

 Brent	Cabinet 19 January 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Community Development
	Lead Member – Cabinet Members for Children, Young People & Schools (Councillor Gwen Grahl)
Brent Council's School Admission Arrangements and Schemes of Co-ordination 2027/2028	

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 One: Proposed Admission Arrangements 2027/28 Appendix Two: Schemes of Co-ordination for 2027/28
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Michael Rollin, Service Manager, Access to Education and Travel Assistance 020 8937 2862 Michael.rollin@brent.gov.uk Michelle Gwyther, Head of Forward Planning, Performance and Partnerships 020 8937 2499 Michelle.gwyther@brent.gov.uk

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 2027/28 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 2027/2028 academic year (Appendices 1 and 2).
- 2.2 Notes the scheme of co-ordination which will be in place for the 2027/2028 offer year for co-ordinated applications to start school in years Reception, 3, 7 and 10.
- 2.3 Notes that the determined admission arrangements for 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 will be updated in April 2026 to change the name of Malorees Infant School to Malorees Primary School following the amalgamation of the Malorees Infant and Junior schools.

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 29 community primary schools in the borough (listed within Appendix One). 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 which require consultation (there are only minor drafting changes). 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 Following a request from the leadership team at Anson Primary School, the published admission number (PAN) of the school is being increased from 52 places to 56 places for admissions from September 2027. This increase will support the school financially (by way of attracting additional funding through an increased intake). It will not have any significant impact on school place planning in primary planning area five, nor at any other local schools (which are generally full or nearly fully subscribed). Admission authorities are not required

to consult on an increase of PAN, although the Local Authority (as admission authority) must consult at least the governing body of a community school where it proposes to increase the PAN. The chair of governors at Anson Primary School agreed to this increase on 16 July 2025.

- 3.2.4 The only other changes to the admission arrangements are minor drafting changes to dates, which do not require consultation.
- 3.2.5 There will be a requirement to update these determined admissions arrangements (and previously determined admissions arrangements for 2025/26 and 2026/27) on 13 April 2026 to change the name of Malorees Infant School to Malorees Primary School (at the point at which Malorees Infant and Junior Schools merge). This will not require a separate consultation or determination, and the amalgamation has already received Cabinet approval.
- 3.2.6 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.
- 3.2.7 The Local Authority, as the admission authority for community schools in Brent, is required to determine (formally agree) its admission arrangements by 28 February 2026.
- 3.2.8 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.
- 3.2.9 The scheme of co-ordination is based on a template scheme from the London Grid for Learning (LGfL) agreed with all members of the London Inter Authority Admissions Group (LIAAG), which includes every London borough.
- 3.2.10 The scheme of co-ordination 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 is detailed in Appendix Two.
- 3.2.11 Although the scheme has not substantially changed from the previous year there is a requirement consult with the other admission authorities in the area on the scheme at least once every seven years.
- 3.2.12 The Local Authority last carried out consultation on its scheme of co-ordination in 2018. Cabinet was informed in January 2025 that the Local Authority would

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 A draft copy of the 2027/28 schemes of co-ordination was circulated for consultation to all admission authorities in Brent via the Headteacher Bulletin on 20 November 2025 with a request for any comments to be submitted by 19 December 2025.
- 4.2 There were no responses to the consultation.
- 4.3 The final proposed schemes of consultation have been revised slightly with an amended date to begin checking secondary school applications from 15 February 2026, based on updated recommendations from the LGfL since the consultation was launched.

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 2027/2028 by 1 January 2026.
- 6.4 The Local Authority must determine its admission arrangements for community schools 2027/2028 by 28 February 2026.

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 Admission Arrangements and Schemes of Co-ordination 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 criteria 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 In accordance with the School Admissions Code there are actions which must be completed by a specific date. Table 1 below shows these actions.

Action required	Deadline
Publish the scheme of co-ordination on the Brent website	1 January 2026 (completed)
Determine admission arrangements for community schools for 2027/2028	28 February 2026.
Publish the determined admission arrangements on the Brent website	15 March 2026

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director Children, Young People and
Community Development