

School places verbal update for Scrutiny Committee March 2010

Primary Update

Primary aged children out of school

The pressure on reception places continues with 60 reception aged children without a place on 19th March 2010. The department has been able to offer some children a full time place at a children's centre, and negotiations are underway with children's centres and schools to provide more places with immediate effect. Pressure on places is most severe in Neasden and Harlesden. The majority of applicants have been offered a place, but the offer has been declined as the school offered is not of the family's choice.

	20 th October 09	4 th December 09	10 th February 10	19 th March 10
Year 1	37	23	32	30
Year 2	19	10	10	15
Year 3	20	12	7	15
Year 4	12	4	7	4
Year 5	23	7	6	9
Year 6	4	1	6	0
	115	57	68	73

The council's admissions service is administering the co ordination of applications and offers of places at community schools in all year groups in September 2009, prior to the Department for children Schools and Families (DCSF) requirement to co ordinate applications for all schools from September 2010. This means that from September all applications for all schools in Brent will have to be made to the Local Authority. This will allow the LA to offer places at VA and foundation schools as well as for community schools. The pressure on school places is becoming greater for all primary year groups, not just Reception and Year One. Of the 35 community schools only two, Kensal Rise and Mora have significant numbers of vacancies however; these are in the upper year groups only from year 3 onwards. A number of families newly arriving in Brent are seeking school places for several children across the primary age range – it is not always possible to offer all the children in a family a place in the same school due to a shortage of vacancies.

Reception 2010 applications

3817 applications were received by the closing date of 26th February 2010. Offers will be made on 23rd April 2010.

Secondary update

11+ Transfer for September 2010

Offers were sent out on 2nd March 2010 for on time applications for 11+ transfers for September 2010. The % of applicants securing their first preference school remains in line with recent years at 68%. The co ordination of offers will continue throughout the spring and summer, giving those parents who want them, additional opportunities to secure a place at a school of their preference. The new places available at the Ark Academy have had an impact on the vacancy situation within other schools, and will provide more choice for parents as more schools have vacancies at this stage of the process than in previous years. There will be sufficient capacity in year 7 for September 2010 for all Brent pupils.

Casual in year secondary admissions

The number of children seeking in year admission to secondary schools was higher in 2009/10 and so far this year than in the previous three years. The applications are made up of new arrivals from overseas and children moving into Brent from other London boroughs, and from other parts of the UK. New arrivals have been monitored since January 2006.

Full year figures for secondary aged new arrivals

2006 - 734

2007 - 807

2008 - 777

2009 – 849

2010 – 155

All Brent secondary schools other than Cardinal Hinsley and Crest Boy's Academy are full in all year groups. Cardinal Hinsley has vacancies in all year groups and welcomes children of all faiths however; the majority of new arrivals do not want to attend a Catholic faith school or a boy's only school. Crest Boys Academy has vacancies in year 7 and 8.

Secondary aged children out of school

	20 th October 2009	4 th December 2009	12 th February 2010	19 th March 2010
Year 7	4	9	21	11
Year 8	13	15	17	9
Year 9	8	20	31	11
Year 10	18	23	29	9
Year 11	2	21	20	7
Total	45	88	118	47

The reduced March numbers reflect the recent assessment centre held between 15th to 26th February which resulted in pupils being placed in schools and projects. The next assessment centre will be held 6th – 9th April.