

Overview & Scrutiny

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 11 July 2022
Title of report: Update on School Admissions Outcomes
Report author: David Court, Head of School Organisation and Commissioning
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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 2021.

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 2021.

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 - 92.5% of Hackney residents who applied on time expressed a first preference for a Hackney school;
- Transfer from Primary to Secondary School – 86.5% of Hackney residents who applied on time expressed a first preference for a Hackney School;
- The percentage of residents offered one of their top three preferences is within 0.5% of the London average;
- There were 229 fewer parents applying for reception class places, and 82 fewer application for secondary transfer compared with the previous academic year;
- The majority of applicants who were not offered a place at one of their preference schools did not make use of their 6 preferences;
- 24 out of 58 primary schools and 12 out of 16 secondary schools were oversubscribed;
- Skinners' Academy admits the highest number of out borough pupils;
- Gladesmore, City of London Academy, Highbury Grove and City of London Academy, Islington admit the highest number of Hackney residents;
- There is a separate process for the admission of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans;
- Hackney currently has 21% surplus reception places and demand is projected to continue to fall over the next 5 years.
- In excess of 250 (just over 10%) surplus Year 7 places are projected from September 2024 admission onward.

Report to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Report title: Update on School Admissions Outcomes

Meeting date: 11 July 2022

Report originator: David Court (Head of School Organisation and Commissioning)

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 2021.

2. Reception Admissions 2022

- 2.1. 2094 Hackney resident parents were notified on 19 April 2022 of the outcome of their applications to reception class in September 2022. Of these, 2066 (98.7%) applied on-line. These numbers do not include children with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) as there is a separate application process for these children.
- 2.2. This year 92.5% or 1936 of the on-time applicants expressed a first preference for a Hackney school. This compares to 93.9% or 2003 in 2021.
- 2.3. 2309 children were offered places in Hackney schools, which is 110 fewer children than last year. Of those offered places, 2065 were Hackney residents and 244 were out borough residents. In addition to the above numbers, 21 children with EHCPs were offered places in Hackney schools.
- 2.4. 135 Hackney resident children were offered a place in out-borough schools. This compares to 138 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 Table 1. The percentage of first preferences met and top three preferences met for 2022 is higher than the London totals.
- 2.6. The 36 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 39 late applications. Places will be offered to these applicants in the final week of May and then as they are received.

Table 1. Reception on-time preferences offers 2022 and 2021

Preferences met/offered	Number offered in 2022	Hackney % offered in 2022	Pan London % offered in 2022	Number offered in 2021	Hackney % offered in 2021	Pan London % offered in 2021
1	1856	88.63	87.93	1942	91.09	87.38
1 & 2	1993	95.17	94.64	2034	95.41	94.1
1, 2 & 3	2033	97.08	96.76	2074	97.29	96.26
1,2,3 & 4	2049	97.84	97.53	2087	97.9	97.21
1,2,3,4 & 5	2054	98.08	97.86	2092	98.13	98.14
All preferences	2059	98.27	98.04	2094	98.22	98.35
No preferences met	36	1.72	1.96	38	1.78	1.65

3. **Secondary Transfer 2022**

- 3.1. 2349 Hackney resident parents were notified on 1 March 2022 of the outcome of their applications for secondary transfer in 2022. 98.6% or 2316 parents applied on-line. There were 82 fewer children in this year's transfer cohort compared to last year. These numbers do not include children with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) as there is a separate application process for these children.
- 3.2. This year 2022 or 86.5% of applicants who applied on-time expressed a first preference for a Hackney school. This compares to 84.5% or 2054 in 2021.
- 3.3. Of those offered places in Hackney schools, 2186 were Hackney residents and 296 were out-borough residents. In addition to the above numbers, 100 children with EHCPs were offered places in Hackney schools. This compares with 103 in 2021.
- 3.4. 276 Hackney resident children were offered a place in out-borough schools. This compares to 332 children last year.
- 3.5. The number and percentage of preferences met for Hackney resident children is set out in Table 2. The percentage of first preferences met has increased significantly compared to the previous year but remains below the pan-London average.
- 3.6. The 151 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.

3.7. Since offer day we have received a small number of late applications. Places have been offered to all of these applicants.

3.8. There are currently no pupils that have not been offered a place.

Table 2. Secondary on-time Preferences 2022 and 2021

Preferences met/offered	Number offered in 2022	Hackney % offered in 2022	Pan London % offered in 2022	Number offered in 2021	Hackney % offered in 2021	Pan London % offered in 2021
1	1567	66.71	69.95	1547	63.64	66.37
1 & 2	1926	82.00	83.69	1928	79.31	80.26
1, 2 & 3	2092	89.06	89.27	2116	87.04	86.71
1, 2, 3 & 4	2151	91.57	91.91	2193	90.21	90.12
1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	2177	92.68	93.24	2228	91.65	91.94
All 6 preferences	2198	93.19	94.01	2248	92.47	93.04
No preferences met	151	6.60	5.99	183	7.53	6.96

Table 3. Pupils not offered a preference school on national offer day by postcode, band and gender

	Band A		Band B		Band C		Band D		Band E		No Band		Total		
Postcode	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	Total
E2				1	1	1							1	2	3
E20					1							1	1	1	2
E5	3	4	4	6	6	9	7	8	1	1	1	2	22	30	52
E8		1	2	2	4	3	3	3					9	9	18
E9		5	2	1	3	3	5		1		2	3	13	12	25
N1			1		1					1	3	1	5	2	7
N16	5	4	4	3	4	2	1	3	5		2	2	21	14	35
N4	1	1		1	2		1					1	4	3	7
Overseas				1		1								2	2
Total	9	15	13	15	22	19	17	14	7	2	8	10	76	75	151

Note: 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 could not be offered a place at one of their preferred schools on National Offer the majority did **not** make use of their 6 preferences as shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Number of preferences listed by applicants who were not offered a preferred school on National Offer Day

No of preferences expressed	1	2	3	4	5	6
Reception	25	4	3	0	3	1
Secondary Transfer	21	34	46	18	11	21

- 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. For admission to Reception class, 24 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. For transfer from primary to secondary school, 12 of the 16 secondary schools were oversubscribed on 1 March 2022, National Offer day. How places were offered at the oversubscribed schools is shown [here](#).
- 5.3. Three 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. Number of out-borough pupils offered places at Hackney School to start Year 7 in September 2022:

- Skinners' Academy - 65
- Haggerston School- 35
- Stoke Newington School and Sixth Form - 30
- Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy - 24
- Mossbourne Community Academy - 24
- Yesodey Hatorah Senior Girls School - 22
- Our Lady's High School - 22
- City Of London Academy, Shoreditch Park - 18
- Cardinal Pole Catholic School - 17
- Lubavitch Senior Girls School - 15
- The Petchey Academy - 13
- Waterside Academy - 11
- The Bridge Academy - 11
- The Urswick CE School - 7
- The City Academy, Hackney - 6
- Clapton Girls' Academy - 4

6.2. Out-borough secondary schools that offered places to the highest number of Hackney children were:

- City of London Academy, Highbury Grove (Islington) - 34
- Gladesmore Community School (Haringey) - 32
- City of London Academy (Islington) - 31
- Central Foundation Boys School (Islington) - 24
- The Latymer School (Enfield) - 14
- Bobby Moore Academy (Newham) - 12
- Oaklands School (Tower Hamlets) - 10

6.3. Hackney primary schools offering the highest number of out-borough pupils were:

- Mossbourne Riverside Academy - 59
- The Olive School - 21
- Sebright - 14
- Our Lady & St Joseph - 12
- Lubavitch Junior Boys - 11
- Lubvitch Ruth Lunzer - 10
- Springfield - 10

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

- Ambler (Islington) - 25
- Newington Green (Islington) - 11
- Hanover (Islington) - 10
- St Joan of Arc (Islington) - 7
- St Ignatius (Haringey) - 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 August 2021 to 20 May 2022, there have been 1470 primary applications processed, representing 1158 children, resulting in 879 offers. For the same time period there were 1093 secondary applications processed, representing 752 children, resulting in 327 offers. Some of these applications were as a result of parents reapplying to remain on the waiting lists for the current academic year. 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's composite prospectus 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 viewed using the following links [Primary Guide](#) and [Secondary Guide](#)
- 8.3. Hackney Education has not produced a printed prospectus for several years, but has continually improved the online prospectus, including a complete redesign since 2020. No requests were received for hard copies of the composite prospectus for the past two years.
- 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	1656
Eadmissions website	715
List of primary vacancies (in year)	4199
Primary composite prospectus	37902
Total	44472

Secondary

Brief guide to secondary admissions	1518
Eadmissions website	1804
List of secondary vacancies (in year)	4275
Secondary composite prospectus	42757
Total	50354

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

- 9.1. There is a separate application and admission process for children with Education, Health and Care Plans.

Primary Transfer

- 45 children were included in the initial Primary phase transfer process for September 2022 to reception with EHCPs, 4 of which have a type of setting named (awaiting placement, 3 special, 1 mainstream).
- 33 out of the 45 were allocated to their first preference (73.3%).
- 33 out of the 45 (73.3%) were allocated to a Hackney school, including special maintained (7; 15.5%).
- 4 pupils were placed out of borough (1 maintained mainstream with HI provision, 2 maintained special & 1 maintained mainstream).
- 4 out of 45 (8.8%) were placed at independent Orthodox Jewish schools, including special independent (3; 6.6%).
- There were 5 first preferences for Ickburgh with 1 child placed.
- 6 children had The Garden as 1st preference with 4 placed at The Garden. 2 children have a type of setting named (awaiting placement).
- 1 child requested a year deferral, this was not agreed.
- 32 children were under assessment as of 15/02/2022

Secondary Transfer

- 193 children were included in the initial Secondary phase transfer process for secondary school with EHCPs, 11 of which have a type of setting named (awaiting placement, 6 special, 5 mainstream).
 - 132 out of the 193 were allocated to their first preference (68.3%).
 - 159 out of the 193 (82.3%) were allocated to a Hackney school, 41 which were maintained special schools (21.2%).
 - 22 were placed out of the borough, 18 of which in their 1st preference. 10 out of 22 were special schools, 7 of which were independent special schools and 3 maintained special schools.
 - 16 out of 193 (8.2%) were placed at independent OJ schools, including special independent (4; 2%).
 - 7 pupils had Ickburgh as 1st preference, 6 pupils were allocated, 1 pupil is awaiting placement.
 - 16 children had The Garden as 1st preference, 15 pupils were allocated, 1 pupil is awaiting placement.
 - 22 children had Stormont as 1st preference, 16 were allocated (72.7%); 2 were allocated to other special schools and 4 to Hackney maintained mainstream schools.
 - 3 deferral requests were agreed (in addition to 193)
 - 7 children were under assessment as of 15/02/2022.
- 9.2. These numbers reflect the number of pupils in each cohort who had been issued with a draft EHCP prior to the 15th February statutory deadline for issuing EHCPs naming the intended setting for September 2022. There were a number of pupils under assessment on this cut off date, the parents of these pupils are

advised to apply for a school place via the general admissions process. If a draft EHCP is issued, the EHCP team carry out the consultation process. The EHCP team also receives applications on a rolling basis, therefore the number of pupils admitted with EHCPs in September will be higher than the initial number allocated to schools in February.

- 9.3. 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 2022, 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 2021/22

Census date									
	Jan 2022	Jan 2021	Jan 2020	Jan 2019	Jan 2018	Jan 2017	Jan 2016	Jan 2015	Jan 2014
Reception roll	2398	2530	2599	2562	2633	2757	2805	2846	2745

- 10.3. Falling reception rolls have been reported across local authorities in London. Data from the PAN London Co-ordination shows that Hackney received 3% fewer on-time reception applications for September 2022 entry, when compared to 2021. The reasons cited for falling school rolls are 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. Data from Hackney's January 2022 reception school census (2021/22 academic year) shows 2398 reception children on roll with 3035 places available, giving rise to 637 surplus reception places (21%).

- 10.4. Low school rolls can impact on the efficient running of schools and in some cases threaten their financial stability. Over recent years, action has been taken to temporarily reduce the Planned Admission Number (PAN) in some schools by 'capping' (a temporary measure which limits the number of reception places) in some schools. This measure has also been used in conjunction with permanent PAN reductions of 120 places across 4 schools in 2019; De Beauvoir, Gainsborough, Halley House and Harrington Hill. Further permanent reductions are planned in 2022 and 2023 as shown in table 6 below. Reductions can occur for a number of reasons.

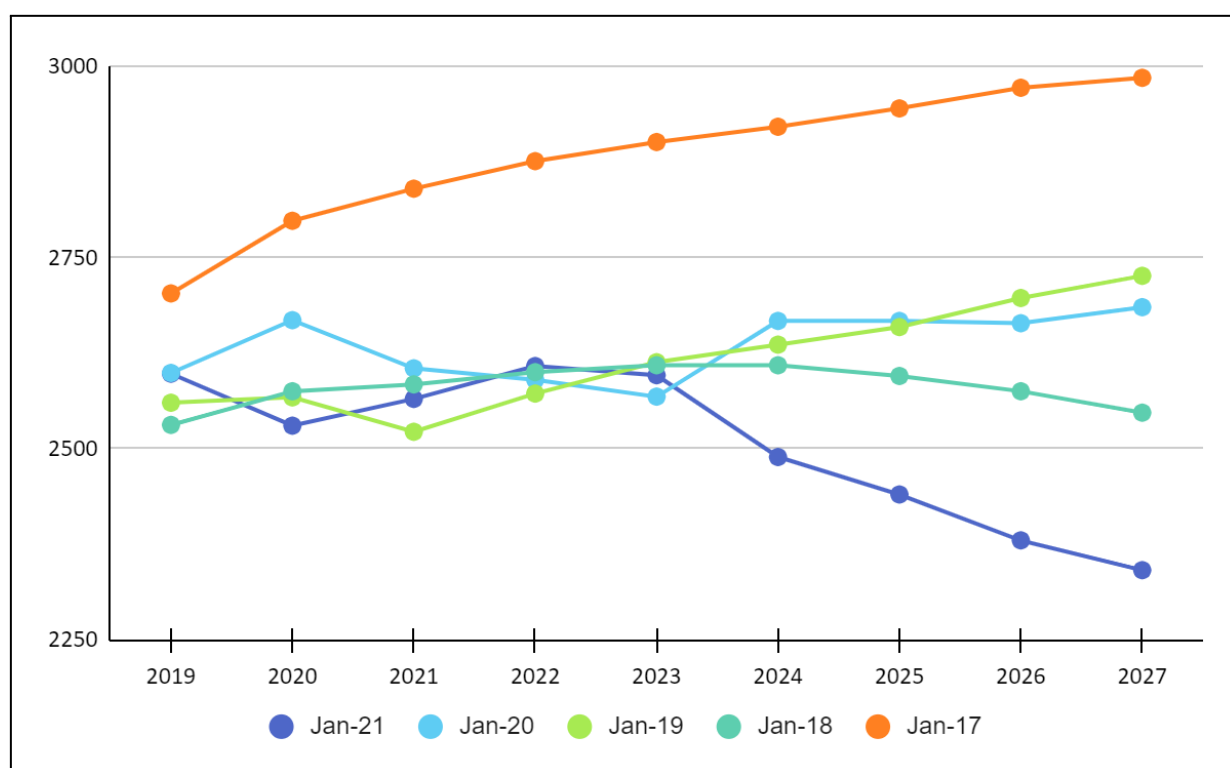
Table 6. Permanent PAN reductions in 2022/23 and 2023/24

2022/23	2023/24
Harrington Hill 30 (reducing from 60) Gayhurst 60 (reducing from 75) Mandeville 45 (reducing from 60) Randal Cremer 45 (reducing from 60) Thomas Fairchild 30 (reducing from 60) St Dominic's 30 (reducing from 60) Total reception places to be removed = 135	Gainsborough 30 (reducing from 60) Daubeney 60 (reducing from 90) Mossbourne Parkside 30 (reducing from 60) Sir Thomas Abney 30 (reducing from 60) Total reception places to be removed = 120

10.5. Primary projections based on January 2021 census data

- 10.5.1. The school roll projections compiled by the GLA (see Diagram 1 below), shows the difference between projections data showing reception demand from January 2017 census based projections to January 2021 census based projections.

Diagram 1. Comparison of GLA projections for 2019-2027 Reception place demand, based on Jan 2017 - Jan 2021 census



10.5.2. The data above shows that the latest set of projections based on the January 2021 census deviates in a strong downward trajectory from 2024 onwards, when compared to all the other data sets. At the time of writing, GLA projections based on January 2022 have not yet been received, but they are likely to show a continued downward trend in the predicted demand for reception places.

10.5.3. Further school organisation changes are being considered for the 2024/25 academic year as part of the Education Directorate's Education & Sufficiency Strategy. A governance structure for the strategy has been implemented which will see officers and members from across the Council briefed on the issues facing many schools with falling rolls and options for future planning.

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 added. 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 7 below shows the most recent secondary projections using the January 2022 census.

Table 7. Secondary projections based on January 2022 census

The table below shows the projected number of children projected to require Yr 7 places in future years based on the January 2022 census. The projected number of surplus places are reflected in the shaded columns in the table below.

Cohort and academic year	Year of secondary transfer	No. of pupils on roll (Jan 22 census)	86% of cohort plus 330 pupils from out borough schools that gain places at Hackney schools	Total Yr 7 secondary school places	plus 70 (over allocated Yr7 places)	No. of projected Yr 7 surplus places	Projected Yr 7 FE surplus
Year 6 cohort 21/22	Sep-22	2,583	2502	2559	2629	128	4
Year 5	Sep 23	2,522	2443	2559	2629	186	6
Year 4	Sep 24	2,432	2359	2559	2629	270	9
Year 3	Sep 25	2,397	2305	2559	2629	324	11
Year 2	Sep 26	2,450	2366	2559	2629	263	9
Year 1	Sep 27	2,498	2375	2559	2629	254	8
Reception cohort 2021/22	Sep 28	2,398	2262	2559	2629	367	12

11.2. Table 7 above shows that surplus Yr 7 places are predicted every year for the foreseeable future. There are currently 2559 Year 7 places available across Hackney, however this number increases to 2627 with the overallocation of Y7 places by some schools which seeks to ensure they are full at the beginning of the school term.

11.3. The data shows that in the absence of Year 7 PAN reductions, the number of surplus places (if schools continue to over allocate), is as follows; 186 (equivalent to 6FE) in 2023, 270 (equivalent to 9FE in 2024, and 324 (equivalent to 11FE) in 2025, before reducing to 263 surplus Yr7 places in 2026 and 254 in 2027.

11.4. As outlined in 10.5.3 above, the Education Estates and Sufficiency Strategy sets out the priorities for education provision in Hackney over the next 10 years and aims to provide a clear review of our current sufficiency and how our educational estate can support this together with a gap analysis of provision that we will require over the next five to ten years.