**Pan-London Admissions Scheme 2015 – background briefing**

16 April 2015

For the fifth year running, London’s admissions system has enabled more parents to be allocated a primary school of their preference by a fairer distribution of available offers.

This year, 103,387 pupils applied for primary school places through the Pan-London Admissions Scheme, an increase of 0.9 per cent as the pressure on places continues to grow.

Eighty-one (80.97) per cent of pupils in London received an offer from their first preference school. Ninety-three (92.59) per cent of children got a place at one of their top three schools.

Overall, 95.53 per cent were allocated a school of their preference. This means 99,059 applicants got a place at a school of their preference this year, compared to 97,958 last year.

Eighty-eight per cent of applications were made online this year – up by nine per cent compared to last year.

 **What was the pan-London Admissions scheme introduced?**

Primary school places in London have been co-ordinated through the [Pan-London Admissions scheme](https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app) since 2011. The aims of the scheme are to simplify the application process for primary school admissions and ensure a fairer distribution of places available across London.

The Pan-London Admissions Board has overall responsibility for the management of the scheme. The board’s membership includes representatives from the Association of London Directors of Children’s Services, the London Inter Authority Admissions Group and the London Grid for Learning. The chair of the board is Helen Jenner.

**How does the scheme work?**

In London, parents fill in a single application form even if they are applying to schools in more than one borough. They can put down up to six schools in order of preference and submit the form to the borough where they live.

Their application is then considered under the equal preference system. This means that the admission authority of each school prioritises all the preferences in the order set out in its published admission criteria, without reference to the preference order listed by parents.

If more than one school can offer the place, the local authority will offer whichever one of those schools was listed highest by the parent.

Every time a multiple offer is eliminated an offer can be made to another pupil who would otherwise have received a less satisfactory offer or no offer at all.

Applications for entry in September 2015 closed on 15 January 2015. Parents could apply online or use a paper form.

Prior to 2011, parents had to fill out separate application forms for each local authority which handled admissions for their preferred schools. Neither the offers, nor the dates on which the offers were made, were co-ordinated between authorities.

**How do parents find out which school they have been offered?**

On Thursday 16 April (National Primary Offer Day) parents in London will be informed of their primary school place offer. Parents will be notified of their offer in accordance with the method they chose during the application process such as email, text or through the ParentComms:Mobile app. Parents are advised to wait until they receive their notification before logging on to the Pan-London eAdmissions website.

All parents will also receive a letter in the post with full details of the outcome of their application, and what to do next.. Letters will be posted by first class mail on 16 April and parents should receive them the next day (April 17).

Parents are advised to wait until they receive their letter before logging onto the Pan-London eAdmissions website to respond to their outcome.

**Why do some boroughs offer more pupils their first choice than other boroughs?**

London is unique in that nowhere else in the country has such a large volume of applications to so many schools. The capital’s dense population means there is always a lot of movement across local authority boundaries. This is reflected in the statistics. While some boroughs might not be offering as many first preferences to their residents as other authorities do, they may well be meeting a high proportion of first preferences for pupils from neighbouring boroughs.

For example, a school located near the border of two boroughs, which uses geographical distance from home to school as one of the criteria for its admissions policy, may take more pupils from a neighbouring borough than from its own borough. Boroughs within travelling distance of a number of very popular selective schools or denominational schools will have a lower percentage of resident pupils receiving their first preference because of the higher level of competition for places at those schools.
 **It’s been widely reported that London is addressing a significant rise in demand for primary school places – what is the situation?**

London Councils’ published its [Do the Maths](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/children-and-young-people/education-and-school-places/do-maths-2014) report last year. It sets out the latest analysis of London’s primary and secondary school places challenge.

Key points are:

* London has a higher increase in pupil numbers at all school ages with forecasts showing pupils growth rate twice that of any other region.
* London Councils estimated that between 2013/14 and 2017/18 a combined total of 133,000 new primary and secondary school places would be needed. Of which, 112,158 places are primary places.
* Two-thirds of London boroughs will have to increase their primary school places by more than 10 per cent between 2013/14 and 2017/18 to meet demand.
* Existing spare capacity in many primary schools has already been used to meet demand. It will become increasingly difficult to create new places without sufficient funding.
* London boroughs have had to fund 48 per cent of new school places from their own resources between 2010 to 2016 – equivalent to £1.86billion – due to government funding not meeting the cost of new school places in London.

**What can be done to increase the number of places available?**

London Councils is calling on government to allocate sufficient funding to local authorities to fully meet identified need through basic need allocations.

In order to do this the Department for Education would need to:

* Recognise the unique challenges and higher costs faced in the capital and fund the full cost of creating new school places in London.
* Address the higher costs of special schools and SEN provision by providing appropriate funding levels within basic need
* Ensure that any new schools are prioritised in areas of basic need for school places

**What happens next?**

Parents who have not been allocated a place at one of their chosen schools have either been offered an alternative or will shortly be advised of their options.

Unsuccessful applicants can be placed on a waiting list in the order of the school’s oversubscription criteria. Places will be filled from the list as vacancies arise over the coming weeks.

Parents who are dissatisfied with the outcome may appeal to an independent panel.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Local Authority** | **% First preference offers** | **% Second preference offers** | **% Third preference offers** | **% Fourth preference offers** | **% Fifth preference offers** | **% Sixth prefence offers** |
| **Barking & Dagenham**  | 90.64% | 4.85% | 2.09% | 0.42% | 0.11% | 0.08% |
| **Barnet**  | 79.95% | 7.35% | 3.56% | 2.04% | 0.93% | 0.52% |
| **Bexley**  | 85.22% | 7.14% | 2.79% | 1.21% | 0.22% | 0.31% |
| **Brent**  | 80.44% | 9.51% | 3.14% | 1.15% | 0.49% | 0.23% |
| **Bromley**  | 81.62% | 8.25% | 3.16% | 1.98% | 0.83% | 0.70% |
| **Camden**  | 75.01% | 7.52% | 3.92% | 2.04% | 1.50% | 0.91% |
| **City of London**  | 78.13% | 12.50% | 3.13% | 3.13% | 3.13% | 0.00% |
| **Croydon**  | 82.26% | 8.40% | 3.56% | 1.60% | 0.61% | 0.55% |
| **Ealing**  | 82.86% | 8.37% | 3.06% | 1.27% | 0.51% | 0.47% |
| **Enfield**  | 85.05% | 6.99% | 2.50% | 1.28% | 0.61% | 0.31% |
| **Greenwich**  | 77.69% | 8.10% | 3.45% | 1.96% | 0.63% | 0.24% |
| **Hackney**  | 80.73% | 8.73% | 3.61% | 1.59% | 0.61% | 0.47% |
| **Hammersmith and Fulham** | 73.86% | 12.23% | 4.10% | 3.02% | 1.28% | 0.81% |
| **Haringey**  | 84.38% | 6.98% | 2.48% | 1.57% | 0.51% | 0.71% |
| **Harrow** | 80.23% | 9.79% | 3.33% | 1.54% | 0.61% | 0.48% |
| **Havering** | 86.76% | 6.72% | 2.15% | 0.82% | 0.20% | 0.03% |
| **Hillingdon**  | 85.16% | 7.29% | 3.24% | 1.02% | 0.39% | 0.15% |
| **Hounslow**  | 78.53% | 10.82% | 4.23% | 2.16% | 0.81% | 0.45% |
| **Islington**  | 76.41% | 10.21% | 4.04% | 2.36% | 1.30% | 0.53% |
| **Kensington and Chelsea**  | 58.99% | 11.78% | 5.15% | 4.00% | 3.05% | 1.26% |
| **Kingston upon Thames**  | 82.00% | 7.67% | 2.52% | 1.73% | 0.54% | 0.40% |
| **Lambeth**  | 82.23% | 9.09% | 3.44% | 1.24% | 0.87% | 0.33% |
| **Lewisham** | 75.11% | 9.46% | 4.03% | 2.31% | 1.29% | 0.89% |
| **Merton** | 81.42% | 6.93% | 3.05% | 1.42% | 0.80% | 0.62% |
| **Newham**  | 88.11% | 6.51% | 2.25% | 0.56% | 0.21% | 0.06% |
| **Redbridge**  | 86.00% | 7.05% | 2.27% | 0.95% | 0.49% | 0.41% |
| **Richmond upon Thames** | 81.11% | 6.80% | 2.63% | 1.13% | 0.65% | 0.69% |
| **Southwark**  | 79.83% | 8.71% | 3.22% | 1.95% | 0.99% | 0.76% |
| **Sutton**  | 84.06% | 7.65% | 2.66% | 1.46% | 0.52% | 0.34% |
| **Tower Hamlets**  | 85.20% | 6.40% | 3.18% | 1.06% | 0.55% | 0.21% |
| **Waltham Forest** | 85.21% | 7.86% | 3.02% | 0.72% | 0.45% | 0.16% |
| **Wandsworth**  | 77.45% | 9.09% | 4.92% | 1.84% | 1.13% | 0.78% |
| **Westminster**  | 80.29% | 8.78% | 4.15% | 1.73% | 0.62% | 0.55% |
| **Average** | **80.97%** | **8.35%** | **3.27%** | **1.64%** | **0.83%** | **0.47%** |