

Response to feedback received during consultation for 2025/26 policy

Thank you to those who provided feedback. Eight responses were received during the consultation via the survey.

The feedback received was mainly about the Published Admissions Number (PAN) changes, with comment given regarding the admission arrangements for voluntary aided schools and multiple birth.

PANs

In regard, to the reduction of PAN for the two primary schools, there was 1 response that supported the reduction in PAN, 7 responses did not support the reduction. Of the responses that did not support the reduction, there were comments around the need for the closure of other undersubscribed Lambeth schools in lieu of the stated schools. There were also concerns regarding oversubscription of both schools resulting from the reduction of PAN and the impact this may have on parental preference and the local community consequently. As well as concerns of reduced funding, and the difficulties around staffing and teaching of mixed year groups. In support of the reduction in PAN, the one response sets out 'if the birthrate is declining, then there is no other option other than to reduce numbers or to amalgamate or close schools.'

Due to the 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 the concerns raised by the respondents regarding the reduction of PAN or any other element should prevent the 2025/26 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 87.7% in 2023 despite previous reductions in PAN in 2023. Overall, there were 633 vacancies in 2023 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.