

REPORT TO SCRUTINY – UPDATE ON SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

24 June 2019

1. Introduction

1.1 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission has been provided with a summary of school admission outcomes annually since 2012. This report provides an update since the report of July 2018.

2. Reception Admissions 2019

2.1 2361 Hackney resident parents were notified on 16 April 2019 of the outcome of their applications for admission to reception class in September 2019. 98.3% or 2,321 parents applied on-line. There were 153 fewer children in this year's cohort compared to last year. A drop in applications is reflected across most of London. The above numbers do not include Hackney resident children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) as there is a separate process for these children.

2.2 This year 92.5 % or 2183 of the cohort expressed a first preference for a Hackney school. This is similar to previous years.

2.3 Of those offered places in Hackney schools, 2209 were Hackney residents and 152 were out borough residents. In addition to the above numbers, 25 children with EHCPs were offered places in Hackney schools.

2.4 152 Hackney resident children were offered a place in out-borough schools. This compares to 186 children last year.

2.5 The number and percentage of preferences met for Hackney resident children compared with the previous year is set out in the table below. The percentage of first preferences met and top three preference met for 2019 is slightly lower than the previous year but is higher than the London totals of 85.54% for first preferences and 95.56% for the top three preferences.

Table 2. Reception preferences 2019 and 2018

Preference	Number for Transfer in 2019	% transfer in 2019	% Pan London 2019	Number for Transfer in 2018	% transfer in 2018	% Pan London 2018
1	2049	86.79	85.54	2203	87.63	86.55
1 & 2	2222	94.12	92.95	2378	94.59	93.76
1, 2 & 3	2277	96.45	95.56	2434	96.82	96.02
1, 2, 3 & 4	2296	97.25	96.64	2449	97.42	96.98
1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	2307	97.72	97.14	2455	97.66	97.39

All 6 preferences	2312	97.93	97.43	2455	97.66	97.61
No preferences met	49	02.07	02.57	59	2.35	2.39

2.6 The 49 children (shown in the 2nd column above) not offered a place at one of their preference schools were allocated a school with a vacancy. In most cases, this was the nearest school to their home address with a vacancy. In addition to the above numbers, 129 late applications were received. They have all been offered places.

3. Secondary Transfer 2019

3.1 2,493 Hackney resident parents were notified on 1 March 2019 of the outcome of their applications for secondary transfer in 2019. 98.9% or 2,466 parents applied on-line. There were 103 fewer children in this year's transfer cohort compared to last year. The drop in numbers is partly caused by the omission of the preferences for Yesodey Hatorah Senior Schools for Girls following a decision of the governing body to change the age range of the school to include year 5s and 6s, making year 5 the year of entry. One application was received and offered a place in year 5 at the school. No applications were received for year 6.

3.2 The above numbers do not include children with EHCPs as there is a separate process for these children.

3.3 85.2% or 2124 of the applicants that applied on time expressed a first preference for a Hackney school. This compares to 85.5% or 2,219 in 2018

3.4 Of those offered places in Hackney schools, 2,167 were Hackney residents and 304 were out-borough residents. In addition to the above numbers, 65 children with EHCPs were offered places in Hackney schools. Four of these lived out-borough.

3.6 326 Hackney resident children were offered a place in out-borough schools. This compares to 332 children last year. 2 children with EHCPs were offered places in out-borough schools.

3.7 The number and percentage of preferences met for Hackney resident children is set out below in Table 2. The percentage of first preferences met is lower than the pan-London average but higher than the pan-London average for the percentage of top three preference met.

Table 2 - Secondary Preferences 2019 and 2018

Preference	Number for transfer in 2019	% transfer in 2019	%Pan London total 2019	Number for transfer in 2018	% transfer in 2018	%Pan London total 2018
1	1589	63.74	65.89	1624	63.25	66.01
1 & 2	1953	78.34	79.83	2069	79.7	80.83
1, 2 & 3	2164	86.8	86.35	2295	88.41	87.31
1, 2, 3 & 4	2270	91.05	89.67	2406	92.69	90.56
1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	1310	92.7	91.39	2439	93.96	92.13
All 6 preferences	2327	93.38	92.39	2445	94.19	93.02
No	166	6.66	7.61	151	5.81	6.98

preferences met						
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- 3.7 The 166 children (shown in the 2nd column above) not offered a place at one of their preference schools were allocated a school with a vacancy. In most cases, this was the nearest school to their home address with a vacancy. The table below shows the band group and the number of pupils in each post code not offered a place.

Table 3

Band Group	A	B	C	D	E	Untested
Number in each post code	1 in E5 4 in E8 4 in N14	7 in E5 2 in E8 3 in E9 5 in N16 1 in N9	1 in E1 3 in E2 17 in E5 14 in E8 7 in E9 1 in N1 5 in N16	1 in E2 15 in E5 12 in E8 11 in E9 1 in EC1V 2 in N1 8 in N16 1 in N4	3 in E8 1 in E9	8 in E5 11 in E8 3 in E9 2 in N1 6 in N16 6 in N4
Total	9	18	48	51	4	36

*Note: The above data is based on 1st preferences. This means that some of the untested will have made a first preference for an out of borough school or Our Lady's High or Lubavitch Senior Girls that does not use banding;
Some pupils are in different band groups for different schools as banding is either based on the ability of the applicants that apply to the school or on the national ability range;
Most schools that use banding have four and not five bands*

- 3.8 Since offer day we have received a small number of late applications. Places have been offered to all of these applicants.
- 3.9 There are currently no pupils that have not been offered a place.
- 4. Demographic characteristics of children without a confirmed place on National Offer Day**
- 4.1 Free school meal eligibility, ethnicity, house type and other factors such as whether a child has additional needs are not monitored as part of the application process. This is because admission authorities are prevented from requesting information that is not relevant to the application of the published oversubscription criteria.
- 4.2 Of the primary and secondary children who did not get offered a place at one of their schools on National Offer days for reception admission and secondary transfer, the majority did **not** make use of their 6 preferences as shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4.

No of preferences	1 st only	1 st and 2 nd	1 st 2 nd & 3 rd	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th and 6 th
Number - Reception	14	8	7	7	3	10
Number – Secondary Transfer	20	38	56	20	13	19

4.3 Many of the above parents expressed preferences for schools that they were unlikely to be offered a place at, based on the criteria under which parents were offered places in the previous year.

4.4 The school admission team run briefing sessions at a number of school across the borough for parents of year 5 children each summer term. These briefing sessions continue to emphasise the importance of making realistic preferences and to stress the benefits of parents using all 6 preferences. Briefing sessions are also run for school based admissions staff reiterating the above.

5 How places were allocated at oversubscribed schools on national offer day

5.1 Admission to Reception class - Twenty five of the fifty eight primary schools were oversubscribed on 16 April 2019, National Offer day. How places were offered at the oversubscribed schools is shown in Appendix A attached to this report. The remaining schools were able to offer places to all applicants.

5.2 Transfer from primary to secondary school – Nine of the sixteen secondary schools were oversubscribed on 1 March 2019, National Offer day. How places were offered at the oversubscribed schools is shown in Appendix B attached to this report. The remaining schools were able to offer all applicants a place.

5.3 Two of the oversubscribed primary schools prioritise applicants on the basis of faith and two of the oversubscribed secondary schools use random allocation. This results in some children not meeting the oversubscription criteria for their nearest school.

5 Cross borough movement of pupils

5.1 Hackney secondary schools with the highest number of out borough pupils:

- Skinners' Academy - 83
- Our Lady's Convent – 42
- Haggerston – 41
- Stoke Newington – 39
- Mossbourne Victoria Park 16
- Cardinal Pole - 15

5.2 Hackney secondary schools with the lowest number of out borough pupils were:

- The City Academy-1
- Clapton – 4
- The Petchey Academy -4
- The City Academy, Shoreditch Park - 5
- Hackney New School – 6
- The Urswick School – 11

5.3 Out borough secondary schools that admitted the highest number of Hackney children were:

- Central Foundation Boys – 47
- Gladesmore – 28
- City of London Academy (Islington) -28
- The City of London Academy (Highbury Grove) – 28
- Bobby Moore Academy - 18
- Elizabeth Garratt Anderson - 14

5.4 Hackney primary schools with the highest number of out borough pupils were:

- Mossbourne Riverside Academy - 39
- The Olive School – 18
- Shoreditch Park Primary School – 14
- Woodberry Down - 12
- Simon Marks – 10
- Sebright - 7
- Our Lady and St Joseph – 7
- De Beauvoir - 7

5.5 Out borough primary schools that admitted the highest numbers of Hackney children were:

- Ambler - 15
- St Ignatius -14
- St Joan of Arc -14
- Rotherfield -13
- Newington Green -11
- Hanover - 9

6. In-Year Admissions

6.1 Any parent can apply for a school place at any time to any school outside the normal admission round. If a school has a vacancy, a place must normally be offered. Since 1 September 2018 to the end of May 19, there have been 2216 primary in-year preferences resulting in 810 offers and 1253 secondary school preferences resulting in 219 offers. Some of these preferences were as a result of parents indicating via a new in-year application form that they wished to remain on the waiting lists of their preference schools. Parents are able to express up to four preferences via the in-year application process. These figures do not include pupils allocated schools places via The Fair Access Protocol, Managed Moves or the admission of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans.

7. Composite prospectus

7.1 Local Authorities must publish online – with hard copies available for those who do not have access to the internet – a composite prospectus each year which explains the admission process in a way that is clear and accessible to all parents.

7.2 All parents of 3 and 4 year olds in Hackney early years' settings receive a hard copy of an eight page leaflet outlining key information relating to the reception class admission process. Similarly, parents of children in year 6 at Hackney primary school receive an equivalent leaflet relating to the secondary transfer process. The leaflets can be accessed at <https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/sites/default/files/document/%20primary-admission-leaflet.pdf> and at <https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/sites/default/files/document/secondary-admission-leaflet.pdf> Hard copies of the leaflets will be circulated at the meeting.

- 7.3 Fewer than five requests for hard copies of the composite prospectus were received from parents. Requests were resolved through direct interaction and provision of relevant information for each family.
- 7.4 The number of visits to the admission sections of Hackney Learning Trust's website can be broken down as follows: -

Primary

Brief guide to reception admissions	1704
Eadmissions website	2760
List of primary vacancies (in year)	3505
Primary composite prospectus	3123
Primary in-year application form	2167
Total	13,259

Secondary

Brief guide to reception admissions	3505
Eadmissions website	2402
List of primary vacancies (in year)	2379
Secondary composite prospectus	3901
Secondary in-year application form	1762
Total	13,949

8. The Admission of Children with Education, Health and Care Plans

- 8.1 There is a separate process for children with Education, Health and Care Plans.
- 8.2 For admission for reception class in September 2019:
- 19 children were offered places in Hackney maintained mainstream schools
 - 11 children were offered places in Hackney maintained special schools
 - 1 child was offered a place in an independent faith school
 - 4 children were offered places in out borough maintained special schools.
 - 3 children were offered places in Hackney independent special schools.
 - 2 children were offered places in Hackney Autism Resource Provisions
 - 1 child was offered a place in an out of borough Hearing Impairment Resource Provision
 - 3 children have deferred primary transfer until 2020
- 8.3 There were 127 children with an EHC plan transferring to secondary school in September 2019. Of these;
- 61 children were offered places in Hackney maintained mainstream schools
 - 36 children were offered places in Hackney maintained special schools
 - 13 children were offered places in independent faith schools
 - 2 children were offered places in out borough maintained mainstream schools.
 - 2 children were offered places in Hackney independent special schools.
 - 7 children were offered places in out borough independent special schools
 - 1 child was offered a place in an out borough maintained mainstream school
 - 2 Looked After Children children were placed in out borough independent schools

- 3 children are awaiting placement (3 June 2019)
- 1 child has deferred secondary transfer until 2020
- 4 out borough children were offered places in Hackney maintained mainstream schools
- 2 out borough children were offered places in Hackney maintained special schools

8.4 Regarding in-year admissions for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan, a request for a change of placement/in year transfer can be made at any point of the year via the Annual Review process. If a child's parent or a young person makes a request for a particular nursery, school or post-16 institution HLT must comply with that preference and name the school or college in the EHC plan unless:

- it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person, or
- the attendance of the child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, or the efficient use of resources

9 School Place Planning

9.1 Hackney Learning Trust has a duty to secure a sufficient number of places for Hackney resident pupils. Primary projections are provided by the Greater London Council (GLA) annually and are based upon a number of factors such as birth, death and migration data, population projections, fertility and migration rates, housing data and school roll data.

9.2 Since 2008, Hackney has seen a steady increase in the demand for reception places with very high rolls between 2014 and January 2016. However, in October 2016, demand for reception places started to fall and has in the main continued to do so.

Table 4. Reception roll 2014-19

Census date	Reception roll
January 2014	2744
January 2015	2845
January 2016	2807
October 2016	2742
January 2017	2759
January 2018	2633
January 2019	2562

9.3 School roll projections (Table 5 below), also show a significant reduction in the number of projected pupils over the years – a projected difference of 387 pupils (equivalent to 13 forms of entry), between 2014 and 2018.

Table 5. The number of children projected for September 2019, since 2014.

Year of projection	Projected number of reception children for September 2019
2014 (based on January rolls)	2926
2015 (based on January rolls)	2801
2016 (based on January rolls)	2782
2016 (based on October rolls)	2682
2017 (based on January rolls)	2705
2018 (based on January rolls)	2539
2019 (based on January rolls)	2635

- 9.4 Falling reception rolls are not unique to Hackney but has been seen across LAs in London. Why rolls are falling is unclear, but it is thought to be a combination of changes to welfare benefits, rising rents and the possible effects of Brexit.
- 9.5 As a result of the falling rolls, there is now a significant number of surplus reception places in the borough which can impact on the efficient running of schools. In response to this, Hackney Learning Trust's School Place Planning Group monitors school rolls, school roll projections and related school organisation issues. The Group has agreed the following caps (a temporary measure which limits the number of reception places on the understanding that should there be a sudden influx of pupils that can not be placed, schools are expected to admit up to the PAN if needed), and permanent PAN reductions, in the following primary schools.

Table 6. Capped PANs for 2019/20 and 2020/21

School	Capped PAN 2018/19	Capped PAN 2019/20	Capped PAN 2020/21
Thomas Fairchild	30	30	30
Benthal	-	30	-
Harrington Hill	-	30	-
Gainsborough	-	30	-
Mandeville	-	45	45
Princess May	-	30	-

Table 7. Permanent PAN reductions from 2019/20

School	Current PAN	New PAN from 2019	Places permanently removed
De Beauvoir	60	30	30
Harrington Hill	90	60	30
Gainsborough	90	60	30
Halley House	60	30	30
Total number of places removed			120