

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cabinet</b> 13 February 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report from the Strategic Director Children and Young People</b></p>	
For Action		Wards Affected: ALL/
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brent Council's School Admission Arrangements for 2018/19</b></p>		

## **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposed Admission Arrangements and scheme of co-ordination for Brent community schools for 2018/19 in accordance with statutory requirements. No changes are proposed to Admission Arrangements for community schools for 2018/19.
- 1.2 Cabinet is asked to note the analysis undertaken of the impact on admissions for September 2016 of the new criteria approved by Cabinet in April 2015.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the proposed Admission Arrangements for Brent schools and schemes of coordination for maintained schools in Brent for the 2018/2019 academic year are agreed. (Appendix 2)

## **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 This report relates to the admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria of Brent community primary schools only. Brent Council is the Admission Authority for 31 community primary schools in the borough (Appendix 1). Voluntary Aided (VA) and foundation schools, academies and free schools are their own admission authority and determine their own admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria.
- 3.2 The School Admissions Code issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act is the legal framework for school admissions matters. The Admissions Code requires that Admission Authorities have a mechanism to rank applications in order of priority. All schools and Admission Authorities must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be offered school places, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school.

- 3.3 As the Admissions Authority for Brent Community Schools, the council is required to consult on any proposed changes to the admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria. As no changes are recommended for 2018/19, there is no requirement for consultation.

#### **4.0 Review of changes introduced in 2016/17**

- 4.0 In April 2015, Cabinet agreed to introduce the following changes to admission arrangements for 2016/17 for Brent community schools:
- i. to prioritise siblings and other children living in the school catchment area over siblings living outside the catchment area,
  - ii. amend the wording and expand the explanation of the social medical criterion to provide clearer information for parents and carers.
  - iii. change the method of measuring the distance in the 'tie breaker' within each criterion from the shortest safe working distance to straight line distance.
- 4.1 Cabinet agreed that the Admissions Service would monitor outcomes to ensure there were no unintended negative impacts resulting from the changes.
- 4.2 The first cohort of children to be considered under the changed oversubscription criteria were offered places on national offer day, 18 April 2016, and started Reception in September 2016. The impact of the changes has been positive.
- 4.3 Overall outcomes for Brent residents applying for reception places improved. The percentage of on time applicants offered their first preference school in 2016/17 increased to 81% (from 80% in 2015/16), while the percentage offered one of their preferred schools increased to 96% (from 95% in 2015/16).
- 4.4 The percentage of parents who live within the catchment area of a school but could not access a place at that school has reduced by 89%. In 2015, 73 families who lived within a catchment area of a school and applied for a place on time were unsuccessful in gaining a place at that school. This number reduced to only 8 families in 2016 under the changed criteria.
- 4.5 There has been a significant reduction in the number of admission appeals logged in 2016/17 which may reasonably be attributed to the changed oversubscription criteria.

There was a 55% reduction in Reception appeals logged between national offer day and the start of the academic year. Similarly, 50% fewer in-year appeals have been received in the 2016/17 academic year compared with the same period for 2015/16 (up to 12 December).

	<b>2015 Reception Transfer</b>	<b>2016 Reception Transfer</b>
<b>Appeals logged between 18 April and 1 September</b>	54	24

<b>In-Year appeals logged between 1 September and 12 December</b>	<b>In-Year 15/16 Appeals</b>	<b>In-Year 16/17 Appeals</b>
Reception	0	2
1	3	3
2	11	0
3	2	2
4	2	1
5	1	2
6	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>

4.6 There have been no negative comments or complaints received regarding the change to straight line distance measurement or the revised wording for the social/medical criterion.

4.7 On 8 February 2016 Cabinet agreed an admissions criterion to give priority to children whose parent is a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application or has been recruited to fill a vacancy for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. The first cohort of children to whom this criterion applies will be offered places for September 2017. The impact of the introduction of this rule will be assessed in the Admissions report to Cabinet in February 2018.

## **5.0 Proposed Oversubscription Criteria for Community Schools 2018/19**

5.1 No changes are proposed to the oversubscription criteria for community schools in 2018/19. Cabinet is, therefore, asked to agree the following oversubscription criteria for Brent community schools for 2018/19 which are consistent with the criteria that applied in 2017/18:

### **1) *LAC or previous LAC***

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order.

### **2) *Linked infant school***

Children attending an infant school on the same site as a junior school.

3) ***Medical or social needs***

Exceptional circumstances to do with significant medical needs and/or social needs.

4) ***Siblings in catchment***

Brothers or sisters of a child who attends the school, or an infant or junior school on the same or adjoining site, living in the catchment area of the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission.

5) ***Children of staff***

Children whose parent is a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application or has been recruited to fill a vacancy for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

6) ***In catchment area***

Children living within the school's catchment area.

7) ***Siblings outside catchment area***

Brothers or sisters of a child who attends the school, or an infant or junior school on the same or adjoining site, and who will continue to do so on the date of admission.

8) ***All other applicants.***

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no specific financial implications for this report.

## **7.0 Legal Implications**

7.1 The School Admissions Code has been issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act. The proposed admission arrangements (appendix 1) and oversubscription criteria (see section 5 and 6) adhere to the requirements of the Admissions Code, revised 19 December 2014.

7.2 Admission Authorities are responsible for admissions and must act in accordance with the Code, the School Admissions Appeals Code, other laws relating to admissions and relevant human rights and equalities legislation. All children whose statement of special educational needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan names a particular school must be admitted to that school. Highest priority in the oversubscription criteria must be given to looked after children and previously looked after children (regulation 7, Admission Arrangements Regulations 2012). Other than these requirements, it is for the admission authorities to decide which criteria would be suitable to the school according to the local circumstances.

- 7.3 The local authority must finalise (“determine”) admission arrangements for 2018/2019 by 28 February 2017.

## **8.0 Diversity Implications**

- 8.1 There are no specific diversity implications for this report.
- 8.2 The changes that were introduced to Admissions Arrangements in 2015/16 have not had a negative impact on vulnerable families in Brent.

## **9.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications**

- 9.1 There are no staffing or accommodation implications for this report.

## **Background Papers**

Appendix 1 – Brent community schools & proposed admission numbers for 2018/2019

Appendix 2 – Proposed admission arrangements and scheme of coordination for 2018/2019

## **Contact Officer(s)**

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## Appendix 1

<b>Brent Community Schools 2018/2019 Academic Year</b>	<b>PAN (Planned Admission Number)</b>
Anson Primary School	52
Barham Primary School	120
Braintcroft Primary School	90
Brentfield Primary School	90
Byron Court Primary School	150
Carlton Vale Infant School	60
Chalkhill Primary School	60
Donnington Primary School	30
Elsley Primary School	120
Fryent Primary School	120
Harlesden Primary School	90
Kingsbury Green Primary School	90
Leopold Primary School	120
Lyon Park Primary School	120
Malorees Infant School	60
Mitchell Brook Primary School	90
Mora Primary School	60
Mount Stewart Infant School	90
Mount Stewart Junior School	90
Newfield Primary School	60
Northview Primary School	30
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	60
Park Lane Primary School	60
Preston Park Primary School	120
Roe Green School	150
Roe Green Junior School	120
Salusbury Primary School	90
Stonebridge Primary School	90
Uxendon Manor Primary School	120
Wembley Primary School	120
Wykeham Primary School	60