

Response to feedback received during consultation for 2024/25 policy

Thank you to those who provided feedback. Twenty six responses were received during the consultation via the survey, and one by other avenues (e.g. emails).

The feedback received was mainly about the Published Admissions Number (PAN) changes, removal of Year 10 entry coordinated admission for 2024/25 entry and the implementation of a singular waiting list for in-year admissions for 2024/25 academic year.

PANs

In regards to the reduction of PAN for the eight primary schools, there were 5 responses that supported the reduction in PAN, 21 responses did not support the reduction. Of the responses that did not support the reduction, there were comments around the need for amalgamations or school closures for the undersubscribed schools. There were also concerns regarding the reduction for Jessop and Subourne Primary School due to them being oversubscribed. In support of the reduction in PAN, one response outlined 'the steps seem appropriate in context of falling roll.' Another response indicated they were a parent at Paxton Primary School and supported the reduction citing that it would support the school financially.

The Norwood School Year 10 entry coordinated admission for 2024/25 entry

In relation to the removal of The Norwood School Year 10 entry coordinated admission for 2024/25 entry, 54% (13 responses) were neither in favour nor against the proposal, 12% (3 responses) were in favour with the remaining 33% (8 responses) against the proposal.

Singular waiting list for in-year admissions with a closing date of 31 August for all Lambeth community schools

With regard to the implementing of singular waiting list for in-year admissions with a closing date of 31 August for all Lambeth community schools, there were 40% (10 responses) were neither in favour nor against the proposal, 24% (6 responses) were in favour with the remaining 36% (9 responses) against the proposal. A person in favour of this proposal wrote 'Would be better to have your child on one waiting list for all schools rather than individually. But would be easier for parents if they did not have to keep reapplying each year'.

None of the respondents commented on the Fair Access Protocol element of the proposed policy.

Due to small amount of responses in relation to the amount that are going through the admission process and analysis undertaken prior to the consultation, Lambeth School Admissions Team do not feel that that concerns raised by the respondents regarding the reduction of PANs or any other element should prevent the 2024/25 policy from being formally agreed. Concerns around parental preference were not supported by admissions data that showed that parents receiving their first preference for reception places rose from 86% in 2020 to 89.9% in 2022 despite previous reductions in PAN in 2022. Overall there were 340 vacancies in 2022 across reception on National Offer Day illustrating the surplus in spaces. Analysis has been undertaken into the demand for school places across the borough and at town centre level. With the proposed reductions there remains enough spaces for the expected demand.