CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRENT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FOR 2025/2026 ENTRY

November 2023

Introduction

1. In accordance with the School Admission (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 the admission authorities for schools located in the London Borough of Brent are required to consult where changes are proposed to admission arrangements. A consultation period must run for a minimum of 6 weeks and take place between 1 October and 31 January of the year before those arrangements are to apply.

2. This consultation starts on **Friday 17th November 2023**, will end on **Thursday 4th January 2024**, and applies to admission to the academic year from September 2025 until August 2026.

3. Brent Council is the admission authority for 30 community primary schools in the borough. These are indicated below with their proposed Published Admission Number (PAN) for 2025/26 Admissions.

Community Primary Schools	**PAN for 2025/26 academic year**
Anson Primary School	52
Barham Primary School	120
Brentfield Primary School	90
Byron Court Primary School	150
Carlton Vale Infant School	60
Chalkhill Primary School	60
Donnington Primary School	30
Elsley Primary School	120
Fryent Primary School	**90**
Harlesden Primary School	60
Kingsbury Green Primary School	90
Leopold Primary School	120
Lyon Park Primary School	120
Malorees Infant School	60
Mitchell Brook Primary School	**60**
Mora Primary School	60
Mount Stewart Infant School	90
Mount Stewart Junior School	90
Newfield Primary School	60
Northview Primary School	30
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	60
Park Lane Primary School	60

Preston Park Primary School	120
Roe Green Infant School	120
Roe Green Junior School	120
Salusbury Primary School	90
Stonebridge Primary School	90
Uxendon Manor Primary School	90
Wembley Primary School	120
Wykeham Primary School	60

Proposed changes

4. There are two proposed changes to the current admission arrangements:

    1) The reduction of the Published Admission Number at Fryent Primary School from 120 to 90; and

    2) The reduction of the Published Admission Number at Mitchell Brook Primary School from 90 to 60.

5. Other minor drafting changes have been made to the full admission arrangements text which do not require consultation, such as updates to the dates throughout the document.

The reduction of the Published Admission Number for Fryent Primary School

6. Fryent Primary School is a four-form entry primary school located in Primary Planning Area 1.

7. The school was established as a three-form entry school but was reduced to a two-form entry school in 2003 due to falling demand. In 2012, the school was expanded to four forms of entry at a time of rising demand.

8. Demand for places at Fryent Primary School is lower than the full capacity of the school. Although 120 places are made available each year for a place in the Reception cohort, demand for the school has not exceeded 90 places since before 2015.

9. In order to maximise use of the spare capacity, an Additionally Resourced Provision was established in the school in 2017. The ARP now utilises the spare accommodation of the school.

10. Reducing the PAN will normalise the typical operating approach of the school and will ensure that only a maximum of 90 places will be offered for Reception from 2025. If the PAN remains at 120 and more places than 90 are offered, this could create operational difficulties for the school as it would have to reclaim some capacity from the ARP to establish an additional mainstream classroom.

11. Primary Planning Area 1 operates with a small surplus of places in most year groups, with a small deficit in some year groups. Projections indicate this is likely to remain the case until 2026/27, after which there will be a small surplus in all year groups in the following year. There is additional capacity in neighbouring planning areas which

could meet any demand beyond the number of places available. If the local authority is unable to make an in-year offer of a place to a child who needs a school within a reasonable distance, it can utilise the Fair Access protocol to make an offer at a school that is already oversubscribed.

The reduction of the Published Admission Number for Mitchell Brook Primary School

12. Mitchell Brook Primary School is a three-form entry school located in Primary Planning Area 4. The planning area has an excessive surplus of capacity in the primary phase, and the council is implementing a number of measures to reduce this capacity.

13. The latest pupil place planning projections indicate that removing this capacity in the planning area will still leave enough places to meet demand, with at least a 5% surplus available at any time.

14. The Senior Leadership Team at the school have expressed an interest in supporting the Local Authority in managing the supply of places by suggesting a reduction of their PAN. This would support the school to continue to deliver suitable and effective education by:

    - Reducing the number of pupils attending the school which will ease pressure on constrained areas, such as hallways, dining area and the hall.
    - Maximising budget opportunities for the school by allowing it to operate at maximum effectiveness. The school is popular, but not full at three-forms of entry. Reduction of the school to two forms of entry would lead to the school to be full in each new year of entry, based on historical demand patterns.

15. In the context of the measures available to reduce school place capacity in the area, the local authority considers this proposal to have the lowest negative impact, as it is does not affect any pupils currently attending the school.

16. Reduction of the PAN at the school may limit the likelihood of some parents receiving one of their higher preference schools, where they have chosen Mitchell Brook Primary School but are not ranked highly enough to receive an offer if it is oversubscribed.

17. If the PAN is reduced and Mitchell Brook becomes an oversubscribed school, there may be an increase in appeals for the school. To put this in context, Uxendon Manor Primary School reduced its PAN in 2020. It has become oversubscribed in the Reception cohort since 2021, and to-date, 4 appeals have been lodged.

18. In mitigation to this, there is a wide selection of schools available in the planning area and in the surrounding planning areas that are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. The local authority would still be meeting its obligation to ensure that sufficient schools for providing education are available in its area (Education Act 1996).

19. The building capacity of the school would remain in place and would be available if there was a future increase in demand in the area that required an increase in the number of places.

Feedback

20. The council invites feedback in writing on the proposals outlined below. Feedback should be submitted online via Brent Council's consultation portal haveyoursay.brent.gov.uk

21. Responses can also be submitted by post using a response form which is available on request by calling Brent School Admissions team on 020 8937 3110.

22. Proposed admission arrangements will apply only to those community primary schools listed above to which the Local Authority is the Admission Authority. The full proposed admission arrangements for 2025/26 accompany this consultation paper.