

	<b>Cabinet</b> 5 February 2024
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director          of Children and Young People</b>
	<b>Lead Member- Cabinet Member for          Children, Young People &amp; Schools          (Councillor Gwen Grahl)</b>
<b>Determination of Brent Council's Community School          Admission Arrangements for 2025/26</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>List of Appendices:</b>	Two Appendix 1: Admission Arrangements for Brent Community Schools in 2025-2026 Appendix 2: Admissions Consultation Letter – November 2023
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Shirley Parks Director, Education, Partnerships and Strategy 020 8937 4529 <a href="mailto:Shirley.parks@brent.gov.uk">Shirley.parks@brent.gov.uk</a>  Michelle Gwyther Head of Forward Planning, Performance and Partnerships 020 8937 2499 <a href="mailto:Michelle.gwyther@brent.gov.uk">Michelle.gwyther@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the outcome of the consultation on proposed amendments to the Admission Arrangements for Brent Community Schools for 2025/26. It seeks Cabinet's approval to determine the arrangements as proposed (Appendix 1) in February 2024.

## **2.0 Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended that Cabinet

- 2.1 notes the outcome of the consultation
- 2.2 agrees the proposed reductions of the Published Admission Numbers at Fryent Primary School and Mitchell Brook Primary School;
- 2.3 determines the admission arrangements (as set out in Appendix 2).

## **3.0 Detail**

### **3.1 Cabinet Member Foreword**

- 3.1.1 Brent's school admission arrangements support the Borough Plan Strategic Priority 4: The Best Start in Life. By ensuring there are suitable admissions arrangements for children and young people in Brent, the local authority is meeting its statutory obligations and supporting every child and young person to access high quality education locally to them in the borough.

### **3.2 Background**

- 3.2.1 Brent Council is the Admission Authority for 30 community primary schools in the borough (listed within 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. Therefore, this report relates to the admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria of Brent community primary schools only.
- 3.2.2 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 admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school. Admission arrangements for Brent community schools are determined by the council as the Admission Authority.
- 3.2.3 At its meeting on 16 November 2023, Cabinet granted approval for the Council to carry out public consultation to amend its admission arrangements for the academic year 2025/26. The reasons for the proposed amendments are set out in the relevant [cabinet report](#).
- 3.2.4 Consultation was carried out with all relevant parties as identified in the School Admissions Code 2021, for a period of seven weeks between 17 November 2023 and 4 January 2024.
- 3.2.5 The consultation document (Appendix 2) was available to view on Brent Council's Have Your Say portal, and a prominent notice was included at the top

of the Council's Education, schools and learning webpage. Letters were sent to the families of children attending the two schools that would be directly affected by the proposed changes.

3.2.6 Respondents were invited to complete a survey to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the two proposals and to provide reasons for their responses.

3.2.7 Three options are available to Cabinet members (these proposals are not inter-dependent and can be agreed individually):

a) To agree the proposals to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Fryent Primary School and Mitchell Brook Primary School and determine the arrangements as set out in Appendix 1. This is the recommended option.

b) To agree the proposal to reduce the PAN at either Fryent Primary School or Mitchell Brook Primary School and determine the arrangements as set out in Appendix 1 subject to the required amendment.

c) To dismiss the proposals to reduce the PAN at Fryent Primary School and Mitchell Brook Primary School and determine the arrangements as set out in Appendix 1 using the existing PANs for both schools.

3.2.8 The local authority, as the admission authority for community schools in Brent, is required to determine (formally agree) its admission arrangements by 28 February 2024.

#### **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

4.1 Consultation was undertaken on the following amendments to the existing admission arrangements:

a) The reduction of the Published Admission Number at Fryent Primary School from 120 to 90;

b) The reduction of the Published Admission Number at Mitchell Brook Primary School from 90 to 60.

4.2 Ten formal responses to the consultation were received during the consultation period, which were generally in favour of the proposals.

4.3 In response to the question '*do you agree or disagree with the proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number at Fryent Primary School from 120 to 90 places?*' Five respondents agreed (55.6% of respondents), two respondents disagreed (22.2%) and two respondents neither agreed or disagreed (22.2%).

4.4 In response to the question '*do you agree or disagree with the proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number at Mitchell Brook Primary School from 90 to 60 places?*' eight respondents agreed (80%) and two respondents disagreed (22.2%).

- 4.5 Two respondents provided additional comments stating: “Reducing number of children make their safety easy” and “School can be quite busy, and with less children – staff can be more attentive and meet each child’s individual needs. There are ample schools surrounding the area which can be utilised”.
- 4.6. Only two respondents provided any further demographical information about themselves.
- 4.7. Following consultation, officers remain of the view that the reduction in the PANs at Fryent Primary School and Mitchell Brook Primary should be implemented. Mitchell Brook Primary School is a three-form entry school located in Primary Planning Area 4. The planning area has an excessive surplus of capacity in the primary phase, and the proposal will support increased intakes at other schools. Demand for places at Fryent Primary School is lower than the full capacity of the school and has not exceeded 90 places since before 2015. Spare capacity at the school is being used for an Additionally Resource Provision for children with SEND.

## **5.0 Financial Considerations**

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications in relation to the admissions criteria.

## **6.0 Legal Considerations**

- 6.1 The School Admissions Code has been issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act. The proposed admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria (Appendix 2) adhere to the requirements of the School Admissions Code, revised September 2021.
- 6.2 Admission Authorities are responsible for admissions and must act in accordance with the School Admissions Code, the School Admissions Appeals Code, other laws relating to admissions and relevant human rights and equalities legislation.
- 6.3 Consultation ran within the timescales set within the School Admissions Code, which require that it must have taken place for a minimum of six weeks between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2024.
- 6.4 The local authority must formally agree (“determine”) admission arrangements for 2025/2026 by 28 February 2024.

## **7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

- 7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Local Authority when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a protected characteristic and those

who do not share that protected characteristic. The Admissions Criteria ensure fair access to school places.

## **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

8.1 The local authority plans school places on the basis of children attending local schools, encouraging children to walk to school and reducing travel by car or public transport to reduce the carbon footprint.

## **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

9.1 Schools are directly responsible for managing staff recruitment based on the number of teachers required in any year group, in any academic year.

9.2. There are no property implications.

## **10.0 Communication Considerations**

10.1 Once the Admission Arrangements are determined, the local authority is required to:

- publish these on the Brent website by 15 March 2024, where they must remain until the end of the 2025/26 academic year;
- notify the governing board at each Community school;
- notify all other admission authorities in Brent.

### **Related document(s) for reference**

[Cabinet report 16 November 2023 – Consultation on Admissions Arrangements for Community Schools for 2025/26](#)

#### **Report sign off:**

***Nigel Chapman***

Corporate Director of Children and Young People