	-28
2023/2024	Capacity	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098
	Projections	1175	1160	1159	1144	1111
	surplus/deficit	-77	-62	-61	-46	-13
2024/2025	Capacity	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098
	Projections	1138	1170	1166	1162	1156
	surplus/deficit	-40	-72	-68	-64	-58
2025/2026	Capacity	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098
	Projections	1170	1131	1177	1168	1173
	surplus/deficit	-72	-33	-79	-70	-75
2026/2027	Capacity	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098
	Projections	1159	1162	1138	1177	1179
	surplus/deficit	-61	-64	-40	-79	-81
2027/2028	Capacity	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098
	Projections	1195	1151	1167	1138	1186
	surplus/deficit	-97	-53	-69	-40	-88
2028/2029	Capacity	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098
	Projections	1210	1185	1157	1166	1150
	surplus/deficit	-112	-87	-59	-68	-52

Secondary Planning Area West

Wards	Alperton / Barnhill / Preston / Sudbury / Tokyngton / Wembley Central
Schools	Alperton Community School, Ark Academy, Ark Elvin Academy, Michaela Community School, Preston Manor Upper School, Wembley High Technology College

Demand: Secondary Planning Area West includes two major growth areas in Wembley Central and Alperton and demand for Year 7 places is expected to increase in this area. Wembley is set to drive the economic regeneration of Brent as a high quality, urban, connected and sustainable city quarter. Up to 15,000 new homes are planned around Wembley National Stadium and Wembley town centre up to 2041. Alperton is being promoted for mixed-use regeneration, which will include over 5000 new homes.

Planned action: Alperton Secondary School expanded by 2FE in 2018 using the school's Stanley Avenue site. Ark Elvin's new school building provides accommodation for an increased admission number of 270. It is anticipated that the school will in time fill to this capacity. The feasibility of expanding other schools in this area is being explored.

Table 4: Secondary Planning Area West 2020 projections and capacity

		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
2020/2021	Capacity	1356	1356	1326	1212	1192
	Projections	1261	1351	1315	1215	1169
	surplus/deficit	95	5	11	-3	23
2021/2022	Capacity	1356	1356	1356	1326	1212
	Projections	1284	1295	1372	1333	1230
	surplus/deficit	72	61	-16	-7	-18
2022/2023	Capacity	1356	1356	1356	1356	1326
	Projections	1307	1316	1315	1390	1345
	surplus/deficit	49	40	41	-34	-19
2023/2024	Capacity	1356	1356	1356	1356	1356
	Projections	1358	1348	1338	1339	1408
	surplus/deficit	-129	-118	-83	-36	-5
2024/2025	Capacity	1356	1356	1356	1356	1356
	Projections	1338	1390	1365	1360	1353
	surplus/deficit	18	-34	-9	-4	3
2025/2026	Capacity	1356	1356	1356	1356	1356
	Projections	1364	1372	1412	1390	1375
	surplus/deficit	-8	-16	-56	-34	-19
2026/2027	Capacity	1356	1356	1356	1356	1356
	Projections	1368	1396	1391	1434	1403
	surplus/deficit	-12	-40	-35	-78	-47
2027/2028	Capacity	1356	1356	1356	1356	1356
	Projections	1410	1396	1412	1409	1439
	surplus/deficit	-54	-40	-56	-53	-83
2028/2029	Capacity	1356	1356	1356	1356	1356
	Projections	1436	1439	1414	1433	1419
	surplus/deficit	-80	-83	-58	-77	-63

Secondary Planning Area South

Wards	Brondesbury Park / Dollis Hill / Dudden Hill / Harlesden / Kensal Green / Kilburn / Mapesbury / Queens Park / Stonebridge / Willesden Green
Schools	Capital City Academy, Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College, Newman Catholic College, Queens Park Community School, The Crest Academy, North Brent School

Demand: There are currently spare places in this planning area. The North Brent School's permanent site is in this area and it is anticipated that secondary demand patterns will change over the next few years as the North Brent School becomes established.

Planning assumes that all schools in this area with spare capacity will fill to their current Published Admission Numbers before any further additional capacity is required.

Planned action: The North Brent School opened in 2020 on a temporary site in Secondary Planning Area West offering 4 forms of entry. The school will provide 6 forms of entry when it moves to its permanent site in this area in 2022. The school is sponsored by the Wembley Multi-Academy Trust that includes Wembley High Technology College, which is an oversubscribed outstanding school. It is anticipated that current preference patterns will change as pupils will travel from other areas to the school. If required, there is a potential for other schools in this area to expand.

Table 5: Secondary Planning Area South 2020 projections and capacity

		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
2020/2021	Capacity	1174	1054	1054	1042	1042
	Projections	827	796	841	893	927
	surplus/deficit	347	258	213	149	115
2021/2022	Capacity	1174	1174	1054	1054	1042
	Projections	834	833	779	843	908
	surplus/deficit	340	341	275	211	134
2022/2023	Capacity	1234	1174	1174	1054	1054
	Projections	829	842	818	786	861
	surplus/deficit	405	332	356	268	193
2023/2024	Capacity	1234	1234	1174	1174	1054
	Projections	813	836	827	822	801
	surplus/deficit	421	398	347	352	253
2024/2025	Capacity	1234	1234	1234	1174	1174
	Projections	795	822	826	833	840
	surplus/deficit	439	412	408	341	334
2025/2026	Capacity	1234	1234	1234	1234	1174
	Projections	818	804	819	836	852
	surplus/deficit	416	430	415	398	322
2026/2027	Capacity	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234
	Projections	812	822	799	827	852
	surplus/deficit	357	363	358	310	270
2027/2028	Capacity	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234
	Projections	817	816	816	807	843
	surplus/deficit	417	418	418	427	391
2028/2029	Capacity	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234

	Projections	816	821	811	824	824
	surplus/deficit	418	413	423	410	410

5.4 Cross-border movement

The GLA projections reflect the percentage of children who historically move from Year 6 to Year 7 in the following academic year. Brent has traditionally been a net exporter of pupils, in part due to Brent's proximity to other boroughs. In the south of the Borough just over 43% of Brent parents chose out-of-borough secondary schools for their children starting school in September 2020 (Table 6). Neighbouring boroughs are facing similar school place challenges as a result of increasing demand and it is possible that Brent parents will find it increasingly difficult to access places in out-of-borough secondary schools. Additionally, parental perception of Brent secondary schools that are currently under-subscribed is expected to change as Ofsted judgements and standards have improved. The combination of these factors could mean that the demand for places in Brent secondary schools may increase beyond that currently shown in Table 2.

Table 6: Secondary transfers by secondary planning area September 2020

LA of Offered School 2020	Brent Resident School Planning Area			
	PA North	PA South	PA West	Total
Brent Total	706	997	910	2613
Brent %	78.30%	57.30%	88.90%	71.30%
Barnet	80	104	11	195
Camden	1	105	3	109
Ealing	1	65	28	94
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	70	3	75
Harrow	83	27	37	147
Hertfordshire	13	2	3	18
Hillingdon	4	1	3	8
Hounslow	2	5	3	10
Kensington and Chelsea	2	72	1	75
Slough			10	10
Sutton	1	2	1	4
Westminster	4	284	10	298
Other LAs	3	6	1	10
Non-Brent Total	196	743	114	1053
Non-Brent %	21.70%	42.70%	11.10%	28.70%
Grand Total	902	1740	1024	3666

6. The Need for Primary Places

6.1 Overview

Between 2006 and 2017, Brent saw an unprecedented increase in the demand for primary school places. The primary pupil population (Reception to Year 6) increased from 20,822 in January 2006 to 26,823 in January 2017, an increase of 28.8% (Graph 1). This trend changed in 2017 when the number of children admitted to Reception reduced for the first time in 11 years, followed by lower intakes in 2018 and 2019. Graph 1 shows the forecast total primary population based on the latest projections. The forecasts are lower than the 2019 forecasts across all year-groups and indicate a small increase in demand by 2025.

Graph 1 – Primary numbers on roll and projections as at January each year

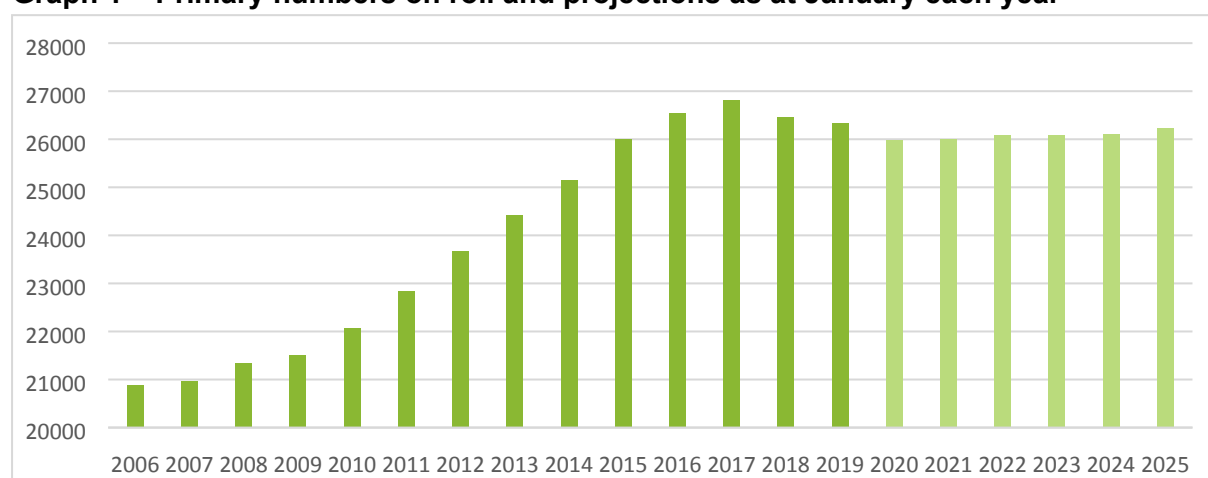


Table 7 shows that borough-wide, there is sufficient capacity to meet anticipated demand across all year groups up to 2025/26 and to manage in-year pupil mobility. However, spare capacity is not evenly distributed across all planning areas (see below).

Table 7: Primary forecasts 2020 and capacity

		Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2020/2021	Capacity	4,247	4,277	4,217	4,162	4,187	4,244	4,002
	Projections	3,786	3,542	3,685	3,659	3,771	3,803	3,751
	surplus/deficit	461	735	532	503	416	441	251
2021/2022	Capacity	4,247	4,247	4,277	4,217	4,162	4,187	4,244
	Projections	3,819	3,737	3,561	3,730	3,670	3,774	3,793
	surplus/deficit	428	510	716	487	492	413	451
2022/2023	Capacity	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,187	4,132	4,157
	Projections	3,763	3,765	3,752	3,624	3,732	3,681	3,765
	surplus/deficit	484	482	495	623	455	451	392
2023/2024	Capacity	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,187	4,132
	Projections	3,789	3,715	3,779	3,781	3,631	3,736	3,670
	surplus/deficit	458	532	468	466	616	451	462

2024/2025	Capacity	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,187
	Projections	3,805	3,738	3,729	3,807	3,785	3,639	3,723
	surplus/deficit	442	509	518	440	462	608	464
2025/2026	Capacity	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,247	4,247
	Projections	3,840	3,768	3,749	3,764	3,818	3,792	3,623
	surplus/deficit	407	479	498	483	429	455	624

Table 8 shows forecast Reception intakes against capacity. The latest pupil forecasts suggest that, over the next five years, Reception cohorts will be higher than recent intakes in 2018 and 2019. The forecasts indicate that demand will remain fairly steady, fluctuating by up to one or two forms of entry each year.

Brent aims to have a minimum of 5% spare places to manage in-year migration and to ensure the authority can respond to any sudden increase in demand. This avoids the need to open temporary provision or bulge classes, which is neither educationally desirable nor cost effective. Based on current forecasts, there will be a number of spare primary places at borough level (around 10%).

The local authority is working with schools to put in place strategies to manage changing demand and to support schools to ensure the sustainability of provision. Measures to support reduced intakes include temporarily reducing admission numbers or placing an informal cap on admission numbers and considering temporary alternative use of spare accommodation.

Table 8: Reception forecasts against capacity

Year	Reception projected intake	Reception capacity	Spare places	% spare places	Spare places as forms of entry
2020/21	3786	4247	461	11%	15
2021/22	3819	4247	428	10%	14
2022/23	3763	4247	484	11%	15
2023/24	3789	4247	458	11%	15
2024/25	3805	4247	442	10%	14
2025/26	3840	4247	407	10%	14

Table 9: Births in Brent (by academic year)

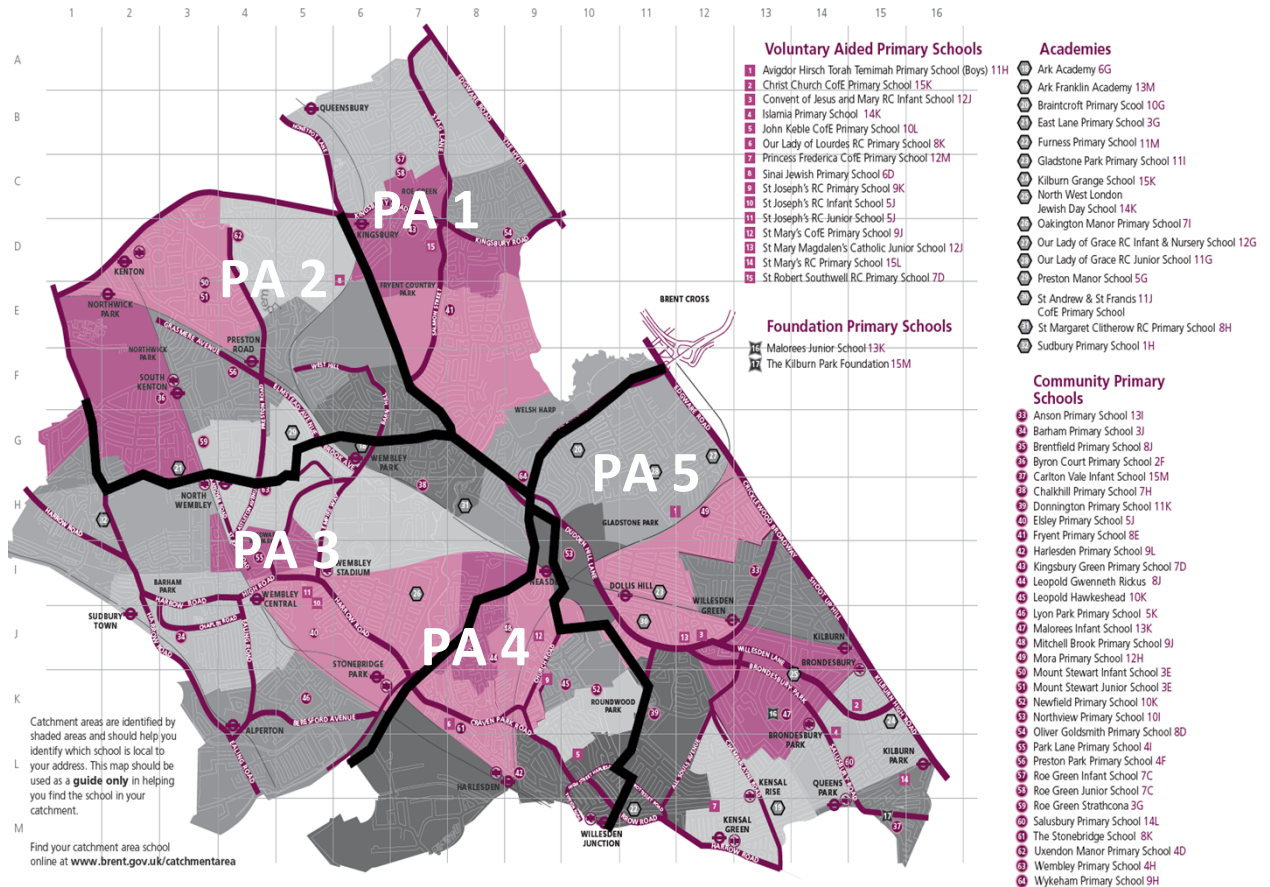
Year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20*	2020/21*
Births in Brent	5166	5220	5116	4892	4838	4752	4759

* Projection

6.2 Primary Planning Areas

The Borough is divided into 5 Primary Planning Areas (see Figure ii). This supports the Council in providing a school place within a reasonable travelling distance for primary children. The match of demand to the supply of places varies across planning areas and year groups.

Figure ii: Brent Primary Planning Areas



Primary Planning Area 1

Wards	Fryent / Queensbury / Welsh Harp
Schools	Fryent Primary School, Kingsbury Green Primary School, Oliver Goldsmith Primary School, Roe Green Infant School, Roe Green Junior School, St Robert Southwell RC Primary School, Wykeham Primary School

Demand: The January 2020 forecasts show Reception intakes remaining relatively steady over the next 5 years. A shortfall of places is forecast for some cohorts as they move through the system (based on in-migration assumptions). It is anticipated that places in neighbouring planning areas will accommodate these pressures.

Planned action: There are no plans to change capacity in Planning Area 1.

Intakes at Fryent Primary School have been lower than the school Published Admission Number over the past few years. An Additionally Resourced Provision for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Fryent has been developed in temporary spare accommodation.

Table 10: Planning Area 1 2020 GLA projections and capacity

		Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2020/2021	Capacity	510	510	510	480	510	510	540
	Projections	521	467	478	481	477	508	536
	surplus/deficit	-11	43	32	-1	33	2	4
2021/2022	Capacity	510	510	510	510	480	510	510
	Projections	545	525	466	496	485	480	506
	surplus/deficit	-35	-15	44	14	-5	30	4
2022/2023	Capacity	510	510	510	510	510	480	510
	Projections	515	550	525	484	503	492	485
	surplus/deficit	-5	-40	-15	26	7	-12	25
2023/2024	Capacity	510	510	510	510	510	510	480
	Projections	509	522	548	533	489	510	499
	surplus/deficit	1	-12	-38	-23	21	0	-19
2024/2025	Capacity	510	510	510	510	510	510	510
	Projections	504	515	521	553	536	495	513
	surplus/deficit	6	-5	-11	-43	-26	15	-3
2025/2026	Capacity	510	510	510	510	510	510	510
	Projections	502	511	512	525	554	538	496
	surplus/deficit	8	-1	-2	-15	-44	-28	14

Primary Planning Area 2

Wards	Barnhill / Kenton / Northwick Park / Preston
Schools	Byron Court Primary School, Mount Stewart Infant School, Mount Stewart Junior School, Preston Manor Lower School, Preston Park Primary School, Roe Green Infant School (Strathcona site), Sinai Jewish Primary School, Uxendon Manor Primary School, Wembley Primary School

Demand: The January 2020 forecasts indicate that Planning Area 2 will have a high number of spare places across all year groups over the next 5 years and around 4FE spare places in Reception.

Planned action: This planning area is adjacent to Planning Areas 1 and 3 and spare capacity could absorb any increase in demand in these areas.

Due to reduced demand, following a period of consultation, the Council has taken the decision to cease the one form of entry provision on the Roe Green Infant School Strathcona site through a phased closure from September 2020.

A temporary reduction in the Published Admission Number of Uxendon Manor Primary School (30 places) has been agreed from September 2020.

Table 11: Planning Area 2 2020 GLA projections and capacity

		Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2020/2021	Capacity	750	780	780	720	750	720	690
	Projections	630	579	621	561	667	626	680
	surplus/deficit	120	201	159	159	83	94	10
2021/2022	Capacity	750	750	780	780	720	750	720
	Projections	623	608	574	626	560	649	619
	surplus/deficit	127	142	206	154	160	101	101
2022/2023	Capacity	750	750	750	750	750	690	720
	Projections	610	600	602	587	620	548	640
	surplus/deficit	140	150	148	163	130	142	80
2023/2024	Capacity	750	750	750	750	750	750	690
	Projections	618	588	594	608	584	604	538
	surplus/deficit	132	162	156	142	166	146	152
2024/2025	Capacity	750	750	750	750	750	750	750
	Projections	620	597	584	603	607	571	597
	surplus/deficit	130	153	166	147	143	179	153
2025/2026	Capacity	750	750	750	750	750	750	750
	Projections	619	598	590	592	601	590	562
	surplus/deficit	131	152	160	158	149	160	188

Primary Planning Area 3

Wards	Alperton / Sudbury / Tokyngton / Wembley Central
Schools	Ark Academy, Barham Primary School, Chalkhill Primary School, East Lane Primary School, Elsley Primary School, Lyon Park Primary School, Oakington Manor Primary School, Park Lane Primary School, St Joseph's RC Infant School, St Joseph's RC Junior School, St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School, Sudbury Primary School

Demand: Planning Area 3 includes two major growth areas in Wembley Central and Alperton. Wembley is set to drive the economic regeneration of Brent as a high quality, urban, connected and sustainable city quarter and up to 15,000 new homes around the Wembley National Stadium and Wembley town centre area up to 2041. Alperton is being set to provide up to 6,000 new homes. As a result of new housing, Reception intakes are expected to increase over the next 5 years. As the new housing comes on-stream, it is likely that there will be a need for additional capacity in the area.

Planned action: The January 2020 GLA projections indicate an increase in demand for Reception places in Planning Area 3, but at a much lower level than previous forecasts. Spare places in other planning areas will be able to absorb any short-term pressures in demand. Additional capacity may be required from 2023 onwards.

Table 12: Planning Area 3 2020 projections and capacity

		Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2020/2021	Capacity	970	970	970	970	970	970	820
	Projections	936	907	923	955	930	924	796
	surplus/deficit	34	63	47	15	40	46	24
2021/2022	Capacity	970	970	970	970	970	970	970
	Projections	968	954	934	974	964	954	901
	surplus/deficit	2	16	36	-4	6	16	69
2022/2023	Capacity	970	970	970	970	970	970	970
	Projections	990	973	966	980	974	982	923
	surplus/deficit	-20	-3	4	-10	-4	-12	47
2023/2024	Capacity	970	970	970	970	970	970	970
	Projections	1076	1001	994	1021	989	1000	954
	surplus/deficit	-106	-31	-24	-51	-19	-30	16
2024/2025	Capacity	970	970	970	970	970	970	970
	Projections	1115	1072	1014	1,042	1021	1010	968
	surplus/deficit	-145	-102	-44	-72	-51	-40	2
2025/2026	Capacity	970	970	970	970	970	970	970
	Projections	1150	1110	1078	1062	1043	1040	978
	surplus/deficit	-180	-140	-108	-92	-73	-70	-8

Primary Planning Area 4

Wards	Harlesden / Kensal Green / Stonebridge / Willesden Green
Schools	Brentfield Primary School, Harlesden Primary School, John Keble CE Primary School, Leopold Primary School, Mitchell Brook Primary School, Newfield Primary School, Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School, St Joseph's RC Primary School, St Mary's CE Primary School, Stonebridge Primary School

Demand: The January 2020 projections forecast Planning Area 4 to have high levels of spare places over the next five years. In the longer term, the LA expects demand to increase in this area as new housing comes on stream. This includes the Old Oak redevelopment scheme. Initial plans were for 870 additional units by 2026. However, the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) has indicated that all numbers and timescales are to be revised as new sites have since been added to the masterplan. The LA is in dialogue with the OPDC to understand the likely impact on provision in Brent.

Planned action: A temporary reduction in the Published Admission Number of Harlesden Primary School (30 places) has been agreed from September 2020. Demand in this area will be kept under review to ensure provision is sustainable. The Council will be supporting schools in this area to manage reduced demand, which could include additional temporary reductions to published admission numbers.

Table 13: Planning Area 4 2020 projections and capacity

		Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2020/2021	Capacity	765	765	705	735	705	762	730
	Projections	570	516	540	533	601	613	625
	surplus/deficit	195	249	165	202	104	149	105
2021/2022	Capacity	765	765	765	705	735	705	762
	Projections	577	554	518	518	527	604	630
	surplus/deficit	188	211	247	187	208	101	132
2022/2023	Capacity	765	765	765	765	705	735	705
	Projections	567	561	557	496	512	530	622
	surplus/deficit	198	204	208	269	193	205	83
2023/2024	Capacity	765	765	765	765	765	705	735
	Projections	557	552	562	531	491	515	545
	surplus/deficit	208	213	203	234	274	190	190
2024/2025	Capacity	765	765	765	765	765	765	705
	Projections	549	543	552	537	527	494	532
	surplus/deficit	216	222	213	228	238	271	173
2025/2026	Capacity	765	765	765	765	765	765	765
	Projections	547	542	547	531	535	532	511
	surplus/deficit	218	223	218	234	230	233	254

Planning Area 5

Wards	Brondesbury Park / Dollis Hill / Dudden Hill / Kensal Green / Kilburn/ Mapesbury / Queens Park / Willesden Green
Schools	Anson Primary School, Ark Franklin Academy, Avigdor Hirsch Torah Temimah Primary School, Braintcroft Primary School, Carlton Vale Infant School, Christchurch CE Primary School, Convent of Jesus and Mary Infant School, Donnington Primary School, The Furness Primary School, Gladstone Park Primary School, Islamia Primary School, Kilburn Grange Primary School, Malorees Infant School, Malorees Junior School, Mora Primary School, North West London Jewish Day School, Northview Primary School, Our Lady of Grace Infant and Nursery School, Our Lady of Grace RC Junior School, Princess Frederica CE Primary School, Salusbury Primary School, St Andrew & St Francis CE Primary School, St Mary Magdalen's RC Junior School, St Mary's RC Primary School, The Kilburn Park Foundation School

Demand: The January 2020 projections show reducing Reception intakes and an increasing number of spare places in Planning Area 5 over the next 5 years. Many children living in this planning area attend schools in neighbouring authorities, such as Camden and Westminster.

This planning area covers the South Kilburn regeneration region. It is anticipated that the South Kilburn master plan will maximise housing developments, which could lead to an increase in pupil demand as new housing comes on stream.

Planned action: As part of the South Kilburn regeneration programme, school place demand in Planning Area 5 will be kept under review.

Table 14: Planning Area 5 2020 projections and capacity

		Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2020/2021	Capacity	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,257	1,252	1,282	1,222
	Projections	1,129	1,072	1,123	1,129	1,096	1,133	1,113
	surplus/deficit	123	180	129	128	156	149	109
2021/2022	Capacity	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,257	1,252	1,282
	Projections	1,106	1,095	1,069	1,116	1,135	1,086	1,137
	surplus/deficit	146	157	183	136	122	166	145
2022/2023	Capacity	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,257	1,252
	Projections	1,080	1,081	1,101	1,075	1,122	1,128	1,096
	surplus/deficit	172	171	151	177	130	129	156
2023/2024	Capacity	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,257
	Projections	1,028	1,052	1,082	1,087	1,078	1,107	1,134
	surplus/deficit	224	200	170	165	174	145	123
2024/2025	Capacity	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252
	Projections	1,018	1,010	1,058	1,071	1,093	1,068	1,113
	surplus/deficit	234	242	194	181	159	184	139
2025/2026	Capacity	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252
	Projections	1,022	1,008	1,022	1,054	1,085	1,090	1,076
	surplus/deficit	230	244	230	198	167	162	176

7. The Need for SEND and Alternative Provision Places

7.1 Brent SEND Overview

Brent's objective is to enable each young person to realise their potential in an appropriate, inclusive setting whether in a mainstream school, a SEND Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP), a SEND Unit or a special school. ARPs and SEND units on mainstream school sites are designed to allow young people to participate within the mainstream school where appropriate. In all settings, young people are encouraged to become independent, autonomous learners, accessing the right level of support at the right time, and with their parents/carers fully involved in decisions about their future.

There is a rich range of high quality specialist provision in Brent encompassing 3 specialist nurseries, 1 primary special school, 2 special school academy trusts and a number of Additionally Resourced Provisions and SEN Units in both primary and secondary mainstream schools (Table 15). A number of children are placed in out-of-borough schools, although the vision is for Brent's children to go to a good or outstanding school locally, whenever possible, as this allows them access to local resources, and to foster social/emotional links locally.

Table 15: Current Special School and Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) in Brent

School	Type of Provision	Type of School	Special Need	Number of specialist places Sept 2019-20
*The Manor School	Special	Primary	MLD/ASD	170
*The Avenue - temporary accommodation at Queens Park Community School	Special	All-through	MLD/ASD	21
Phoenix Arch School	Special	Primary	ASD/SEMH	50
+The Village School	Special	All-through	PMLD/SLD/ASD	275
+The Village School (satellite provision - Hope Centre KS1)	Special	Primary	PMLD/SLD/ASD	21
+Woodfield School	Special	Secondary	MLD/ASD	184
Kingsbury Green Primary School	ARP	Primary	HI	18
Oakington Manor Primary School	ARP	Primary	ASD	15
Oakington Manor Primary School	ARP	Primary	SLCN	20
Fryent Primary School	ARP	Primary	ASD	28
Sudbury Primary School	ARP	Primary	ASD/SLCN	0
Preston Manor High School	ARP	Secondary	ASD	12
Preston Manor High School	ARP	Secondary	SLCN	12
Kingsbury High School	ARP	Secondary	HI	7
Grand Total				833

*The Manor and The Avenue schools form the Brent Specialist Academy Trust.

+The Village and Woodfield schools form the Compass Learning Partnership Multi-Academy Trust.

7.2 Demand for special provision

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced wide ranging reforms relating to services for children and young people **age 0-25** with SEND, including Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), which are co-produced with parents/carers and children, within a multi-agency context.

Demand for special provision in Brent has been growing over the last 3 years (Table 16). The number of children and young people with EHCPs in education settings increased by 11% between Jan 2019 and Jan 2020. Nationally there was an increase in EHCP numbers of 8.7% between 2019 and 2020.

As of January 2020, there were 2341 (SEN2 data return) Brent resident children and young people with an EHCP, of whom 2103 were attending a school (reception to year 14) and 238 were attending a further education provision (age-range 16-25). 3.4% (DfE, Jan school census 2020) of children and young people attending Brent Schools have an EHCP, compared to 3.3% of the national school-age population (DfE school census 2020).

Table 16 shows the increase in EHCPs since 2017 against category of need. Notable increases over this period are in ASD, SLCN and SLD.

Table 16: Distribution of EHCPs by need (SEN2)

SEN Description of Need (EHCP)	2017	2018	2019	2020
ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder	565	598	612	650
SEMH - Social, Emotional And Mental Health	153	152	146	178
HI - Hearing Impairment	62	53	49	48
MLD – Moderate Learning Difficulties	386	375	371	362
MSI - Multi-Sensory Impairment	4	4	3	6
OTH - Other Difficulty/disability	8	17	32	25
PD - Physical Disability	85	89	85	91
PMLD - Profound & Multiple Learning Difficult	46	52	52	56
SLD - Severe Learning Difficulties	157	165	158	172
SPLD - Specific Learning Difficulty	35	30	28	29
SLCN - Speech, Language And Communication Needs	295	334	348	455
VI - Visual Impairment	25	21	25	25
TOTAL				
CYP with EHC Plan at school age up to 19 (at school)	1824	1900	1909	2103
16-25 with EHC Plan (at college/ left school/HNS)	136	176	201	238
TOTAL EHCP school age + Post 16-25	1960	2076	2110	2341*

*This figure does not include NEET, a new data requirement for the SEN2 return (85).

Many children with EHCPs can have their needs met in a mainstream setting. However, over the past three years the proportion of children and young people with EHCPs attending a mainstream setting has reduced overall. In 2020 (SEN2 return) 49% of children and young

people with EHCPs attended a mainstream provision and 51% of children and young people with EHCPs attended a special provision, including SEND units and ARPs (Table 17).

Table 17: Brent resident children/young people with an EHCP (SEN2)

Year	Number of CYP with EHCP/Statement	Mainstream School	Special setting (including ARPs)
2016	1772	871	901
		49%	51%
2017	1824	873	951
		48%	52%
2018	1900	847	1053
		45%	55%
2019	1909	851	1058
		46%	54%
2020	2103	1023	1080
		49%	51%

Note: Young people in post 16 settings not included

The numbers of children with SEND is expected to continue to increase as overall pupil numbers rise, alongside increasing early diagnosis. Last year the anticipated annual increase in EHCPs was projected at 5%. The number of EHCPs has in fact increased by 11% between 2019 to 2020 (SEN2) and if this continues it will impact on demand for specialist provision in the borough.

The number of 5-25 year olds with EHCPs is expected to increase to 2837 by 2024 at 5% growth. However if growth is sustained at 10% the number would be 3413. This will impact on demand for specialist provision in the borough. The number of children and young people with an EHCP is 2565 at the end of August 2020.

Table 18: Forecast number of EHCPs at 5% and 10% growth (2020 SEN2)

Numbers EHCPs	2020 (actual)	2021	2022	2023	2024
Reception to NCY 11 (5% increase)	1880	1974	2073	2177	2286
Post 16 - 25 (5% increase)	453	476	500	525	551
Total	2333	2450	2573	2702	2837
Reception to NCY 11 (10% increase)	1880	2068	2274	2501	2751
Post 16 – 25 (10% increase)	453	498	548	602	662
Total	2333	2566	2822	3103	3413

Special schools in the borough cater for a wide range of complex SEND (see Table 16). Brent is, however, reliant on sourcing some places in out-of-borough maintained special schools or Independent schools (Table 19). Notwithstanding the expansion of Brent special schools, there are currently 160 pupils attending out-of-borough maintained special schools, and 147

pupils attending independent provision outside of the borough. For some pupils, such as those with significant Hearing or Visual Impairments, this is the best way for them to access provision that meets their needs. However, many are placed in out-of-borough provision because there is no appropriate place for them in Brent (see below).

Table 19: EHCP pupils in school (In-borough and Out-of-borough by school type)
(SEN2 2020)

Provision	Primary	Secondary	Total
Brent mainstream maintained/academy incl. PRU	496	264	760
Brent special provision (including ARPs)	442	327	769
Brent Independent and non-maintained special school	14	10	24
Out-of-borough mainstream	72	144	216
Out-of-borough special maintained (including ARPs)	72	88	160
Out-of-borough Independent and non-maintained special school	37	110	147
Other (e.g. Alternative Provision, home, LEA arranged)	11	16	27
Total	1144	959	2103

Table 20 shows the number of children and young people placed in independent primary and secondary provision out of the borough by the top four incidences of special educational need.

Table 20: Top categories of need for out-of-borough placements (SEN2 2020)

ASD		SEMH		SLCN		MLD		PMLD	
Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
9	58	6	19	5	3	1	11	3	4

The cost of placing children and young people out-of-borough is high. Annual placement costs in independent schools ranged from £28,000 to £84,000 in 2019/20, with an average cost of £54,000. Providing transport to SEND provision is currently costing the council in excess of £1.4 million. Notwithstanding the financial case, there is a strong educational and social rationale for the council to place students within its own boundaries. The time taken to travel to more distant schools and settings can be stressful for children and young people, especially those with physical needs, added to which traffic delays can lead to further stress and loss of education. It is generally preferable for children and young people to stay local in order to develop friendship groups within their own communities, where parents can also build resilience and support in local networks.

Once children are placed out-of-borough, and have settled in a new school, it is very difficult to bring them back to local provision. This has meant long term reliance on out-of-borough and independent placements often until children and young people are 19 or older. Some children have such specific needs that they cannot be met other than in very specialist provision, but there is considerable scope to reduce expensive and distant out-of-borough placements.

The Council therefore needs to develop in-borough secondary provision to meet the needs of a higher proportion of ASD/MLD/SLD/SLCN pupils. The key opportunity is to place these pupils in local provision at the point of secondary transfer in Year 7. In 2019, 19 additional places

were made available at Woodfield school in Year 7 for children with ASD/MLD/SLD. An additional 20 young people could have had their needs met in borough had there been further secondary places. Table 21 indicates the gap in provision at Year 7 across the borough. Woodfield is the only secondary provision meeting this kind of need, but is limited to 16 pupils in Year 7 in forthcoming years. The Avenue school will take secondary pupils in future years, but these places will most likely be for pupils transitioning from The Manor, so it is not envisaged that the school will offer capacity for additional children.

Table 21: Secondary special places demand and places required

	Sep-2021	Sep-2022	Sep-2023
Number of ASD/MLD/SLD pupils requiring specialist provision in Year 7:	67	68	65
Year 7 places available at Woodfield	16	16	16
Year 7 places required*	51	52	49

*The number of places required will be dependent on the number of places that Woodfield School are able to provide.

Table 22: The Avenue – All through school

	Sep-2021	Sep-2022	Sep-2023
Number of ASD/MLD/SLD pupils requiring specialist provision in Year 7:	2	2	6

*The Avenue site is currently under development and if this is not available there may additional requirement for secondary provision.

In developing additional places for children and young people with EHCPs, Brent is engaging with parents and carers of children and young people with SEND to ensure that services meet their needs and achieve the best outcomes. Brent works in partnership with schools and other providers to develop special provision in the borough. This includes expansions of special schools, developing capacity in mainstream schools and academies and other providers, including post-16. Additionally, the introduction of a Mainstream Plus (formerly SEND2 support) through the graduated response within the SEND Code of Practice will support children to access effective early and preventative support in mainstream schools and settings. Mainstream Plus will facilitate and enable schools to meet need in mainstream, in addition to existing funds and resources, to avoid the higher cost of specialist placement. It will reduce the pressure to place children out of area and will enable more children to be educated in mainstream who previously might have been placed in specialist provision.

Expansions in special school places within Brent are now at maximum capacity. To meet increasing demand, within the last 5 years, expansions have taken place at The Village School (35 additional places, and 21 within KS1 at The Hope Centre, since September 2018); The Manor School (40 additional places); Woodfield School (43 additional places in 2018 and 19 additional places created in 2019), and Phoenix Arch Primary Special (5 additional places). These expansions have catered for some of the SEND population increase to date.

Planned Action

- For September 2019, 19 additional places were created for year 7 pupils at Woodfield School through temporary accommodation at the school. For Year 6 (transition) September 2020, there was an anticipated shortage of Year 7 special school places, but Woodfield School were able to offer 29 places for September 2020. For September 2020, 15 out-of-borough **maintained** special school places, at a similar cost to Woodfield, with the same profile in provisions judged by Ofsted as Good/Outstanding have been secured.
- **New special provision within mainstream:** In January 2020, Expressions of interest (EoI) from primary schools were sought to establish primary Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs) for SEND pupils. Feasibility work is progressing with a number of schools for ARPs to open within the 2020/21 academic year. For 2021 and 2022, further sites are being considered for primary specialist and secondary specialist provision to meet demand.
- **Special School satellite provision:** Discussions in January 2020 with special school headteachers explored the potential for an early years, Key Stage 1 and Year 7 secondary satellite provision. Planning is underway with BSAT (The Manor/The Avenue schools) to establish a primary satellite provision. The satellite is expected to be open by January 2021.
- **Additional secondary capacity:** The analysis of Brent SEND data demonstrates there is sufficient rising demand for an additional new school to cater for up to 245 secondary aged pupils with ASD/complex needs. The new special school, regardless of the proposed route to build it, would not be ready before September 2023 at the earliest. Therefore there is a need to provide additional school places to accommodate 90 - 95 places over Sept 2021- Sept 2023 for children with ASD/MLD/SLD.
- **Post 16-25 Provision:** The Council will further develop pathways of work experience placements; apprenticeships and more supported internships for young people aged 16-25, working with FE colleges, Brent special schools and in collaboration with local businesses. Options for the provision of post-16 pathways for EHCP pupils are being scoped alongside adult social care and relevant partners to look at a range of in-borough pathways. There is a deficit of local places available to cater for EHCP pupils leaving special schools.

7.3 Alternative provision

The council has a statutory duty to provide an appropriate full-time education for pupils who have been permanently excluded from school or who are otherwise without a mainstream school place.

Overall, exclusion figures for all Brent pupils have shown a decrease in 2019-20 for both fixed term and permanent exclusions. Support is available for Brent schools to reduce the number of exclusions, with a focus on early identification and prevention strategies working closely alongside teams in mainstream school settings.

Brent Council established the need for an alternative provision free school with an integrated youth offer located at the Roundwood Centre in Harlesden in 2019. In June 2019, Brent

Council began the process of procuring the provider for Roundwood Youth Centre. At the beginning of February 2020, the Department for Education approved Brent Council's recommendation for Beckmead Trust to be the appointed provider. Beckmead's vision is to create educational provision throughout the school day alongside delivery of the Integrated Youth Offer in collaboration with the voluntary sector. The new school is planned to open in January 2021.

Planned action:

To meet the needs of children with Social Emotional and Mental Health difficulties Brent is further enhancing the offer for emotional wellbeing support in mainstream schools. The focus for 2020/2021 is to build mental health provision in mainstream, ensuring we have a comprehensive community and school based offer alongside our more specialist CAMHS interventions supporting children to stay in mainstream.

8. Childcare and Early Years Education

8.1 Early Years provision

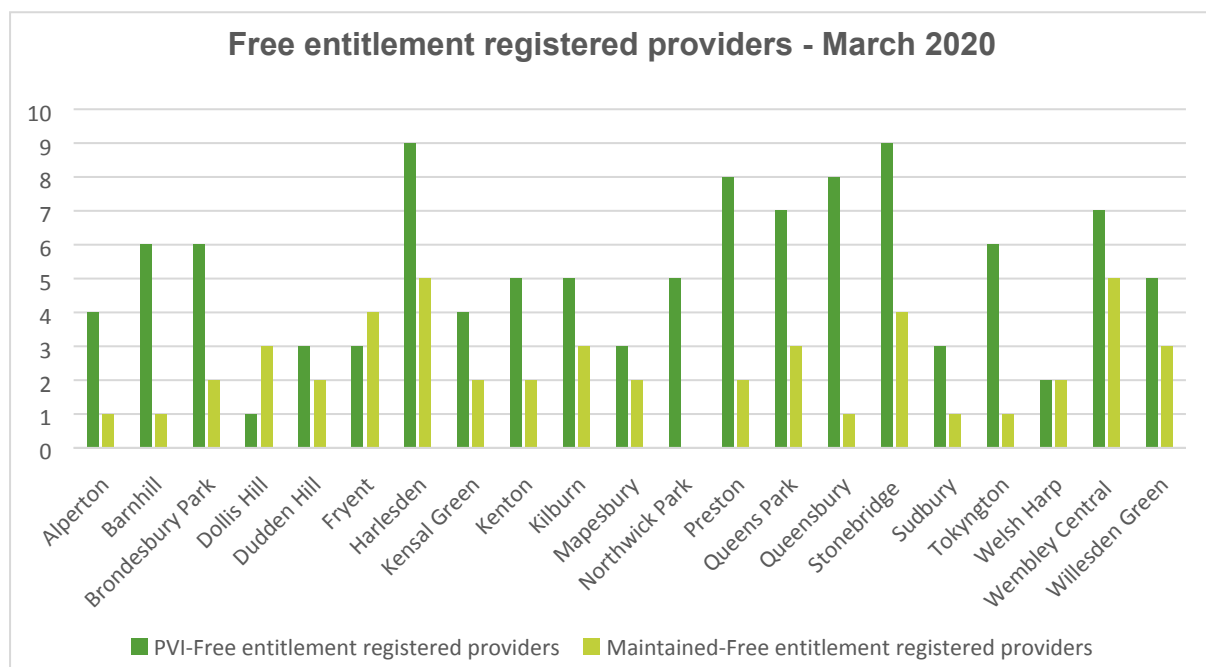
Under the Childcare Act 2006 local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for the needs of most working parents/carers in their area. Brent has a mixed economy of 0-5 childcare provision in the borough that includes private, voluntary, independent (PVI) and maintained settings. The Brent Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) annual update 2019 showed an overall increase in the number of PVI providers in the borough and a reduction in places in maintained and childminder provision. As at September 2020, there are 328 early years providers in the borough.

There is under-fives provision across all ward areas with 247 providers offering free entitlement funded places as at March 2020 (due to lockdown and setting closures, there are no headcount figures to report from Summer 2020).

As at the first spring headcount in Spring 2020, the proportion of places being delivered in maintained settings rose slightly from 41% to 44%. The local authority will continue to monitor the distribution of places across the sectors.

Alongside this, the overall quality of provision has been maintained with 98% of providers across the sector judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted as at 1 September 2020.

Graph 2: Type of registered childcare provider by ward March 2020



8.2 Demand for Early Years provision

Take-up of free entitlement places in 2020 was below both the London and national averages at 64% for the 2 year entitlement (53% in 2019, national average 68%) and 73% for the 3 and 4 year entitlement (75% in 2019, national average 94%). Research by Coram Family and Childcare for Brent carried out in late Autumn 2019 confirmed the most common reasons for parents not taking up the childcare offer were a belief that their child was too young, concerns about the costs of childcare and/or a negative perception of childcare, including quality or impact on their child.

Free childcare for 30 hours per week for 3 and 4 year olds with working parents became a statutory entitlement in September 2017 and implementation of this continues to be successful, with 92% take-up achieved in the summer term 2019 (most recent available data).

There is evidence of increased numbers of children with special education needs and/or disabilities accessing special early years provision. The 30 hour offer is placing pressure on existing places for children with SEND and it is likely that additional specialist nursery places will be required. As of September 2020 the majority of places in the specialist nurseries are full for the 2020/21 academic year. The addition of a new ARP at Willow Nursery School will ensure that children who need specialist places are able to access provision that effectively meets their needs and is likely to free up spaces in the specialist nurseries.

8.3 Impact of COVID-19

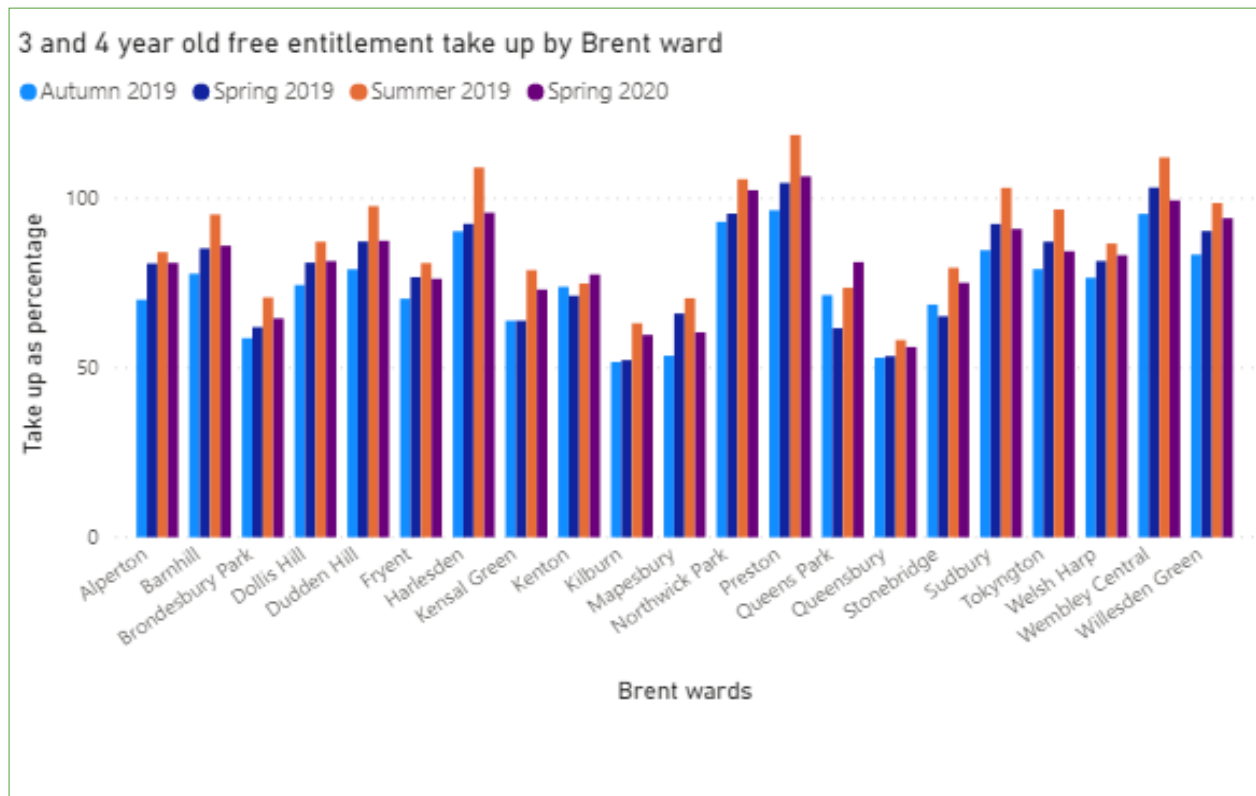
The impact on the PVI sector in particular of Covid-19 has been significant and could affect overall sufficiency in the months to come. In line with government guidance, all early years settings in Brent closed to the majority of children at the end of March 2020. Many have since re-opened but numbers of children returning to settings has remained relatively low. The maximum number of children 0 - 5 attending in July 2020 was approximately 1350. This compared with over 4500 free entitlement funded 2, 3 and 4 year olds alone attending at a similar point in 2019. Parental messaging encouraging a return to settings is ongoing.

A survey conducted with providers in June 2020 indicated that the majority of settings had concerns about their financial sustainability. A worst case scenario indicated a possible loss of 3288 Ofsted registered early education places equating to 52% of places currently offered by the PVI sector and leaving the Council unable to meet its statutory sufficiency duty. In order to address this, provider sustainability will be monitored in the coming months to support providers early with sustainability concerns.

Raising take up levels for eligible 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds of their entitlement to 15 hours free early education remains a key priority for the borough to ensure that all children can benefit from high quality early years education and that providers can remain financially viable. The Progress for All ward level project was designed to achieve this, applying innovative approaches to outreach based on local need with four key strands: access, quality, home learning and employers. The key work strands in this project, which ends in December, have now been embedded into the day to day duties of the Early Years teams.

Take-up of provision is mapped on a termly basis (as illustrated in Graph 3) and outreach adjusted accordingly. It is believed that the Progress for All work has contributed to the significant increase in two year old take up in the period. Current restrictions on outreach work in the last five months have resulted in the development of an online offer of information and home learning sessions designed to support parents. The impact of this work is being reviewed.

Graph 3: Take-up of early years provision, Spring 2020



8.4 Next steps

The significant loss of income from fee-paying parents during the lockdown period, particularly for PVI providers, has left many in a precarious position with an uncertain future. The ramifications of this affect not only of those in the sector, but also other people dependent on local childcare for their own employment.

The following will be key areas of focus in the coming months to support provider recovery and financial viability, without which the Council will not be able to meet its statutory sufficiency duty:

- Real time sufficiency and take up tracking
- Tailored, bespoke support for providers
- Persuading parents to take up places
- Encouraging innovative and agile approaches across teams.