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|  | Cabinet 15 January 2025 |
| | Report from the Corporate Director of Children and Young People |
| | Lead Member – Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools (Councillor Gwen Grahl) |
| Brent Council’s School Admission Arrangements and Schemes of Co-ordination 2026-2027 | |

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| Wards Affected: | All |
| Key or Non-Key Decision: | Key |
| Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small> | Open |
| List of Appendices: | Two Appendix 1: Proposed Admission Arrangements 2026-27 Appendix 2 - Schemes of Co-ordination for 2026-27 |
| Background Papers: | N/A |
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1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposed admission arrangements for Brent community schools and schemes of co-ordination for 2026/27 in accordance with statutory requirements. Admission authorities are required to determine their admission arrangements by 28 February in the determination year.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Agrees (“determines”) the proposed admission arrangements for Brent community schools and schemes of co-ordination for all maintained schools and academies in Brent for the 2026/2027 academic year (Appendices 1 and 2).
- 2.2 Notes the scheme of co-ordination which will be in place for the 2026-2027 offer year for co-ordinated applications to start school in years Reception, 3, 7 and 10.

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 in the borough.

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 Brent Council is the admission authority for 29 community primary schools in the borough (listed within Appendix 1). Voluntary aided 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 No changes are proposed to the admission arrangements (other than minor drafting changes which do not require consultation). Where this is the case, admission authorities are only required to consult on those arrangements at least once every seven years. Brent as an admissions authority most recently carried out a consultation on its admission arrangements in 2023.
- 3.2.3 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, and these are detailed in appendix one.

- 3.2.4 The local authority, as the admission authority for community schools in Brent, is required to determine (formally agree) its admission arrangements by 28 February 2025.
- 3.2.5 Each year all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website by 1 January in the relevant determination year, a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for the normal admissions round and late applications for all publicly funded schools within their area.
- 3.2.6. The scheme of co-ordination is based on a template scheme agreed with all members of the London Inter Authority Admissions Group (LIAAG), which includes every London borough. It is not substantially different from the scheme adopted in the previous academic year. An additional section has been added to clarify the process to resolve parental disputes where they may arise. Otherwise, the only changes are to the dates recorded throughout the document. The scheme of co-ordination can be seen in Appendix 2.
- 3.2.7 As the scheme has not substantially changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult on it at this time. There is a requirement that the local authority must consult with the other admission authorities in the area on the scheme at least once every seven years. The local authority last carried out consultation on its scheme of co-ordination in 2018. It will carry out its next consultation with other admission authorities in the area in the autumn term 2025.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 As no significant changes are proposed to either the admission arrangements or the scheme of co-ordination, no consultation has been required or has been carried out.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 Admission authorities must act in accordance with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021 and have due regard to the discretionary elements of the Code. They must also act in accordance with other laws relating to admissions and relevant human rights and equalities legislation.
- 6.2 Oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. Highest priority in the oversubscription criteria must be given to looked after children and previously looked after children/children adopted from state care abroad (Regulation 7, Admission Arrangements Regulations 2012). Subject to these requirements it is for the admission authority to decide which criteria would be suitable according to the local circumstances.

6.3 The local authority must publish online its scheme of co-ordination for 2026/2027 by 1 January 2025.

6.4 The local authority must determine its admission arrangements for community schools 2026/2027 by 28 February 2025.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 The public sector equality duty, as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires the Council, 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 protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

7.2 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

7.3 There is no prescribed manner in which the council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary. The Admissions Criteria ensure fair access to school places. Cabinet is referred to the contents of this report for further information, in particular section 3.0.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 Determination of community school admission arrangements has no direct impact on the Council’s environmental objectives and climate emergency strategy.

8.2 The oversubscription criteria support applicants securing places at local schools by way of giving higher priority within each criterion to children living closer to the school.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 There are no human resources or property implications.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 The determined admission arrangements must be published on the Brent website by 15 March 2025.

10.2 The scheme of co-ordination must be published on the Brent website by 1 January 2025.

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director of Children and Young People