

REPORT TO SCRUTINY – UPDATE ON SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

15 June 2020

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 June 2019.

2. Reception Admissions 2020

2.1 2531 Hackney resident parents were notified on 16 April 2020 of the outcome of their applications for admission to reception class in September 2020. Of the 2440 applicants who applied on-time, 98.8% or 2,411 applied on-line. There were 50 more on-time applications this year compared to last year. 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, that the relevant parents and carers had been notified of directly.

2.2 This year 93.6% or 2288 of the on-time cohort expressed a first preference for a Hackney school. This is 1% higher than last year.

2.3 Of those offered places in Hackney schools, 2387 were Hackney residents and 236 were out borough residents. In addition to the above numbers, 37 children with EHCPs were offered places in Hackney schools

2.4 144 Hackney resident children were offered a place in out-borough schools. This compares to 152 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 2020 is slightly lower than the previous year, but is the same as the London totals for the top three preferences.

Table 1. Reception on time preferences 2020 and 2019

Preference	Number for Transfer in 2020	% transfer in 2020	% Pan London 2020	Number for Transfer in 2019	% transfer in 2019	% Pan London 2019
1	2055	84.22	84.98	2049	86.79	85.54
1 & 2	2261	92.66	92.57	2222	94.12	92.95
1, 2 & 3	2322	95.16	95.16	2277	96.45	95.56
1, 2, 3 & 4	2353	96.43	96.27	2296	97.25	96.64
1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	2365	96.92	96.8	2307	97.72	97.14
All 6 preferences	2368	97.04	97.05	2312	97.93	97.43
No preferences met	72	2.96	2.95	49	02.07	02.57

2.6 The 72 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.

2.7 Since offer day, there have been 25 late applications. Places were offered to these applicants in May.

3. Secondary Transfer 2020

3.1 2392 Hackney resident parents were notified on 1 March 2020 of the outcome of their applications for secondary transfer in 2020. 99% or 2369 parents applied on-line. There were 101 fewer children in this year's transfer cohort compared to last year. It was known there were fewer children in this year's cohort.

3.2 The above numbers do not include children with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) as there is a separate process for these children.

3.3 87% or 2090 of the applicants that applied on time expressed a first preference for a Hackney school. This compares to 85.2% or 2,124 in 2019.

3.4 Of those offered places in Hackney schools, 2094 were Hackney residents and 303 were out-borough residents. In addition to the above numbers, 96 children with EHCPs were offered places in Hackney schools. This compares with 65 in 2019. There were more pupils with EHCPs in this year's secondary transfer cohort.

3.5 298 Hackney resident children were offered a place in out-borough schools. This compares to 336 children last year.

3.6 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 total. The percentage of top three preferences met is also slightly lower than the London total but only marginally.

Table 2. Secondary on-time Preferences 2020 and 2019

Preference	Number for transfer in 2020	% transfer in 2020	%Pan London total 2020	Number for transfer in 2019	% transfer in 2019	%Pan London total 2019
1	1566	65.47	68.30	1589	63.74	65.89
1 & 2	1927	80.56	82.35	1953	78.34	79.83
1, 2 & 3	2112	88.29	88.39	2164	86.8	86.35
1, 2, 3 & 4	2200	91.97	91.4	2270	91.05	89.67
1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	2232	93.31	92.92	1310	92.7	91.39
All 6 preferences	2250	94.06	93.77	2327	93.38	92.39
No preferences met	142	5.94	6.23	166	6.66	7.61

- 3.7 The 142 Hackney resident 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. Most Hackney secondary schools use a process of banding to ensure they admit a wide range of children of different abilities. Every child who applies sits a Cognitive Ability Test (CAT) and the results are used to group applications into different ability bands.

Table 3. Pupils not offered a preference school on national offer day

Band Postcode	A	B	C	D	E	OB Pref or unbanded	Grand Total
E5	2	9	12	14	1	1	39
E8	1	2	13	10	1	4	31
N16	1	8	6	8	1	7	31
N1	2	3	2	2		4	13
E9		2	4	2		4	12
N4	1	2	2			6	11
E2	1	1	1				3
EC1V						1	1
OS applicant	1						1
Grand Total	9	27	40	36	3	27	142

Note: The above data is based on 1st preferences. Out borough preferences or unbanded includes preferences for out of borough schools or Our Lady's Convent 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 band have four and not five bands, hence smaller numbers in B and E.

- 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. Number of preferences made by applicants who did not obtain a place on National Offer Day

No of preferences expressed	1	2	3	4	5	6
Reception	36	10	8	8	4	6
Secondary Transfer	21	21	46	24	13	17

- 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. Primary schools run in school admissions support for Year 6 families.

5 How places were allocated at oversubscribed schools on National Offer Day

- 5.1 Admission to Reception class - 30 of the 58 primary schools were oversubscribed on 16 April 2020, 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 – 10 of the 16 secondary schools were oversubscribed on 1 March 2020, 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.

6 Cross borough movement of pupils

- 6.1 Hackney secondary schools with the highest number of out borough pupils:
- Skinners' Academy - 78
 - Our Lady's Convent - 47
 - Haggerston - 44
 - Stoke Newington - 34
 - Mossbourne Victoria Park -18
 - Cardinal Pole - 16
- 6.2 Hackney secondary schools with the lowest number of out borough pupils were:
- Hackney New School -1
 - Clapton Girls' Acadmey - 2
 - The City Academy, Hackney - 2
 - The Petchey Academy - 5
 - The City Academy, Shoreditch Park - 7
 - The Urswick School – 8

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

- Gladesmore – 38
- City of London Academy, Highbury Grove – 34
- Central Foundation Boys – 30
- City of London Academy (Islington) -27
- The City of London Academy (Highbury Grove) – 28
- The Latymer School - 15
- Bobby Moore Academy – 14

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

- Mossbourne Riverside Academy – 46
- Shoreditch Park Primary School – 20
- The Olive School – 19
- Woodberry Down - 17
- Simon Marks – 10
- Sebright - 20
- Our Lady and St Joseph – 11
- Springfield - 11

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

- Ambler – 17
- St Joan of Arc -17
- St Ignatius -10
- Rotherfield -11
- Newington Green -9
- Hanover – 9
- City of London Primary Academy, Islington 8

7 In-Year Admissions

7.1 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 2019 to mid May 20, there have been 1764 primary in-year preferences resulting in 676 offers and 1219 secondary school in year preferences resulting in 197 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.

8 Composite prospectus

8.1 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. HLT has not produced a printed prospectus for several years, but has continually improved the online prospectus, including a complete redesign for 2020 admissions. The prospectuses can be viewed online at www.learningtrust.co.uk/primaryguide and www.learningtrust.co.uk/secondaryguide

- 8.2 All parents of 3 and 4 year olds in Hackney early years' setting and parents of children in year 6 at Hackney primary schools receive a 12 page printed guide to making their application. The guides can be accessed at <https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/sites/default/files/document/primary-admission-leaflet.pdf> and <https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/sites/default/files/document/secondary-admission-leaflet.pdf>
- 8.3 No requests were received for hard copies of the composite prospectus.
- 8.4 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	1724
Eadmissions website	686
List of primary vacancies (in year)	3663
Primary composite prospectus	39743
Primary in-year application form	1610
Total	47,426

Secondary

Brief guide to reception admissions	1503
Eadmissions website	1463
List of secondary vacancies (in year)	2901
Secondary composite prospectus	40138
Secondary in-year application form	1279
Total	47,284

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

- 9.1 There is a separate process for children with Education, Health and Care Plans.
- 9.2 For admission for reception class in September 2020:
- 27 children were offered places in Hackney maintained mainstream schools
 - 9 children were offered places in Hackney maintained special schools
 - 7 child was offered a place in an independent faith school
 - 1 child was offered a place in out borough maintained special schools.
 - 1 child was offered a place in out borough maintained mainstream schools.
 - 2 children were offered a place in an out of borough Hearing Impairment Resource Provision
 - 1 child for Elective Home Education
 - 4 children are awaiting placement
 - 3 children have deferred primary transfer until 2021
- 9.3 There were 202 children with an EHC plan transferring to secondary school in September 2020. Of these:
- 110 children were offered places in Hackney maintained mainstream schools
 - 49 children were offered places in Hackney maintained special schools
 - 17 children were offered places in independent faith schools
 - 8 children were offered places in out borough maintained mainstream schools.
 - 3 children were offered places in out borough maintained special schools.
 - 6 children were offered places in Hackney independent special schools

- 1 children were offered places in out borough independent special schools
- 5 children are awaiting placement
- 3 child has deferred secondary transfer until 2021

In addition;

- 7 out borough children were offered places in Hackney maintained mainstream schools
- 1 out borough children were offered places in Hackney maintained special schools

9.4 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

10 School Place Planning

10.1 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.

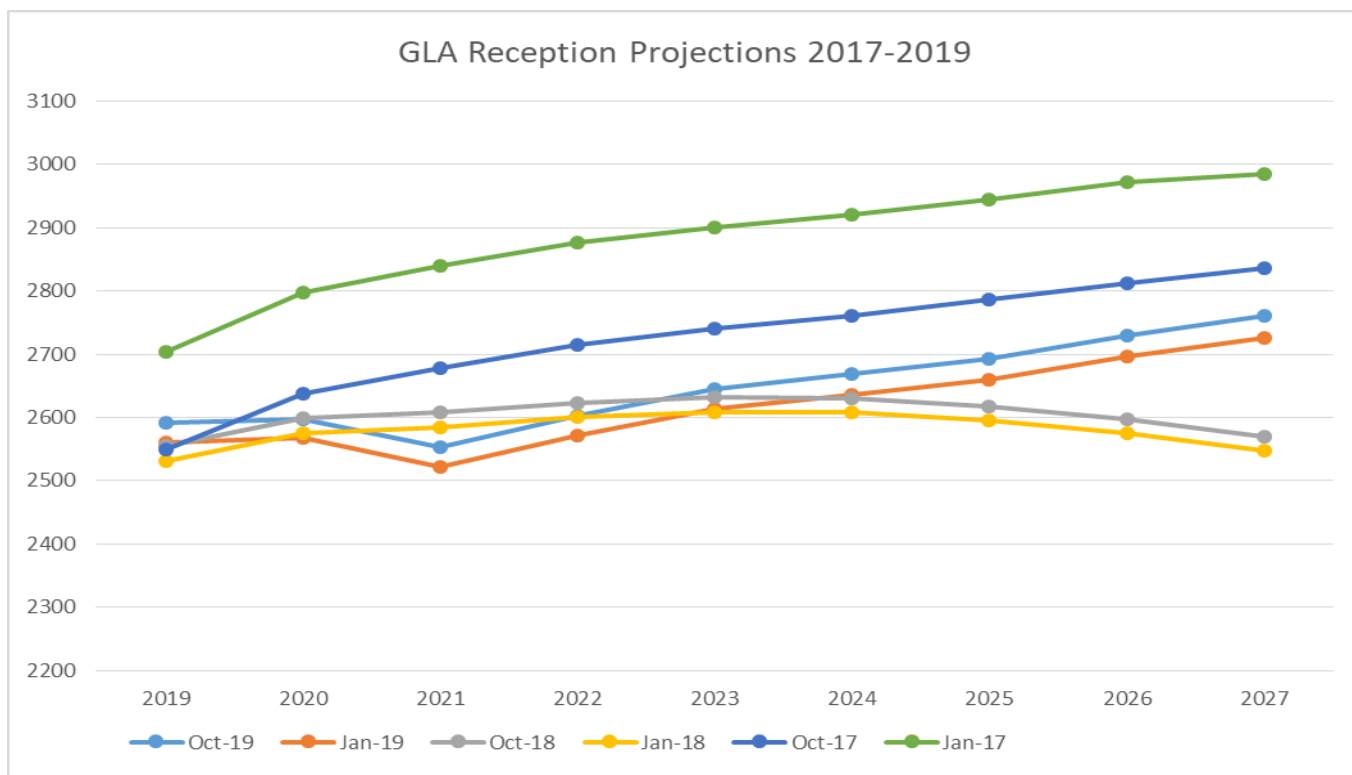
10.2 Since 2008, Hackney had seen a steady increase in the demand for reception places with very high rolls between 2014 and January 2016. However, in October 2016, demand for reception places started to fall and has in the main continued to do so.

Table 5. Reception roll 2014-2020

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
January 2020	2599

10.3 The GLA's school roll projections (Diagram 1 below), shows the fluctuation in projections data since January 2017. Although the most recent data (October 2019) sits 'between' all previous projections, it still represents a significant decrease in what was projected in January 2017:

Diagram 1. Comparison of GLA projections 2017-2019



- 10.4 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. As a result of the falling rolls, there are now 436 (14%) surplus reception places.
- 10.5 Low school rolls can impact on the efficient running of schools and in some cases threaten their financial stability. Hackney Learning Trust's School Place Planning Group monitors the number of surplus reception places in Hackney and has agreed that caps (a temporary measure which limits the number of reception places) in some schools. Temporary caps are agreed with 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.

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

School	Capped PAN 2019/20	Capped PAN 2020/21
Gainsborough Primary School	30 (<i>published PAN of 60</i>)	30 (<i>published PAN of 60</i>)
Mandeville Primary School	45 (<i>published PAN of 60</i>)	45 (<i>published PAN of 60</i>)
Princess May Primary School	30 (<i>published PAN of 60</i>)	30 (<i>published PAN of 60</i>)
Thomas Fairchild	30 (<i>published PAN of 60</i>)	30 (<i>published PAN of 60</i>)

Table 7. Permanent primary PAN reductions in 2019/20

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

11. Secondary Projections

- 11.1 Planning secondary places is achieved by comparing the number of Year 7 places with the number of children on roll in year 6. To do this, the number of out borough (OB) children in our schools is subtracted, before adding the estimated number of Hackney resident children in out borough schools.
- 11.2 The final calculation looks at the number of out borough children that are likely to obtain places in our secondary schools and the number of Hackney residents that are likely to obtain places in out borough secondary schools in order to derive a 'final' projected figure. Secondary projections are based on providing places for 86% of the secondary transfer cohort which is broadly in line with the number of parents that express a first preference for Hackney schools.
- 11.3 There is no division of secondary schools by planning area when planning secondary places, as secondary aged pupils are expected to travel further than primary aged pupils to attend school. Table 8 below shows the most recent secondary projections using the January 2020 census.

Table 8. Secondary projections based on January 2020 census

Year Group	No. of pupils on roll Jan 2020*	Year transferring to secondary school	No. of pupils projected to require Year 7 places (86% of Hackney residents + approx 324 out Borough pupils)	Number of Year 7 places available	Total Year 7 place shortfall or surplus (number of places available minus the number of pupils projected to require places).	Year 7 shortfall by forms of entry (30 pupils per class).	Year 7 places available (with a planned bulge class in Sep 2020 and possible overallocations of approx +70 places each year)
Year 6	2538	Sep-20	2514	2459	-55	-2	15
Year 5	2636	Sep-21	2549	2509	-40	-1	30
Year 4	2648	Sep-22	2530	2509	-21	-1	49
Year 3	2624	Sep-23	2471	2509	38	0	108
Year 2	2588	Sep-24	2454	2509	55	0	125
Year 1	2512	Sep-25	2340	2509	169	0	239
Reception	2599	Sep-26	2449	2509	60	0	130
Projected Reception cohort starting in Sep 2020	2598	Sep-27	2429	2509	80	3	150
Projected Reception cohort starting in Sep 2021	2553	Sep-28	2391	2509	118	4	188
Projected Reception cohort starting in Sep 2022	2603	Sep-29	2434	2509	75	3	145
Projected Reception cohort starting in Sep 2023	2645	Sep-30	2469	2509	40	1	110
Projected Reception cohort starting in Sep 2024	2669	Sep-31	2489	2509	20	1	90
Red data denotes deficit places							
* Note: blue shaded area from Sep 2027 transfer year denotes October 2019 projections)							

- 11.4 The penultimate and final columns in Table 8 above, shows that there is projected to be a sufficient number of secondary places. Over allocations (shown in the last column) is an informal arrangement which provides a safeguard for schools ensuring that as pupils leave, or do not start, the final number on October census day or shortly afterwards is in line with the Published Admission Number (PAN)). Over allocation creates approximately 70 additional secondary places each year.
- 11.5 HLT continues to analyse each release of primary rolls as noted and GLA projections to determine the likely effect on future secondary places.