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|  | <p align="center">Cabinet 17 January 2022</p> |
| | <p align="center">Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People</p> |
| <p align="center">Brent Council's School Admission Arrangements for 2023/24</p> | |

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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 |
| No. of Appendices: | Three: Appendix 1: List of Primary Community Schools in Brent Appendix 2: Proposed Admissions Arrangements 2023/24 Appendix 3: Scheme of Coordination for 2023/24 |
| Background Papers: | N/A |
| Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small> | Brian Grady Operational Director, Safeguarding, Partnerships and Strategy Tel: 020 8937 4713 Email: Brian.grady@brent.gov.uk |

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report seeks Cabinet's agreement to the proposed admission arrangements and schemes of co-ordination for Brent community schools for the 2023/24 academic year in accordance with statutory requirements. Admission authorities are required to determine their admission arrangements by 28 February in the determination year.

2.0 Recommendations

That Cabinet:

2.1 Agrees the proposed admission arrangements for Brent community schools and the scheme of co-ordination for maintained schools in Brent for the 2023/2024 academic year (Appendix 2 and 3).

3.0 Detail

- 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 30 community primary schools in the Borough (Appendix 1). Voluntary Aided (VA) and foundation schools and academies 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 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.
- 3.3 There are no proposed changes to the admissions arrangements for community schools for 2023/24 (Appendix 2).
- 3.4 The Schemes of Co-ordination (Appendix 3) are based on a standard template provided to all London local authorities by the London Grid for Learning. The Schemes have been updated with relevant dates for the 2023/24 offer year. These are required to be published by 31 December 2021 and will be included with the Admission Arrangements, once they are determined.

4.0 Financial Implications

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

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 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
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 The local authority must determine admission arrangements for 2023/24 by 28 February 2022.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 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. 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.

6.2 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 and the Appendices.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 This report affects all wards.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 There are no human resources or property implications.

Report sign off:

Gail Tolley

Strategic Director Children & Young
People