

Overview & Scrutiny

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 14 June 2021
Title of report: Update on School Admissions Outcomes
Report author: Marian Lavelle, Head of Section (Admissions and School Place Planning)
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Brief: 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 2020.

Report Summary

The Children and Young People's Commission has been provided with a summary of school admissions annually since 2012. This report provides an update since the report of June 2020.

The report covers admission to reception class, transfer from primary to secondary school, in year admissions, the admission of pupils with Education Health and Care Plans and School Place Planning.

Headlines

- Admission to Reception class - 93.9% of parents who applied on time expressed a first preference for a Hackney school;
- Transfer from Primary to Secondary School – 84.5%% of parents who applied on time expressed a first preference for a Hackney School;
- The number of top three preferences met for the above cohorts is slightly higher than the London Average;
- There has been a decrease in the number of parents applying for reception class places;
- The majority of applicants who were not offered a place at one of their preference schools did not make use of their 6 preferences;
- 25 out of 58 primary schools were oversubscribed;
- 11 out of 16 secondary schools were oversubscribed;
- Skinners' Academy admits the highest number of out borough pupils;
- Gladesmore, Central Foundation Boys and Bobby Moore Secondary schools admits the highest number of Hackney residents;
- There is a separate process for the admission of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans;
- The on-line composite prospectus is working well
- Since 2015, demand for reception class places started to fall and has in the main continued to do so.
- Based on current secondary projections, there will be surplus Year 7 places from 2023.

Report to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

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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 2020

2. Reception Admissions 2021

2.1 2323 Hackney resident parents were notified on 16 April 2021 of the outcome of their applications for admission to reception class in September 2021. Of the 2132 applicants who applied on-time, 98.1% or 2092 applied on-line. 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 93.9% or 2003 of the on-time cohort expressed a first preference for a Hackney school. This compares to 93.06% or 2288 in 2020.

2.3 2419 children were offered places in Hackney schools, which is 165 fewer children than last year. Of those offered places, 2164 were Hackney residents and 255 were out borough residents. In addition to the above numbers, 21 children with EHCPs were offered places in Hackney schools.

2.4 138 Hackney resident children were offered a place in out-borough schools. This compares to 144 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 preferences met for 2021 is higher than the previous year and is also higher than the London totals.

Table 1. Reception on-time preferences 2021 and 2020

Preference	Number for transfer in 2021	% transfer in 2021	% Pan London total 2021	Number for transfer in 2020	% transfer in 2020	% Pan London total 2020
1	1942	91.09	87.38	2055	84.22	84.98
1 & 2	2034	95.41	94.1	2261	92.66	92.57
1, 2 & 3	2074	97.29	96.26	2322	95.16	95.16
1,2,3 & 4	2087	97.9	97.21	2353	96.43	96.27
1,2,3,4 & 5	2092	98.13	98.14	2365	96.92	96.8
All preferences	2094	98.22	98.35	2368	97.04	97.05
No preferences met	38	1.78	1.65	72	2.96	2.95

2.6 The 38 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 79 late applications. Places will be offered to these applicants in the final week of May.

3. Secondary Transfer 2021

3.1 2431 Hackney resident parents were notified on 1 March 2021 of the outcome of their applications for secondary transfer in 2021. 99.6% or 2422 parents applied on-line. There were 39 more children in this year's transfer cohort compared to last year.

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 84.5% of or 2054 of the applicants who applied on-time expressed a first preference for a Hackney school. This compares to 87% or 2090 in 2020.

3.4 Of those offered places in Hackney schools, 2103 were Hackney residents and 331 were out-borough residents. In addition to the above numbers, 103 children with EHCPs were offered places in Hackney schools. This compares with 96 in 2020.

3.5 332 Hackney resident children were offered a place in out-borough schools. This compares to 298 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 previous year

and also pan-London total. The percentage of top three preferences met is also lower than the previous year but higher than the London total.

Table 2. Secondary on-time Preferences 2021 and 2020

Preference	Number for transfer in 2021	% transfer in 2021	% Pan London total 2021	Number for transfer in 2020	% transfer in 2020	% Pan London total 2020
1	1547	63.64	66.37	1566	65.47	68.30
1 & 2	1928	79.31	80.26	1927	80.56	82.35
1, 2 & 3	2116	87.04	86.71	2112	88.29	88.39
1, 2, 3 & 4	2193	90.21	90.12	2200	91.97	91.4
1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	2228	91.65	91.94	2232	93.31	92.92
All 6 preferences	2248	92.47	93.04	2250	94.06	93.77
No preferences met	183	7.53	6.96	142	5.94	6.23

3.7 The 183 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. Table 3 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. Children sit a Cognitive Ability Test (CAT) and the results are used to group applications into different ability 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.

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
E2	1	2		1			4
E5	1	9	16	22	4	8	60
E8	1	7	8	15	2	7	40
E9	3	2	4	9		2	20
N1	1			3	1	2	7
N16	2	5	10	14	2	8	41
N4	2		2	4		3	11
Grand Total	11	25	40	68	9	30	183

Note: The above data is based on 1st preferences. Out-borough preferences or unbanded includes preferences for schools that do 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 the national ability range. Most schools that band have four and not five bands, hence smaller numbers in Band E.

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	22	3	6	3	0	4
Secondary Transfer	16	50	58	34	11	14

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 schools 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 - 25 of the 58 primary schools were oversubscribed on 16 April 2021, National Offer day. How places were offered at the oversubscribed schools is shown [here](#).

5.2 Transfer from primary to secondary school - 11 of the 16 secondary schools were oversubscribed on 1 March 2020, National Offer day. How places were offered at the oversubscribed schools is shown [here](#).

5.3 One 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 the nearest school.

6. Cross-borough movement of pupils

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

- Skinners' Academy - 86
- Haggerston - 56
- Stoke Newington - 44
- Our Lady's Convent - 27
- Mossbourne Victoria Park - 24
- Mossbourne Community Academy - 19
- Cardinal Pole - 17
- Lubavitch Senior Girls - 17

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

- The City Academy, Hackney - 3
- Hackney New School - 4
- Clapton Girls' Academy - 5
- The Urswick School - 5
- The Bridge Academy - 6
- The Petchey Academy - 8
- The City Academy, Shoreditch Park - 11

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

- Gladesmore - 38
- Central Foundation Boys - 38
- Bobby Moore Academy - 38
- The City of London Academy (Highbury Grove) - 25
- City of London Academy (Islington) - 23
- Highbury Fields - 15

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

- Mossbourne Riverside Academy - 57
- The Olive School - 29
- Sebright - 22
- Woodberry Down - 14
- Springfield - 13
- Lubavitch Junior Boys - 12
- Lubvitch Ruth Lunzer - 10
- Shoreditch Park Primary School - 10

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

- Ambler - 24
- St Joan of Arc - 12
- Rotherfield - 11
- Newington Green - 10
- St Luke's (Islington) - 8
- City of London Primary Academy, Islington - 5

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. From 1 September 2020 to mid May 2021, there have been 1729 primary in-year preferences resulting in 842 offers and 995 secondary school in-year preferences resulting in 218 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 school 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. Hackney Education has not produced a printed prospectus for several years, but has continually improved the online prospectus, including a complete redesign since 2020. The prospectuses can be viewed online at <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/primaryguide> and <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/secondaryguide>.
- 8.2 All parents of 3 and 4 year olds in Hackney early years' settings 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://education.hackney.gov.uk/sites/default/files/document/primary-admission-leaflet.pdf> and <https://education.hackney.gov.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 Education's website can be broken down as follows:

Primary

Brief guide to reception admissions	1,810
Eadmissions website	647
List of primary vacancies (in year)	3,213
Primary composite prospectus	36,223
Total	41,893

Secondary

Brief guide to secondary admissions	1,231
Eadmissions website	1,606
List of secondary vacancies (in year)	2,305
Secondary composite prospectus	39,377
Total	44,519

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.

Primary Transfer

- 59 children are transferring in Sep 2021 to reception with EHCPs, 3 of which only have a type of setting named (awaiting placement).
- 38 out of the 59 were allocated to their first preference (64.4%).
- 46 out of the 59 (78%) were allocated to a Hackney school, including special maintained (20; 33.9%).
- only one was placed out of borough (Laycock Primary- maintained mainstream with HI provision).
- 9 out of 59 (15.3%) were placed at independent Orthodox Jewish schools, including special independent (6; 0.1%).
- All those who chose Ickburgh as 1st preference got Ickburgh (3).
- 16 children had The Garden as 1st preference but only 6 got The Garden (42%); 4 out of 16 were allocated to Ickburgh; 3 out of 16 were allocated to a Hackney maintained mainstream and 1 was allocated to an ARP.
- 5 children requested a year deferral, of which 3 were agreed.
- 46 children were/are under assessment since 15/02/2021, 2 of which have recently been given EHC plans.

Secondary Transfer

- 234 children are transferring to secondary school with EHCPs, 17 of which only have a type of setting named.
- 147 out of the 234 were allocated to their first preference (62.8%).
- 171 out of the 234 (73%) were allocated to a Hackney school, including special maintained (26; 11.1%).
- 26 were placed out of borough, 16 of which in their 1st preference, 16 out of 26 were special schools, 6 of which independent special schools and 10 maintained special schools.
- 16 out of 234 (6.8%) were placed at independent OJ schools, including special independent (5; 2.1%).
- All those who chose Ickburgh as 1st preference got Ickburgh (7).
- 14 children had The Garden as 1st preference and only 1 did not get it and was allocated to Ickburgh.
- 38 children had Stormont as 1st preference but only 21 got it (55%); 6 were allocated to other special schools (5 Ickburgh; 1 Silverways OOB ARP) and 11 to Hackney maintained mainstream schools.
- No deferral requests
- 13 children were/are under assessment since 15/02/2021.

9.2 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 Hackney Education 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. Primary School Place Planning

- 10.1 Hackney Education has a duty to secure a sufficient number of places for Hackney resident pupils. Primary projections are provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA) annually and are based upon a range of data such as population, birth, migration, fertility rates, GP registrations, housing data and school rolls.
- 10.2 Between 2007 and 2014, Hackney experienced a surge in the demand for Reception places with very high rolls between 2014 and 2016. However, since 2015 until the most recent set of data received in 2021, demand for reception places in addition to the projected number of children expected to require places has fallen significantly. This is shown in Table 5 below:

Table 5. Reception roll academic years 2013/14 to 2020/21

Census date								
	Jan 2021	Jan 2020	Jan 2019	Jan 2018	Jan 2017	Jan 2016	Jan 2015	Jan 2014
Reception roll	2530	2599	2562	2633	2757	2805	2846	2745

- 10.3 Similarly, the school roll projections compiled by the GLA (see Diagram 1 below), on the whole, shows decreasing projected demand in 2020, when compared to previous years. Although the most recent data (January 2020) sits 'between' all previous projections, it still represents a significant decrease in what was projected in January 2017.:
- 10.4 Falling reception rolls are not unique to Hackney but have been happening across local authorities in London. Recent data (February 2021) from PAN London admissions, reported a 6% decrease in the number of reception place applications compared to 2020. The Greater London Authority are unclear about the reasons for reduced demand, but it is thought to be a combination of changes to welfare benefits in recent years (Universal Credit), rising rents, and the as yet unquantified effects of Brexit. As a result of the falling rolls, data from Hackney's January 2021 census shows 505 surplus reception places in Hackney (17%). A significant number of these surplus places are located in the southwest of the borough.
- 10.5 Low school rolls can impact on the efficient running of schools and in some cases threaten their financial stability. Hackney Education's School Place Planning Group monitors the number of surplus reception places in Hackney and has agreed to caps (a temporary measure which limits the number of reception places) in some schools (Table 6). Temporary caps are agreed with the understanding that should there be a sudden influx of pupils that cannot be placed, schools are expected to admit up to the PAN if needed.

Diagram 1. Comparison of GLA projections 2017-2020

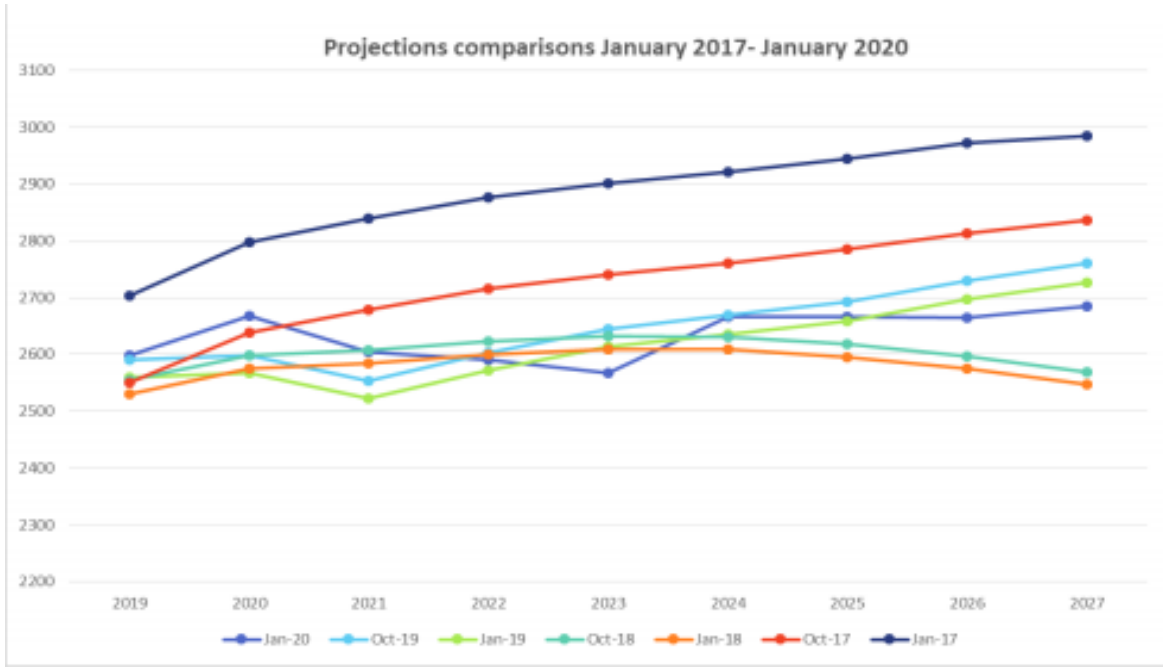


Table 6. Capped (temporary) PANs for 2020/21 and 2021/22

	Capped PAN 2020/21	Capped PAN 2021/22
De Beauvoir	n/a (published PAN of 30)	15 (published PAN of 30)
Gainsborough	30 (published PAN of 60)	30 (published PAN of 60)
Harrington Hill	30 (published PAN of 60)	30 (published PAN of 60)
Mandeville	45 (published PAN of 60)	45 (published PAN of 60)
Thomas Fairchild	30 (published PAN of 60)	30 (published PAN of 60)

10.6 In addition to the temporary PAN caps outlined above, permanent PAN changes have been agreed at the following schools from September 2022:

- Harrington Hill - reducing from 60 to 30
- Gayhurst - reducing from 75 to 60
- Mandeville - reducing from 60 to 45
- Randal Cremer - reducing from 60 to 45
- Thomas Fairchild - reducing from 60 to 30
- St Dominic's - reducing from 60 to 30

11. Secondary School Place Planning

11.1 Planning secondary places is achieved by using the number of children in Year 6 as a baseline, to which various factors are then attributed. This includes assessing the number of children in out-borough schools, out-borough children in Hackney schools, independent school children likely to join the maintained sector at secondary transfer and a proportion of children likely to obtain a place in Hackney because their closest school is in Hackney. Secondary planning aims to provide places for 86% of the secondary transfer cohort which is broadly in line with the number of parents that express a preference for Hackney schools at secondary transfer. Table 8 below shows the most recent secondary projections using the January 2021 census.

Table 7. Secondary projections based on January 2021 census

Year group 2020/21	Year transferring to secondary	No. of pupils on roll Jan 2021	Total number of pupils expected to require places (86% +OB pupils 320)	Total number of secondary school places available	Surplus or deficit (-) places based on total number of places available	Surplus/deficit in number of forms of entry (30 pupils per class)	Final projected surplus/deficit with overallocation by approx 70
6	Sep-21	2611	2542	2489	-53	-2	17
5	Sep-22	2617	2507	2489	-18	-1	52
4	Sep-23	2594	2460	2489	29	1	99
3	Sep-24	2516	2428	2489	61	2	131
2	Sep-25	2448	2312	2489	177	6	247
1	Sep-26	2557	2422	2489	67	2	137
R	Sep-27	2546	2417	2489	72	2	142
0	Sep-28	2605	2466	2489	23	1	93
-1	Sep-29	2590	2453	2489	36	1	106
-2	Sep-30	2568	2435	2489	54	2	124
-3	Sep-31	2667	2518	2489	-29	-1	41
-4	Sep-32	2667	2518	2489	-29	-1	41
-5	Sep-33	2664	2516	2489	-27	-1	43
-6	Sept-34	2685	2533	2489	-44	-1	26
<i>Denotes projected pupil numbers (Greater London Authority data - Jan 2020)</i>							

11.2 The third and second to last columns show a projected surplus of Year 7 places between 2023 and 2030. For September 2021 and 2022 small deficits of 53 and 18 places are projected. However this deficit is expected to be absorbed by over-allocations (shown in the last column), 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). The Admissions Code allows admission authorities to over-allocate places at secondary transfer and historically, there has been a sufficient number of pupils in the secondary transfer cohorts to enable over-allocation to happen without having a detrimental effect on other schools. However, due to falling rolls, this practice may become less sustainable, threatening the viability of undersubscribed schools. Over-allocation creates approximately 70 additional secondary places each year and it is clear that even without

this mechanism, there is projected to be a significant number of surplus secondary places from September 2023 onwards.

- 11.3 Hackney Education continues to analyse each release of primary rolls as noted and GLA projections to determine the likely effect on future secondary places.
- 11.4 Hackney Education is leading the development of a Hackney school organisation strategy to shape and manage school places and school property usage for the coming decade. This strategy is due to be completed and agreed in Autumn 2021.