

London Borough of Enfield

Portfolio Decision Of Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Subject: School reductions in Admission Numbers

Executive Director: Executive Director of People

Key Decision: KD 5266

Purpose of Report

1. To approve changes in school admission arrangement at five schools from the 2022/23 academic year.

Proposal(s)

2. Reduction of 2022/23 Planned Admission Numbers for:
 - Bush Hill Park Primary School is from 90 to 60
 - Honilands Primary School from 90 to 60
 - Starksfield Primary School from 60 to 30
 - Suffolks Primary School from 60 to 30
 - Chace Community Secondary School from 224 to 170.

Reason for Proposal(s)

3. The Council has an overriding statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places to meet anticipated demand and/or over supply in mainstream schools.

Relevance to the Council Plan

4. **Sustain strong and healthy communities**

The Borough needs to ensure appropriate infrastructure is in place to allow for the growth of the population. The proposed reductions in school PAN manages the supply of school places to meet the current and future demand for schools places.

Background

5. For a number of reasons London has experienced a significant fall in the demand for school places, particularly in the primary school sector. The reduction in school places demand in Enfield has affected some school's ability to manage class sizes and effective pupil to teacher ratios. The reduction in pupils has also had a negative impact on school budget allocations which is based on per pupil funding, resulting in some schools experiencing a budget deficit. To assist schools that have been significantly impacted to managing the impact of lower pupil numbers it is proposed

to formally reduce the number of reception places being offered at Reception and subsequent year groups at the schools set out below.

6. It is proposed to make changes to the admission of pupils to Published Admission Numbers (PAN) the following schools:

School	Address
Bush Hill Park Primary School	Main Avenue, Enfield, EN1 1DS
Honilands Primary School	Lovell Road, Enfield, EN1 4RE.
Starksfield Primary School	167 Church Street, London, N9 9SJ
Suffolks Primary	Brick Ln, Enfield EN1 3PU
Chace Community Secondary School	Churchbury Lane, Enfield, EN1 3HQ

Reduction Proposals for PAN's 2022/23

Bush Hill Park Primary School is from 90 to 60

This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling 2 of their forms of entry since 2017, i.e. admission levels of 60 and that their forecast indicates that this level of PAN will continue beyond 2025.

Honilands Primary School from 90 to 60

This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling to 2 of their forms of entry since 2018, i.e. admissions levels of 60 and that their forecast indicates that this level of PAN will continue beyond 2025

Starksfield Primary School from 60 to 30

This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling 1 of their forms of entry since 2017, i.e. admissions levels of 30 and that their forecast indicates that this level of PAN will continue beyond 2025

Suffolks Primary School from 60 to 30

This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling 1 of their forms of entry since 2017, i.e. admissions levels of 30 and that their forecast indicates that this level of PAN will continue beyond 2025.

Chace Community Secondary School from 224 to 170.

This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling between 5 and 6 forms of entry for 2020, i.e. admission levels of between 150 and 180 and that their forecast indicates that a reduced level of PAN of 170 is sufficient and will continue beyond 2025.

Consultation Exercise

7. A consultation exercise was run for 6 school weeks commencing Monday, 14 December 2020 and closed on Sunday, 31 January 2021. The PAN reduction consultation was included in the Council's School Admission Arrangements. The consultees included neighbouring Authorities, all schools, Ward Councillors, effected schools' (listed above), staff and parents. The modes for consultation were the Council's Website, individual school websites and notice boards and direct email.

Main Considerations for the Council

8. The Council has an overriding statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places to meet anticipated demand.

Safeguarding Implications

9. None noted

Public Health Implications

10. None noted

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

11. None noted

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

12. None noted

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

13. The most significantly affected schools will continue to have problems in managing class sizes and school budget deficits will also grow.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

14. A sudden growth in Enfield's school population potentially putting pressure on available school places. The Admissions arrangements and publication will be amended to reflect changes and the Education Strategic Resourcing & Partnerships Service will continue to review pupil projections.

Financial Implications

15. The Schools Block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant is based on the number of pupils on roll on the October census day preceding the financial year. Reduced PAN for these schools will reduce the DSG funding allocation received by the Local Authority but the formula funding allocations to these schools will also reduce so there should be a net nil impact on the overall budget position.

Legal Implications

16. This report sets out that there are proposals to reduce the PAN as a result of a decrease in demand for school places at the 5 listed schools, in paragraph 5, above. Section 14(1) of the Education Act 1996 requires that a local education authority secures that sufficient schools for providing primary education and education for children up to the age of 19 are available in their area.

17. The decision on each statutory changes to PAN will be made by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Changes to the published admissions number (PAN) where an enlargement of premises has not taken place

18. Admission authorities must set a PAN for each 'relevant age group' when determining their admission arrangements. If an admission authority of a mainstream school wishes to increase or decrease PAN, without increasing the overall physical capacity of the buildings, this would be classed as an admissions change, not a prescribed alteration. The 2018 Statutory Guidance and statutory process is not applicable when there is a decrease in the PAN and would not need to be followed. The School Admissions Code is applicable in this situation. **The School Admissions Code ('the Code') has been issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 ('SSFA 1998').**

19. The Code sets out that all admission authorities **must** consult in accordance with paragraph 1.42 of the Code where they propose a decrease to the PAN.

*When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities **must** consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities **must** consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.*

Workforce Implications

20. None noted

Property Implications

21. None noted

Other Implications

22. None noted

Options Considered

23. There are two main options to reduce pressure on the schools worse affected by the decline in demand for school places.

Options:

- i. Do nothing: Schools identified in this report would continue have issues with the number of pupils per class with the related impact on resourcing and budgets;
- ii. Reduce PAN for the schools listed in section 2.

Conclusions

Reduction of 2022/23 Planned Admission Numbers for:

- Bush Hill Park Primary School is from 90 to 60
- Honilands Primary School from 90 to 60
- Starksfield Primary School from 60 to 30
- Suffolks Primary School from 60 to 30
- Chace Community Secondary School from 224 to 170.

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(I cannot hear clearly on the phone - so please email or IM)

Date of report 19 Feb 2021

Appendices

Appendix A - Consultation document

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:
None

**Enfield Consultation on
School Admission Arrangements**

2022/23

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This document provides background to the statutory consultation exercise for the admission arrangements to Enfield community primary and secondary schools and seeks comments on the proposed changes.
- 1.2. This consultation applies to the school admission arrangements of both community and voluntary controlled schools in the Enfield. Our admission arrangements must comply with the statutory framework governing school admissions, i.e. the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; various Regulations, and the School Admissions Code 2014, the School Admission Appeals Code 2012, and other legislation such as the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.
- 1.3. When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.
- 1.4. This consultation will run for 6 school weeks commencing Monday, 14 December 2020 and will close on Sunday, 31 January 2021.
- 1.5. Following the consultation, a report will be prepared setting out the recommendations in respect of the proposed Admission Arrangements which Cabinet member for Children's Services, Protection & Education will consider the proposal after 31 January 2021.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. London has experienced a fall in the demand for school places, particularly in the primary school sector. The reduction in school places demand in Enfield has affected some school's ability to manage class sizes and effective pupil to teacher ratios. To assist some of the worst affected schools in managing class sizes it is proposed to reduce the number of places being offered at Reception and future year groups at the schools outlined in section 3.2.

3. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE BEING CONSULTED UPON

- 3.1 The council has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one (Education Act 1996 Section 14(1)). This includes providing sufficient places to enable an element of parental preference which means retaining a surplus of between 2-5% places for this to happen. Enfield currently has a surplus of 12% for Reception places and reducing the PAN as planned would bring surplus to less than 5% as per the DfE guidance. In secondary although the year 7 cohort is increasing overall there are a few areas where there is a surplus that is not needed.
- 3.2 Although the DfE guidelines state that a primary aged pupil should not have to travel more than 2 miles from their home address for a school place it is recognised in Enfield that this is still deemed unacceptable and therefore all efforts are made to ensure as many parents travel less than 1 mile.
- 3.3 To enable this the surplus places forecast are monitored and school PANs are
- 3.4 amended accordingly that best suit the school, Local Authority and the local families. Due to changes in demand over recent years and forecast figures looking ahead Enfield is consulting on the admission arrangements for schools 2022/23 in agreement with the schools and School Place Planning Department.
- 3.5 We are therefore seeking your views on the following proposed changes to the admission of pupils to Published Admission Numbers (PAN) the following schools:

School;	Address
Bush Hill Park Primary School	Main Avenue, Enfield, EN1 1DS
Honilands Primary School;	Lovell Road, Enfield, EN1 4RE.
Starksfield Primary School,	167 Church Street, London, N9 9SJ
Suffolks Primary	Brick Ln, Enfield EN1 3PU
Chace Community Secondary School	Churchbury Lane, Enfield, EN1 3HQ

2.2. Reduction proposals

Reduction of PAN for Bush Hill Park Primary School is from 90 to 60

This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling 2 of their forms of entry since 2017, i.e. admission levels of 60 and that their forecast indicates that this level of PAN will continue beyond 2025.

2. Reduction of PAN for Honilands Primary School from 90 to 60

This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling to 2 of their forms of entry since 2018, i.e. admissions levels of 60 and that their forecast indicates that this level of PAN will continue beyond 2025

Reduction of PAN for Starksfield Primary School from 60 to 30

This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling 1 of their forms of entry since 2017, i.e. admissions levels of 30 and that their forecast indicates that this level of PAN will continue beyond 2025

Reduction of PAN for Suffolks Primary School from 60 to 30

This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling 1 of their forms of entry since 2017, i.e. admissions levels of 30 and that their forecast indicates that this level of PAN will continue beyond 2025.

Reduction of PAN Chace Community Secondary School from 224 to 170

This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling between 5 and 6 forms of entry for 2020, i.e. admission levels of between 150 and 180 and that their forecast indicates that a reduced level of PAN of 170 is sufficient and will continue beyond 2025.

What happens next:

You are invited to review the proposed Admission Arrangements published alongside this consultation.

If you have any comments or objections about the proposed changes to the admission arrangements, or wish to discuss the content further, please contact Jo Fear, Head of Service, at the following address:

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Email: enfield.school.admission@enfield.gov.uk

The consultation period will end on 31st January 2021.