



Summary of Proposed Changes to Hillingdon Community School Admission Arrangements 2028/29

This document provides a summary of the proposed amendments to the London Borough of Hillingdon's Community School Admission Arrangements for the 2028/29 academic year and explains the reasons for the proposed changes. It should be read alongside the full consultation document.

Why Are Changes Being Proposed?

The admission arrangements are due for statutory review and consultation. Since the current arrangements were introduced, Hillingdon has experienced a sustained decline in Reception applications and an increase in surplus school places across many parts of the borough. Admissions data shows that many community schools are no longer oversubscribed and are operating below their Published Admission Number (PAN).

The proposed changes are intended to simplify admission arrangements, improve transparency and consistency, reflect current patterns of school place demand and ensure continued compliance with the School Admissions Code.

Summary of Proposed Changes

1. Simplification of Community School Oversubscription Criteria

The current community school arrangements contain separate oversubscription criteria for:

- Sibling applicants living within a school's distance priority radius.
- Sibling applicants living outside a school's distance priority radius.
- Distance applicants living within a school's distance priority radius.
- Distance applicants living outside a school's distance priority radius.

Proposed Change

The proposed arrangements would remove the distinction between applicants living within and outside a school's distance priority radius. Sibling applicants would be considered within a single sibling criterion, and all remaining applicants would be prioritised according to straight-line distance from the school. The detailed oversubscription criteria are set out in the full consultation document.

Why Is This Change Proposed?

The distance priority radius arrangements were introduced when demand for school places was significantly higher. Recent admissions data demonstrates that:

- Most community schools are no longer heavily oversubscribed.
- Maintaining separate distance categories adds complexity without delivering significant benefit.
- Families benefit when siblings attend the same school through reduced travel, childcare pressures, and improved family stability.

The proposed change would create a simpler and easier-to-understand admissions system while continuing to allocate places fairly.

2. Strengthening the Medical and Social Criteria

Currently priority may be given where a child, or a member of their immediate family, has a medical or social need requiring attendance at a particular school.

Proposed Change

The medical and social criterion would be strengthened through clearer evidential requirements and additional guidance regarding the exceptional circumstances in which priority may be granted. The aim is to improve consistency, transparency and fairness whilst ensuring the criterion remains available for children and families with a genuine need to attend a particular school.

Why Is This Change Proposed?

The medical and social criterion is intended for genuinely exceptional circumstances.

The proposed changes would:

- Improve consistency and fairness.
- Reduce subjective decision-making.
- Provide greater clarity to parents.
- Ensure priority is reserved for applicants with evidenced exceptional need for a particular school.

These changes would not remove access to medical or social priority but provide greater clarity regarding when it applies.

3. Clarification of the Child of Staff Criterion

The child of staff criterion would be updated to reflect the full provisions permitted under the School Admissions Code where the member of staff has been employed at the school for at least two years or has been recruited to a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

4. Updated Address Verification and Fraud Prevention Measures

The arrangements would be updated to provide greater clarity regarding home address definitions, shared care arrangements and address verification requirements, alongside strengthened measures to prevent fraudulent applications and ensure places are allocated fairly.

5. Removal of Frithwood Primary School Nodal Point Priority

The criterion was introduced at a time of greater pressure on local school places. As Frithwood Primary School is no longer regularly oversubscribed and there is greater availability of places across the area, it is proposed that this provision be removed.

6. Distance Measurement Point Changes

Following the recent amalgamations of Harefield Infant and Junior School and Whitehall School, it is proposed that the distance measurement points used to calculate home-to-school distances be updated to reflect the new school arrangements and ensure the distance criterion continues to be applied fairly and consistently.

Expected Benefits of the Proposed Changes

The proposed changes are intended to:

- simplify admission arrangements for families;
- improve transparency and consistency in decision-making;
- reflect current patterns of school place demand across the borough;
- support families through a simplified sibling criterion;
- strengthen safeguards against fraudulent applications; and
- ensure continued compliance with the School Admissions Code.