

Barnet Children's Partnership Board Report

Title: Planning for new school places 2018/19 to 2022/23 - update

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Service / Dept: Barnet Education and Learning Service

Report to be presented by: Alison Dawes/Ben Thomas

1. SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the school places delivery programme, a comparison of the five-year forecast as projected in September 2017 to the actual demand that has emerged, and the shape of future school place planning.

2. CONSULTATION

Schools are engaged with the strategic approach to planning school places through the School Organisation and Place Planning Board (SPB), which last convened on 7 October 2020. The SOPPB is attended by the Council, Barnet Education and Learning Service and headteacher representatives. In addition, briefings are provided through the termly Director's meetings with headteachers and chairs of governors. For individual projects that involve the expansion of an existing school or the establishment of a new school or a reduction to a school's published admission number, there is a statutory requirement for a wider, formal consultation.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children's Partnership Board are asked to note and comment on the report, which will then be submitted to the Children's, Education and Safeguarding Committee.

4. BACKGROUNDS DOCUMENTS

- Children's Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee Education Strategy 2018/19- 2022/23, 18 September 2017
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006
- The Education Act 1996

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 In September 2017, a report to the former Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee (CELS) outlined the five-year forecast, from 2018/19 to 2022/23, together with a summary of the work already undertaken on the Council's commissioning strategy for ensuring sufficiency of school places for children and young people living in the borough. The duty for local authorities to act as commissioners of school places is laid out in *The Education and Inspections Act 2006*.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on the school places delivery programme, a comparison of the five-year forecast as projected in September 2017 to the actual demand that has emerged, and the shape of future school place planning based on the latest round of school roll projections.
- 1.3 The report focuses on the provision of additional primary and secondary school places, including places to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities. Meeting the need for additional early years places is driven by the Early Years strategy which promotes and champions new provision across the private, voluntary and independent providers sectors as well as in the school sector. However, where appropriate, additional early years places are provided as part of the growth in primary school places covered in this report.

2. CONTEXT

- 2.1 Barnet is London's most populous borough, with an estimated **population of 402,700**, almost a quarter of which is made up of children and young people aged 0-19 years. Between 2010 and 2018, **Barnet saw a surge in pupil numbers by approximately 18%**, a rising trend that was seen across London. Over the next decade, Barnet's population is expected to grow further in areas where largescale regeneration is already underway: Brent Cross, Colindale and West Hendon.
- 2.2 Local Authorities have a statutory duty under *Section 14 of the Education Act 1996* to ensure sufficiency of school places for its resident children. Failure to fulfil this obligation carries serious consequences, including adverse publicity and legal challenge.
- 2.3 School place planning work has been informed by the Greater London Authority's (GLA) school roll projections which essentially incorporate housing development and pupil roll data provided by the borough, together with demographic data provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
- 2.4 Whilst GLA forecasts are a good indicator of future demand, the statistical model does not provide a definitive position. Maintaining a balanced supply of school places is a complex task as trends in demand are driven by a range of variable factors, some of which are acutely sensitive to unforeseen changes at

local, national and global level. Looking ahead, there are several uncertainties that are likely to impact on the anticipated demand, such as:

- the unprecedented disruption to the education system as a result of the **Covid-19 crisis** and the uncertainty as to how the fallout will impact on future school place demand
- the ongoing uncertainty around **Brexit**
- changing population, particularly as a result of recent changes in **EU / Non-EU migration** patterns and **birth rates**
- large-scale **regeneration** across the borough and unknown child yield from new housing developments
- the housing market volatility at these unprecedented times, with the mini boom recently experienced as a result of Government initiatives, on the one hand, and rising unemployment on the other
- changes in **parental perception** and **Ofsted ratings** of Barnet schools
- popularity of Barnet schools, place planning in neighbouring LAs and **cross-border movement**.

3. MEASURING SUCCESS

- 3.1 So far, the Council has made sound judgements in predicting demand and planning for additional capacity at both the primary and secondary level. The delivery of additional school places in a measured and timely way has enabled the Council to allocate a school place to every child who has needed one at both the normal points of entry and movers-in, in contrast to a shortfall experienced by most other North London boroughs during the peak of the surge.
- 3.2 Since 2017, a **further 2,460 mainstream** places have been provided in Barnet, making a total of over **12,000 additional places** in the last decade. Over 5,800 of these additional places have been created in the primary phase, excluding 630 former independent places across three primary schools that have joined Barnet's maintained sector. In 2022/23, a new three-form entry primary school is expected to open in Colindale, delivering a further 630 mainstream places by 2028/29, when the school has reached full maturity.
- 3.3 Whilst these investment programmes have ensured sufficient high-quality mainstream provision to meet the anticipated demand over the next decade, the focus is now on creating additional Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision, where demand has been rising and a growing shortfall is anticipated.

- 3.4 Since 2017, Barnet has seen a downward trend in the primary demand, largely as a result of a London-wide fall in birth-rate. A parallel increase has been seen in secondary demand as aging primary bulges are transferring across to the secondary phase.
- 3.5 Falling primary rolls is a concern shared by schools across London. An over-supply of school places presents its own problems, particularly for one-form entry schools where the financial challenge is more acute and benefits from economies of scale do not apply. Since 2017, the Council has supported a small number of primary schools that have experienced financial pressure and struggled with effective staff planning due to falling pupil numbers. A range of measures has helped to tackle this issue, including reduction in published admission numbers, temporary capping and re-design of surplus capacity to create additional SEND provision, thereby alleviating pressure in this category.
- 3.6 Whilst the statutory duty to ensure a sufficient supply of school places falls to the local authority, the ability to directly control supply is impacted by the growth in academies and free schools. For example, the council has no jurisdiction with respect to the decision-making process that leads an Academy to expand and all newly commissioned schools in the borough are free schools (academies). Within this complexity, the council has taken a measured and balanced approach in utilising its basic needs grant to ensure that its statutory duty is met.

4. EDUCATION STRATEGY

- 4.1 The local strategic context for the commissioning and delivery of new school places in the borough is contained within **Barnet's Education Strategy**, developed in partnership with schools and approved by the former CELS, on the 18 July 2017. The Education Strategy ran from 2017 to 2020 and is currently being updated. It sets out the shared strategic vision for education in Barnet:

'Resilient schools – resilient communities: We want Barnet to be the most successful place for high quality education where excellent school standards result in all children achieving their best, being safe and happy and able to progress to become successful adults'

- 4.2 In order to achieve this, the strategy sets out the shared mission to ensure that every child attends a good or outstanding school; **the attainment and progress of children in Barnet schools is within the top 10%** nationally and that the progress of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils is accelerated in order to close the gap between them and their peers.

5. NEW BARNET SCHOOL PLACES PROVIDED SINCE 2017

- 5.1 The Council has commissioned new primary and secondary school places through a combination of different routes ensuring that decisions are centred around cost-effectiveness and high-quality provision. This has primarily involved **permanent expansion** of existing schools and the **academy presumption**

route, whereby the Council has invited proposals for new academy schools. In addition, the Council has ‘supported’ **free school proposals** where the need for new places has been identified.

5.2 **Expanding existing schools:** Expansion is often the more cost-effective option funded by the Council from the Basic Need Grant or Special Provision Capital Funding for Additionally Resourced Provision and SEND places. The majority of the new places in Barnet have so far been provided through working with headteachers and governing bodies of successful primary schools that have been accredited with ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted rating. Since 2009, the primary expansion programme has delivered a total of **3,136 new mainstream** places across 17 primary schools. In the secondary phase, 14 schools have expanded to provide a total of **2,390 additional mainstream places**, over the last decade. The potential for expansion reduces once schools on larger sites have been expanded.

5.3 **New Schools (including free schools):** New schools in Barnet have been funded through the DfE’s Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). In the last three years the DfE has approved five new free schools in Barnet, as follows:

- **Saracens High School** (opened in September 2018, mainstream, 11-18 years);
- **Ark Pioneer Academy** (opened in September 2019, mainstream, 11-18 years);
- **Kisharon Free School** (opened in August 2018, Special School, 4-19 years);
- **Saracens Primary School** (planned opening in September 2022, mainstream 4-11 years);
- **The Windmill** (Special School, 5-18 years, site under negotiation).

5.4 **Independent schools becoming maintained:** Since 2018 a further former-independent primary school joined Barnet’s maintained sector as a voluntary-aided school, making a total of five since 2011. Independent schools becoming state-maintained can provide additional places if the school expands on entering the state-maintained sector to take additional places over and above places already provided or if the catchment area of the school shifts to focus more on in-borough pupils.

6. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY TO DATE

6.1 Largescale investment in new school places has seen over 12,000 new permanent places created in Barnet, since 2009, as outlined in Table 1 below:

Table 1. *New permanent primary school places in Barnet since 2009*

First year of additional permanent capacity	School	No. of new Reception places	Type of project	No. of additional places at full growth
2009	St Catherine's RC Parkfield	15	Expansion	105
		15	Expansion	105
2010	Colindale	30	Expansion	210
2011	Beit Schvidler Jewish	30	Entering the VA sector	N/A
	Etz Chaim Jewish	30	New Free School	210
2012	Broadfields	30	Expansion	210
	Rimon Jewish	30	New Free School	210
2013	Alma Jewish	30	New Free School	210
	Blessed Dominic Catholic	30	Expansion	210
	Brunswick Park	30	Expansion	210
	Martin	30	Expansion	210
	Menorah Foundation Jewish	30	Expansion	210
	Sacks Morasha Jewish	30	Entering the VA sector	N/A
	Moss Hall	30	Expansion	210
	The Orion	30	Re-provision and Expansion	210
	St Mary's and St John's CE	30	Expansion	210
2014	Beis Yaakov Jewish	28	Expansion	196
	Millbrook Park	60	New Academy	420
	The Orion	30	Expansion	210
2015	London Academy	60	New all-through provision	420
	Monkfrith	30	Expansion	210
	Watling Park	60	New free school	420
	St Joseph's RC Primary	30	Expansion	210
	Wren Academy	60	New all-through provision	420
2016	Ashmole Primary Free School	60	New free school	420
2017	Childs Hill	15	Expansion	105
	St Agnes Catholic	15	Expansion	105
2019	Noam Primary Jewish	30	Entering VA sector	N/A

Table 2: *New permanent secondary school places in Barnet since 2010*

First year of additional permanent capacity	School	No. of new Year Seven places	Type of project	No. of additional places at full growth (up to 6th form)
2010	East Barnet	10	Re-provision and expansion	50
	Jewish Community Secondary School (JCoSS)	150	Entering the VA sector	750
2011	Jewish Community Secondary School (JCoSS)	30	Expansion	150
	Wren Academy	18	Expansion	90
2012	The Compton	30	Expansion	150
2013	Archer Academy	150	New Free School	750
	Christ College Finchley	30	Expansion	150
	St Andrew the Apostle Greek Catholic	150	New Free School	750
2014	Ashmole Academy	8	Expansion	40
	Hasmonean High Jewish	20	Expansion	100
	St Mary's and St John's CE	120	All through	600
2015	Copthall School	30	Expansion	150
	Finchley Catholic High	30	Expansion	150
2016	Menorah High	60	Entering the VA sector	300
2017	St Mary's & St John's CE	30	Expansion	300
	St James' Catholic High	30	Expansion 1	150
2018	Saracens High	150	New Free School	750
2019	Ark Pioneer Academy	180	New Free School	900
	St Michael's Catholic Grammar	32	Grammar school expansion	160
	St James' Catholic High	30	Expansion 2	150

7. CHANGES OBSERVED IN THE LAST THREE YEARS AND THE FUTURE NEED FOR SCHOOL PLACES

- 7.1 The Council continues to commission the GLA's school roll projection service, as do most other London boroughs. The biggest driver of projected future school rolls is the population projections for the schools' natural catchment areas. The underlying factors include the amount of development in the borough, births and migration. Each year the council's planning service provides the GLA with updated information on the number of residential units projected to be built in each of Barnet's wards over the following decade, incorporating local context to the model. To sense check these projections, the Council also analyses births by postcode area and through local intelligence. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) releases both mid-year international and internal migration figures by single year of age and gender at the end of June each year. The former is released as part of the mid-year components of change and the latter as part of the internal migration estimates series.
- 7.2 Analysis of trends in the mid-year estimate series, and comparison to administrative sources, suggests that since 2011, there has been an over estimation of the number of children aged 0-4 years, in London, as a whole, in the official data. The GLA believes that this is the result of underestimation of international out migration flows in the young population. Following this analysis, the GLA has taken the decision to revise the estimates of migration and population used as the basis for the latest round of Barnet's school roll projections, produced in May 2020.
- 7.3 Historically, the council has used a 3% margin to accommodate changes in pupil numbers due to a high demand for in-year places. However, since 2017 no uplift has been applied, in either the primary or secondary phase, in order to mitigate the risk of an inflated forecast at a time when population growth in London is receding and birth rates have fallen.

Primary phase:

- 7.4 In September 2017, GLA projections suggested the rate of growth in primary pupils over the next few years would be slightly slower than previously projected. This had already been reflected in the experience of the September 2017 admissions round when both in Barnet and across London, fewer than expected applications were received for entry into the Reception year. The **number of on-time applications for reception places in 2017/18 had fallen by 3.3% across London and nearly 8% in Barnet**, compared to the previous year; the first fall in over a decade. Conclusions on the reason for this fall could not be sensibly reached on one year's data.
- 7.5 Three years on, the downward trend has continued at a much slower rate and between **2017/18 and 2019/20 an overall decline of 8.4%** was seen in the number of on-time Reception applications in Barnet. In the last admissions round for places in Reception, 2020/21, the number of on-time applications rose by 2.6%, compared to the previous year. Once again, the Council is facing the

uncertainty of a shift in pattern and the sharp fall previously seen is fluctuating around the lower level.

- 7.6 Considerable variation is anticipated across the borough, with growth expected in Brent Cross/Cricklewood, Colindale and West Hendon but an overall decline across the rest of the borough. The DfE recommends a **surplus of 5%** to allow for in-year demand. This is particularly significant in Barnet, where approximately 45% of primary schools and 40% of secondary schools have faith character. The majority of Barnet's faith schools are over-subscribed which means that school choices are limited for families who do not practise the faith of the individual school or who prefer to send their children to a secular school. To put this in context, Graphs 1 to 7 below show the pupil forecast against the number of non-denominational school places, as well as the total number of school places available. This shows that non-denomination provision is well below the anticipated demand in all planning areas and projected surplus is likely to be lower than the forecasts indicate. The Council will however continue to support schools to manage reduced pupil numbers, where necessary.

Primary planning areas:

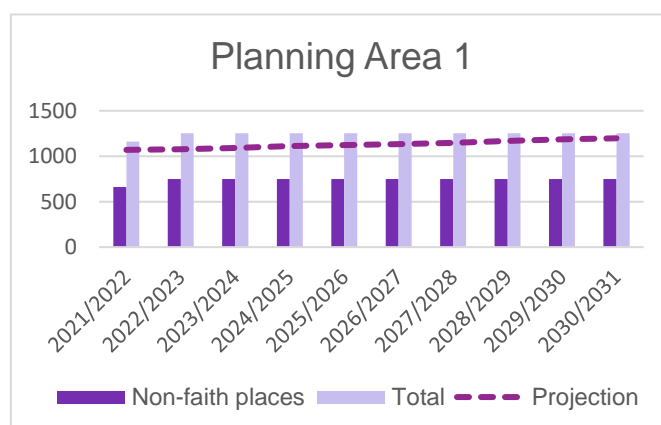
- 7.7 **Planning Area 1, Colindale, West Hendon, Burnt Oak & Hendon:** The investment in **Colindale School, The Orion, Blessed Dominic, St Mary's and St John's CE, Menorah Foundation, St Joseph's Catholic** and the **Watling Park** free school is helping to meet the current demand.
- 7.8 In 2017 GLA projections indicated a shortfall emerging from 2018-19, rising to a deficit of 4.9 forms of entry, by 2022/23. To help meet this need, plans were set in motion for the development of a new three form entry primary school on the Peel Centre site, in Colindale. **Saracen's Primary free school** was approved by Central Government to operate from this site. An education site had also been earmarked within the later phases of the West Hendon regeneration scheme for another new school.
- 7.9 Over the period 2017 to 2020, no additional provision has been delivered in Planning Area 1, other than the former independent **Noam Primary** joining the maintained sector. The additional one form of entry provided by Noam has enhanced Barnet's primary offer to the Jewish community in the borough. Menorah Foundation School reduced its published admission number by four places from September 2020, a total reduction of 28 by September 2026. No shortfall has been experienced and the latest round of GLA projections indicate that current and the planned provision of the Saracens Primary free school is sufficient to meet the anticipated demand for the next five years.
- 7.10 The 'surplus' projected in the table below includes 90 new places expected to be delivered by Saracens Primary, in 2022/23. The addition of these places is unlikely to bring about an over-supply for three significant reasons: i) the new school site is located within the heart of the Colindale regeneration area, ii) the increase in non-denominational places will provide more choice in an area

where approximately one-third of the total places available are 'closed' (i.e. restricted) to faith applicants and iii) the school is located on the border of Brent where there is some pressure for places and no current plans to increase primary provision. Additional primary provision through the West Hendon regeneration scheme may no longer be required but the position will be kept under review.

Table 3: *Updated Reception forecast in Planning Area 1*

Academic Year	GLA Pupil Projections (May 2020)	Places available	Shortfall / surplus - places	Shortfall / surplus forms of entry
2021-22	1070	1162	92	3.07
2022-23	1078	1252	174	5.8
2023-24	1091	1252	161	5.37
2024-25	1112	1252	140	4.67
2025-26	1123	1252	129	4.3

Graph 1. *Forecast shown against total available places and non-denominational places in Planning Area 1*



7.11 **Planning Area 2, Hale, Mill Hill, Edgware & Totteridge:** Additional places provided within this planning area at **Broadfields, Beit Schvidler, Etz Chaim, Millbrook Park** and **London Academy** have helped to meet the demand and ease the pressure experienced in neighbouring planning area 1.

7.12 Planning Area 2 has experienced the highest level of surplus places since 2017, when primary demand plummeted. This created particular financial difficulty for three community schools in planning area 2 (Dollis, Frith Manor and Edgware Primaries) and the Council agreed to support each school with their proposal to reduce their published admission number (PAN). However, legislation requires admission authorities to consult on PAN reductions, 18 months in advance of the effective admission date. On 9 December 2018, the Council successfully consulted on a proposal to reduce the number of pupils to be admitted to Dollis and Frith Manor, with effect from September 2020. On 16 December 2019, a

consultation to reduce Edgware Primary's PAN from Sept 2021, was also successfully concluded.

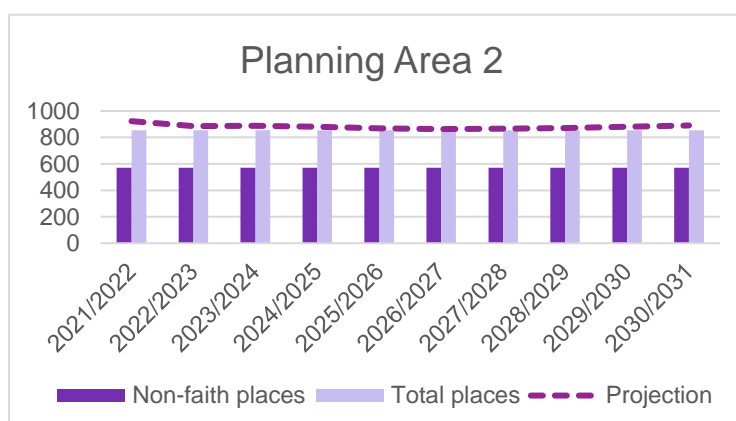
- **Dollis Primary:** On 1 April 2019, Dollis Junior amalgamated with Dollis Infant to form a new all-through Dollis Primary School. As part of the amalgamation, the school reduced from three form entry to two form entry.
- **Frith Manor:** From 1 September 2020, Frith Manor reduced its admission number from 3 form entry to 2 form entry.
- **Edgware Primary:** The Council has consulted on a proposed reduction to the school's published admission number, from 3 form entry to 2 form entry, with effect from September 2021.

7.13 Since these consultations were carried out, the forecast has changed and whilst a small deficit is now being projected in the planning area in regard to available places, there is sufficient reusable capacity at the above schools, as well as a one form entry unused capacity at Millbrook Park, should demand increase in line with the updated projections. Admission authorities may propose other variations to school admission arrangements, where they consider such changes to be necessary in view of a major change in circumstances. Such proposals must be referred to the Schools Adjudicator for approval. This is not required for variations to increase a school's PAN.

Table 4: Updated Reception forecast in Planning Area 2

Academic Year	GLA Pupil Projections (May 2020)	Places available	Shortfall / surplus - places	Shortfall / surplus forms of entry
2021-22	921	853	-68	-2.27
2022-23	923	853	-70	-2.33
2023-24	885	853	-32	-1.07
2024-25	889	853	-36	-1.2
2025-26	881	853	-28	-0.93

Graph 2. Forecast shown against total available places and non-denominational places in Planning Area 2

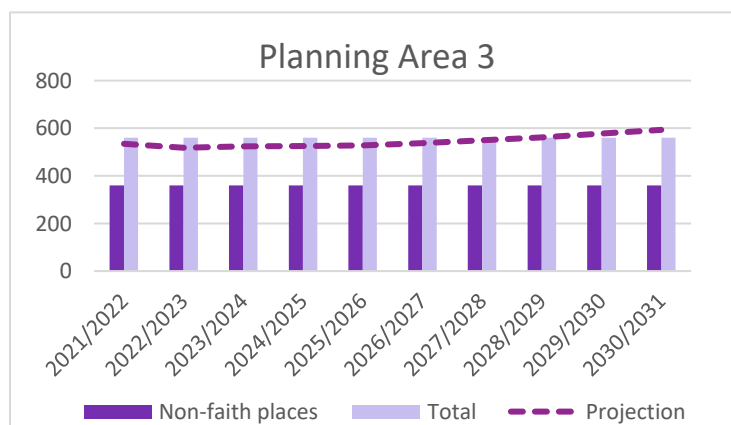


- 7.14 **Planning Area 3, Childs Hill, Garden Suburb & Golders Green:** Additional places created through the expansion of **Child's Hill**, which converted to an academy in February 2020, and the expansion at **St Agnes Catholic**, has enabled provision across this planning area to meet current demand.
- 7.15 Additional demand was expected to emerge after 2025, as the Brent Cross regeneration scheme starts to impact on demand for school places. However, the original planning was undertaken at a time when there was already some surplus capacity within the primary sector. A smaller surplus is now anticipated due to the demographic changes across London that have led to the decline in primary growth. The Council will monitor emerging patterns and expected child yield over the course of the development trajectory. Any deficit that arises in the longer term will be addressed through inviting proposals to deliver more school places through the regeneration scheme itself.
- 7.16 The Brent Cross regeneration master plan has allowed for the rebuilding and expansion of Claremont Primary and design has now been completed. Building works are expected to start from 2022, with the aim to complete the project by 2024. In addition, discussions have now begun about the proposed re-building of **Whitefield School** and the expansion of **Mapledown Special School**, to provide additional places as part of the re-build

Table 5: Updated Reception forecast in Planning Area 3

Planning Area	GLA Pupil Projections (May 2020)	Places available	Shortfall / surplus - places	Shortfall / surplus forms of entry
2021-22	523	560	37	1.23
2022-23	535	560	25	0.83
2023-24	518	560	42	1.4
2024-25	524	560	36	1.2
2025-26	525	560	35	1.17

Graph 3. Forecast shown against total available places and non-denominational places in Planning Area 3

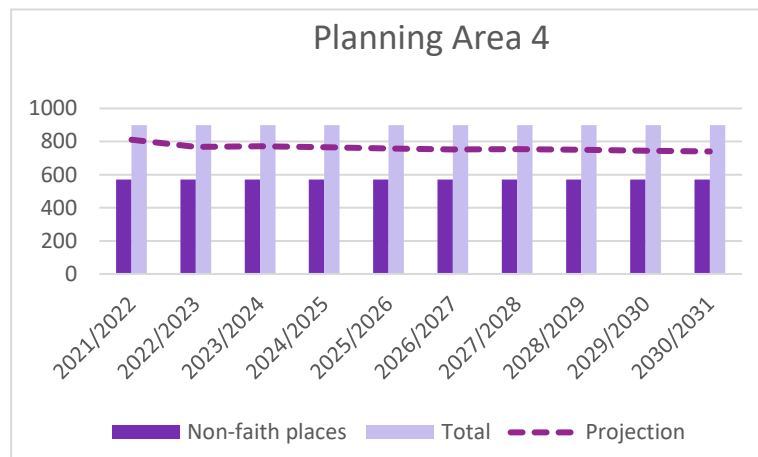


- 7.17 **Planning Area 4, Coppetts, West Finchley, Woodhouse, East Finchley & Finchley Church End:** Additional places provided in this planning area through the expansion of **Martin** and **Moss Hall**, and new provision added by **Alma** and **Wren Academy** primary schools, has created sufficiency to meet the anticipated demand in this area for the next five years. Since 2017, no additional provision has been required through bulge classes and the previous localised pressure felt in this planning area has not been experienced in the last three years. The anticipated surplus is below the 5% margin and will help to accommodate in-year demand.

Table 6: Updated Reception forecast in Planning Area 4

Planning Area	GLA Pupil Projections (May 2020)	Places available	Shortfall / surplus - places	Shortfall / surplus forms of entry
2021-22	824	900	76	2.53
2022-23	811	900	89	2.97
2023-24	768	900	132	4.4
2024-25	771	900	129	4.3
2025-26	766	900	134	4.47

Graph 4. Forecast shown against total available places and non-denominational places in Planning Area 4



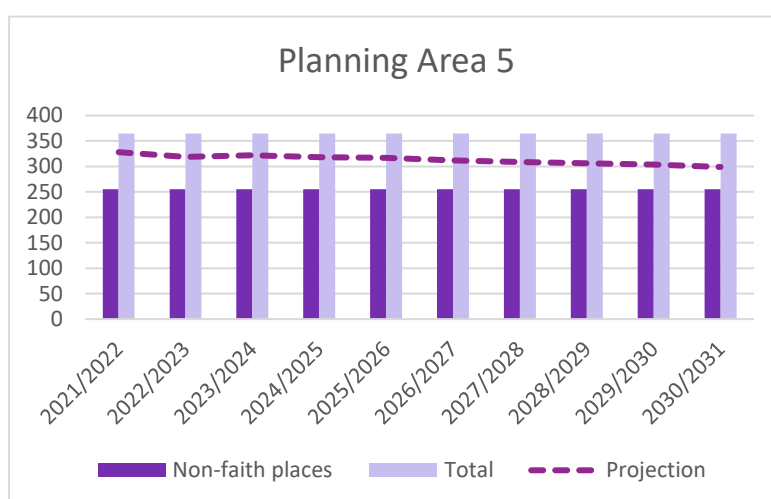
- 7.18 **Planning Area 5, Underhill & High Barnet:** The updated GLA projections indicate that there is sufficient provision in this area. This is another area with pockets of localised pressure that the Council has been monitoring since 2017. Although there is still some pressure, there has been no need for additional provision. The small surplus anticipated over the next five years is well below the 5% margin and the need for a larger surplus to manage in-year demand is evident through the in-year pressure experienced in this planning area. Again,

GLA projections will be kept under review and if required, additional provision will be commissioned through bulge classes in existing schools.

Table 7: *Updated Reception forecast in Planning Area 5*

Planning Area	GLA Pupil Projections (May 2020)	Places available	Shortfall / surplus - places	Shortfall / surplus forms of entry
2021-22	351	365	14	0.47
2022-23	328	365	37	1.23
2023-24	319	365	46	1.53
2024-25	322	365	43	1.43
2025-26	318	365	47	1.57

Graph 5. *Forecast shown against total available places and non-denominational places in Planning Area 5*



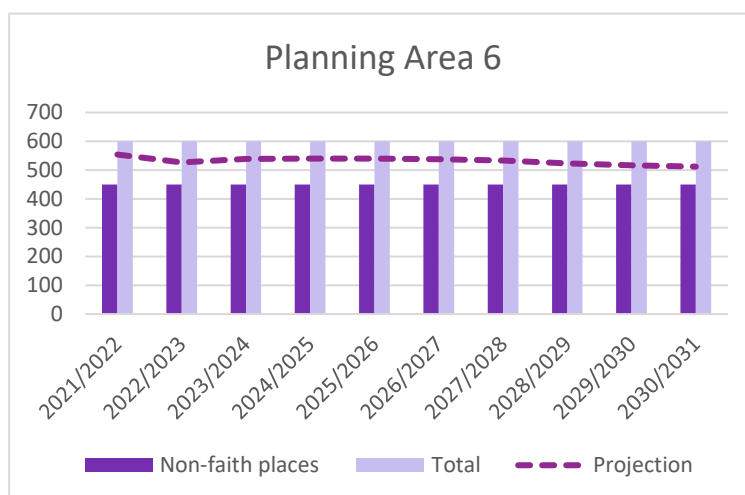
7.19 **Planning Area 6, East Barnet, Brunswick Park & Oakleigh:** Additional places provided within this planning area through the expansion of **Brunswick Park** and **Monkfrith** and the new primary provision at **Ashmole Primary** is sufficient and has helped to meet the demand over the last three years and no deficit is expected through to the next decade

7.20 **Queenswell Infant** has temporarily reduced its admission number since 2018 due to falling pupil numbers. On 16 December 2019, the Council successfully formally consulted on a proposal to reduce the school's published admission number from 3 form entry to 2 form entry. The permanent reduction will come into effect in September 2021 and the surplus capacity has been utilised for a satellite class, to provide additional places for Oakleigh special school.

Table 8: Updated Reception forecast in Planning Area 6

Planning Area	GLA Pupil Projections (May 2020)	Places available	Shortfall / surplus - places	Shortfall / surplus forms of entry
2021-22	576	600	24	0.8
2022-23	554	600	46	1.53
2023-24	527	600	73	2.43
2024-25	539	600	61	2.03
2025-26	540	600	60	2

Graph 6. Forecast shown against total available places and non-denominational places in Planning Area 6



Secondary phase

- 7.21 The rise in primary pupil numbers over the last decade started feeding through to the secondary phase, from 2017. The secondary expansion programme in anticipation of the surge has enabled the Council to meet the growing demand. Permanent expansion of **The Compton, Christ's College, Finchley** and **Copthall Academy** along with new provision at the **Archer Academy** and **St Andrew's the Apostle Greek Catholic Orthodox** helped to accommodate initial larger primary cohorts moving through to the secondary phase. In addition, **St Mary's** and **St John's CE** school started offering new secondary provision from September 2014 ahead of permanent expansion by two forms of entry from 2016/17. **Menorah High School for Girls** joined the state-maintained sector in April 2016 and the additional places in Barnet's secondary school offer has helped to meet the growing demand for Jewish places in the borough.

- 7.22 In September 2017, several of Barnet secondary schools also offered bulge classes: **Ashmole Academy**, **St James Catholic High**, **JCoSS**, **Mill Hill High** and **East Barnet**. All this activity ensured that there were sufficient school places available for the larger cohorts starting year 7 in September 2017, with some spare capacity concentrated in a small number of schools. Since 2017, some secondary academies have continued to offer additional temporary places and if this continues, the Council is concerned about a potential destabilising effect on other local schools.
- 7.23 Other changes to secondary provision have been delivered or scheduled to take place, as follows:
- **St James Catholic High:** The Council worked in partnership with the Catholic Diocese, to develop a Catholic education hub in Colindale. This involved permanent expansion of **St James' Catholic** by two forms of entry and the relocation and rebuilding of **Blessed Dominic Primary School** on the same site. The new Blessed Dominic building and the expansion and refurbishment of St James' were successfully completed by September 2019, as scheduled.
 - **The Saracens High School:** The secondary free school opened in Colindale, in September 2018, as planned. The school is still operating with three cohorts on the temporary site, the former home of The Orion School on Lanacre Avenue. The main school site is part of the Trinity Square development on Grahame Park Way and was expected to become available from September 2019. Unforeseen complications on the site itself have led to some delay and the school is now expected to move to the new site in September 2021. The Lanacre Avenue site will then be made available to the school for sporting and other facilities. The proposal is for the council to transfer both sites to the school under an Academy lease arrangement.
 - **Ark Pioneer Free school:** The proposal to open the an all-through school in Underhill was refused planning consent by the council's planning committee in January 2017. The new planning application for a secondary school only, on the same site, was successful and the **Ark Pioneer Academy** opened with its first six form of entry secondary intake in September 2019., The school has welcomed a full secondary intake in September 2020 and despite a neighbouring academy's decision to offer a bulge class, no Barnet secondary schools in the local area are currently undersubscribed.
 - **Hasmonean High School:** The school de-amalgamated into separate single-sex schools, **Hasmonean High, Girls** and **Hasmonean High, Boys** in May 2019. Both schools have continued to offer bulge classes in response to the high demand from the Jewish community in the borough.
 - **St Michael's Catholic Grammar:** In 2019, the school was selected by the DfE to receive funding from the Selective School Expansion Fund. The expansion has allowed the school to increase the number of planned admissions from 96 to 128, with the additional 32 places created, reserved

for Pupil Premium students. Under the scheme, the DfE is funding additional classrooms and a larger canteen.

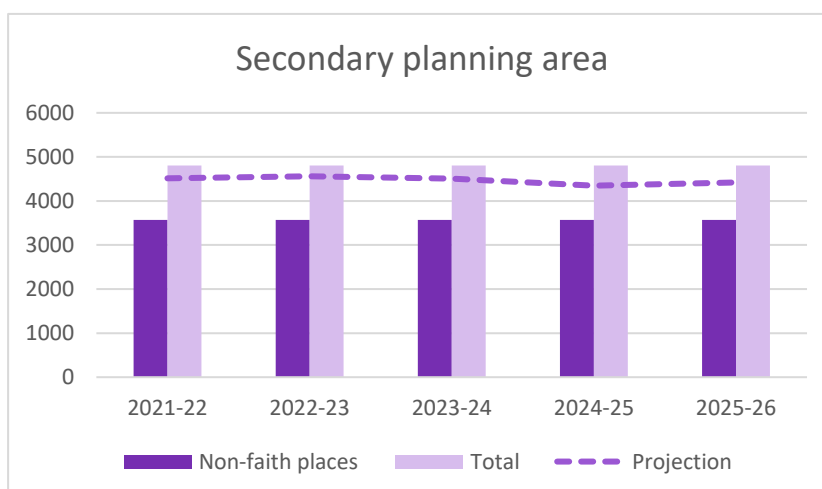
- **Whitefield School:** Located within the Brent Cross regeneration area, there are long term plans to re-locate and re-provide this school as part of the regeneration.

7.24 Based on GLA projections to date, the surge in secondary demand will start to decline from 2020/21 and we have already seen a plateau emerging in the last two years. Current provision is expected to meet the projected need through to the end of the decade and there are no further plans to invest council funds in secondary school places at present.

Table 9: *Updated Secondary forecast*

Secondary Planning Area	GLA Pupil Projections (May 2020)	Places available	Shortfall / surplus - places	Shortfall / surplus forms of entry
2021-22	4516	4808	292	9.73
2022-23	4560	4808	248	8.27
2023-24	4509	4808	299	9.97
2024-25	4347	4808	461	15.37
2025-26	4417	4808	391	13.03

Graph 7. *Forecast shown against total available places and non-denominational places in Secondary Planning Area (borough-wide)*



8. Early Years Provision

- 8.1 In total, there are 503 childcare providers in Barnet. There is a maximum number of 7,554 (9,943) early years (0-5) childcare places offered by childminders and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) nurseries. As well as this, we have 62 schools with Nursery classes including 4 maintained Nursery schools. Since 2017 we have had 31 newly opened settings and 21 settings which have closed. Although we do not predict any sufficiency issues this year, GLA data indicates a rise in under 5's particularly in the Colindale area. This is an area that we are currently monitoring for sufficiency. A report on the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will be reported to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee in January 2021.
- 8.2 The recent pandemic has had a huge impact on the uptake of free Early Education Entitlements and although we have not had any Nurseries close, many are reporting the likelihood of sustainability issues. We are actively promoting the benefits of early education in order to improve take up over the coming months.
- 8.3 To support with sufficiency, the schools and settings in Table 10 below have had capital grant funding to expand their Early Years offer for 2-year-olds. The council is currently working with Northside School (Planning Area 4) to develop a 2-year-old provision but are currently uncertain as to how many places will be created (although we know it will be a minimum of 12.)

Table 10: Early Years Schools and settings that have received CGF for expansion

School/Setting	Planning Area	Additional spaces	Date
Abracadabra Pre school	1	12	2017
Nightingale Pre school	5	12	2017
BSS Independent school	1	8	2017
Broadfields School	2	30	2017
Dollis School	2	24	2017
Shannon Childcare	2	12	2017
The Orion School	2	24	2017
Parkfield School	3	12	2017
Queenswell School	4	12	2018
Claremont School	3	12	2018
Colindale School	1	24	2019
Torah Vordaas Independent school	3	30	2019
BSS (further expansion)	1	18	2019
St Catherine's School	5	12	2019
Arteres Beis Yaakov Independent school	1	20	2020

9. Alternative Provision

- 9.1 The council has been continuing to work with the Education and Skills Funding Agency to progress the delivery of a project to re-build the Pavilion Pupil Referral Unit on its current site. The project is complex and challenging due to the restricted access of the current site and the project has experienced a significant delay whilst a viable solution to the access arrangements has been secured. Temporary accommodation will be provided during the building programme. Capital funding is being provided through the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme supplemented by council funding. Council funding will provide additional facilities to extend the current Pavilion offer and will also re-provide community sports changing facilities on the Chandos Avenue site. The project is now aiming to start work on site in late October 2020 and complete in early summer 2022.
- 9.2 On 1 May 2017, Oak Hill School was established as a special Academy following the de-merger of the Oak Hill provision from the Mill Hill Academy Trust. The new Oak Hill school is part of the newly established AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust and the longer-term intention is for the Pavilion Pupil Referral Unit and Northgate school to become part of this Multi-Academy Trust.

10. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision

- 10.1 Pupil projections indicate that over the coming years there will be additional need for places for children with SEND at both the primary and secondary phases. This arises from the need to:
- reduce the number of pupils placed in out borough provision both to improve the experience of the pupils and to minimise costs.
 - accommodate the effect of the bulge in the primary phase that is now moving into the secondary phase.
 - maintain more Education, Health and Care Plans for young people between the ages of 16 and 25 as required by legislation.
 - respond to the increasing numbers of pupils in mainstream schools that require more specialist provision at the secondary phase.
- 10.2 Decisions about commissioning of additional places are based on the SEND needs analysis and sufficiency review that took place in the summer 2019, and findings from the placement panels that took place in November 2019 and in February and May 2020. A new sufficiency review will be completed early in 2021 and the SEND Specialist Places Plan will be updated in the light of that.
- 10.3 The numbers of children and young people with SEND in Barnet continues to rise and currently there are 2,808 children and young people 0 to 25 years in receipt of an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Autism continues to be the biggest area of need in Barnet and nationally. There is an increasing

number of pre-school children diagnosed with complex needs, including Autism and requiring specialist provision.

- 10.4 There has been significant progress in the last year in placing children and young people in schools that most appropriately meet their needs. This is due to the development of additional places in ARPs and special schools outlined below.
- 10.5 A review of arrangements for commissioning places in Additional Resourced Provisions (ARPs) and Special schools was undertaken in autumn 2019, resulting in all provisions being involved in decision making.
- 10.6 The following table indicates the additional places that have been created in the last year.

Additional Resource Provision (ARP) or Special School	Total number of Places 1st Sept 2019	Number of additional places 1st Sept 2020	Total number of places 1st Sept 2020
Claremont primary (ARP)	0	7 (5 more places from January 2021)	7
Chalgrove primary (ARP)	6	2	8
Whitefield secondary (ARP)	5	2	7
Oakleigh special school	97	16 (8 at Queenswell)	113
Northway special school	112	12	124
Oak Lodge special school	197	7	204
Kisharon special school	33	13	46

- 10.7 The additional places that have been commissioned or are planned are as follows.

Additional Resource Provision (ARPs)

- In line with the planned phased increase in numbers, Chalgrove primary ARP and Whitefield secondary ARP have each taken two more pupils from September 2020.
- There is a new ARP at Claremont school for primary aged children, and seven children have started in September 2020, with a further five children starting in January 2021.

Special School Places

- A further 12 additional places have been created at Northway special school from September 2020. The cohort is made up of a class of reception-aged children, and pupils moving in-year who have been in mainstream. The extra places have necessitated some building work to accommodate this cohort.
- New specialist nursery provision has been created at Queenswell primary school, managed by Oakleigh special school. This opened in September 2020.
- Oak Lodge Special School has taken an additional seven pupils on site from September 2020.
- Kisharon special school moved to their new premises in September and increased the number of placements as part of a staggered increase over the next 2 years.
- Planning is taking place for an additional 'satellite' provision at Edgware primary school from September 2021.
- A new Free School for pupils with Autism (the Windmill) is being planned for opening in 2022/2023, which will be operated by the Oak Lodge Academy Trust.

11. POST-16 PROVISION

- 11.1 In Barnet, the Post 16 provision has more than sufficient places across the borough to ensure that young people aged 16 plus have access to a varied and quality provision. The focus in the last years has been on ensuring that young people have knowledge of what provision exists at Post 16, as there has been a small increase in young people travelling to learn in other neighbouring boroughs.
- 11.2 Most schools in Barnet have a sixth form and offer predominately level 3 provision (small level 2 provision) consisting of A' levels and some BTEC provision. Vocational provision is offered mainly at Barnet and Southgate College, where learners can access work-based qualifications as well as BTECs and A' level provision. There are also a very small number of private training providers offering traineeships and apprenticeships to learners in the borough.
- 11.3 In terms of new provision:
- **Woodhouse College** has been given approval to collaborate with Imperial College London to open a new Post-16 maths school in North Finchley, offering 150 places for students aged 16-19 years. The new free school is expected to open in 2023.
 - **Totteridge Academy** reopened its sixth form in September 2020, offering 50 places to young people in Year 12. The school plans to grow the sixth

form and initial discussions indicate that this would involve a two-fold increase in PAN, to 100 pupils, for the next Year 12 intake. The school will be offering predominately A levels provision; the subjects will depend on student numbers and the uptake of courses.

- **St Andrews Apostle Greek school** opened its sixth form in September 2018 and offers a wide range of A' Level and BTEC options to post-16 students.
- **St Mary's and St John's CE all-through school** opened its sixth form in September 2019, offering a broad range of A' Level courses and additional opportunities to provide post 16 students with successful routes to university or employment.
- **Saracens High School** and **Ark Pioneer Academy** are new free schools that are still growing and have plans to provide sixth form provision in the future.

12. CAPITAL FUNDING

- 12.1 The government makes capital grant funding available for the 'basic need' for school places through an annual allocation. Barnet has not received a Basic Need Allocation in 2020 because the government has assessed that there is sufficient capacity within the existing school estate to meet the future demand for school places in the borough. However, as part of the regeneration schemes, the Council has secured Section 106 funding that has contributed towards the educational infrastructure in some areas under development. Additional funding has also been provided from government by way of a SEND capital funding grant. To date the following projects has been delivered through this funding stream:

2018/19

- Remodelling the Additional Resource Provision (ARP) at Coppetts Wood Primary School to create an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) ARP.
- New build ASD ARP at Chalgrove Primary School

2019/20

- Remodelling space in Oakleigh Special School to provide additional capacity.
- Remodelling space in Claremont Primary School to provide an ASD ARP
- New build ASD ARP at Whitefield School

2020/21

- Remodelling space in Northway Special School and Fairway Primary School to provide additional special school places for Northway.
- Remodelling space at Queenswell Infant School to create a satellite class for Oakleigh Special School.

- Remodelling space at Edgware Hospital to provide additional space for Northgate Pupil Referral Unit.
- 12.2 The government also makes capital grant funding available to improve the condition of maintained schools. The 'School Condition Allocation' grant funding is provided on an annual basis and for 2020/21 the council received £2.2m. Annually, following receipt of this funding, the council and its delivery partner, Capita CSG, designs and delivers a programme of works. The programme of works is prioritised using condition surveys and the local knowledge of a team of building surveyors within Capita CSG. It aims to target works to address failing roofing, the replacement of windows to improve energy efficiency and the upgrading of electrical and mechanical items within the school estate. A small contingency is held to support schools with significant emergency works that would otherwise result in the closure of the school.