

## **Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements for Royal Greenwich Community Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools, including Sixth Form for the 2028/29 Academic Year**

In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Royal Borough of Greenwich is consulting on its admissions arrangements for the 2028/29 admissions year. Comments are invited on all aspects of the proposed arrangements but would be particularly welcomed in respect of the following proposals:

1. To reduce the published admission number (PAN) at Henwick, James Wolfe, Montbelle and Mulgrave Primary Schools for entry in the reception class from September 2028.
2. To align entry arrangements for sixth-form places at Eltham Hill, Plumstead Manor and Thomas Tallis Schools with the Local Authority's published admissions arrangements for sixth-form provisions.
3. To adopt the changes to the Pan-London Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for both primary and secondary planned admission for entry in September 2028.
4. To continue the local authority coordination of in-year admissions for community schools and participating academy primary schools for the 2028/29 academic year.

### **I. Proposal to reduce PAN at Henwick, James Wolfe, Montbelle and Mulgrave Primary Schools**

Comments are invited on the proposal to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for entry into the reception class from September 2028 in the following schools:

| <b><i>Primary School</i></b> | <b><i>Current PAN</i></b> | <b><i>Proposed PAN from 2028</i></b> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Henwick Primary School       | 60                        | 30                                   |
| James Wolfe Primary School   | 120                       | 90                                   |
| Montbelle Primary School     | 45                        | 30                                   |
| Mulgrave Primary School      | 60                        | 45                                   |

#### ***Reason for PAN reduction:***

Like many local authorities across London, the Royal Borough of Greenwich is experiencing a sustained decline in birth rates. This has led to a reduction in demand for Reception places, with fewer applications being received and a corresponding decrease in pupil numbers across the borough's primary schools.

As a result, a number of schools are no longer filling all of their available Reception places. Henwick, James Wolfe, Montbelle and Mulgrave Primary Schools have experienced lower levels of demand in recent years, meaning that their current admission numbers are no longer aligned with the number of places required locally.

The proposed changes would better reflect current and projected demand for school places, helping schools to plan staffing, curriculum delivery and resources more effectively while supporting their long-term financial sustainability.

Reducing PAN does not affect pupils already attending the schools and would not impact negatively on sufficiency of primary school places across the local area. The proposals would also retain flexibility to increase provision in future should demand for places rise.

This approach supports the Council's responsibility to ensure that school place provision remains both sustainable and responsive to changing patterns of demand across the borough.

**2. Proposal to align entry arrangements for sixth-form places at Eltham Hill, Plumstead Manor and Thomas Tallis Schools with the Local Authority's published admissions arrangements for sixth-form provisions.**

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is proposing to revise the published sixth-form admission arrangements for Eltham Hill School, Plumstead Manor School and Thomas Tallis School.

A review undertaken jointly with the schools has identified that elements of the Council's published sixth-form arrangements do not fully reflect the admission processes currently operated by the schools. While the schools have established practices that support the effective management of sixth-form admissions, some aspects of these arrangements have not been clearly or consistently reflected within the Council's determined admission arrangements. This creates the potential for confusion for applicants and their families and may lead to inconsistencies between published information and operational practices.

The proposed changes seek to ensure that the Local Authority's published arrangements accurately reflect how admissions are administered in practice, improve transparency for applicants, and align more closely with the requirements of the School Admissions Code and recent decisions of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator regarding post-16 admissions.

What changes are proposed?

The Council proposes to:

- Align the published admission arrangements with the sixth-form admission processes currently operated by Eltham Hill School, Plumstead Manor School and Thomas Tallis School.
- Clarify the number of places available to external applicants and the number of places available to existing Year 11 students progressing into each school's sixth-form. This will provide greater transparency about sixth-form capacity and admission numbers.

- Update the terminology used in relation to sixth-form offers so that arrangements refer to "conditional offers" rather than "provisional offers", reflecting current practice and ensuring consistency with national expectations.
- Review oversubscription criteria to ensure that only criteria that can be applied through a clear, lawful and transparent process are included within the admission arrangements.
- Clarify how late applications will be dealt with.
- Clarify applicants' rights of appeal and explain the routes available for raising concerns or complaints about sixth form admission decisions.
- Update wording relating to applications outside a student's normal chronological age group to better reflect post-16 admission arrangements and existing practice.
- Clarify how applications for students already on an A-level programme will be treated.

What will be the impact of the proposal?

The Council does not expect these changes to substantially alter the way sixth-form admissions operate at the three schools. Instead, the changes are intended to ensure that the published arrangements provide a more accurate reflection of current practice and offer clearer information to students, parents and carers applying for sixth-form places.

The proposals are expected to improve transparency, reduce ambiguity and ensure that applicants have a clear understanding of the admission process, available places, entry requirements and their rights should they wish to challenge an admission decision.

Who would be affected?

The proposals would affect students applying for sixth-form admission to:

- Eltham Hill School
- Plumstead Manor School
- Thomas Tallis School

from the 2028/29 admission year onwards (or the relevant year being consulted upon).

**3. Proposal to adopt changes to the Pan-London co-ordinated admission schemes for entry into primary and secondary in September 2028**

Comments are also invited on Royal Greenwich's proposed co-ordinated admission scheme for entry into both primary and secondary schools in September 2027, based on the Pan-London system. There are some amendments to key dates, so that they do not occur on

school or public holidays, or at weekends. Appendix A sets out the proposed co-ordinated scheme with the amendments shown in bold text.

**4. Proposal to continue the local authority coordination of in-year admissions for community schools and participating academy primary schools for the 2028/29 academic year**

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is seeking views on the continuation of its coordinated in-year admissions process for community schools and participating academy primary schools.

Although local authorities are not required by legislation to coordinate in-year admissions, the Royal Borough of Greenwich has, through a local agreement with academy primary schools, continued to coordinate in-year applications on behalf of participating schools. This arrangement has been in place for a number of years and has provided a single, clear process for families seeking a school place during the school year.

This is the first time that the Council is formally consulting on the continuation of these arrangements as part of the annual admissions consultation process. The School Admissions Code 2021 requires that admission authorities must consult on their arrangements at least once every seven years, even where no changes are proposed.

Current arrangements

Parents and carers have the right to apply for a school place or request a transfer at any point during the school year.

For schools participating in the Council's in-year coordination scheme, applicants can submit a single application and express preferences for up to six schools. The Council then coordinates the application process with the relevant schools and issues the outcome to parents on their behalf. Where there are no places available in a preference school and the child is not on roll at any other school, the local authority is able to allocate a place in the nearest participating school where a place is available. This ensures that a child is not left without a school place.

For schools not participating in the local authority's in-year coordination, applications must be made directly to the relevant admission authority, which determines whether a place can be offered and communicates the outcome to families. This can result in parents making multiple applications and receiving multiple offers, which can make the process overwhelming for families.

Secondary academy schools and voluntary aided schools in Greenwich do not currently participate in the Council's coordinated in-year admissions arrangements and continue to administer their own in-year admissions processes.

Why are we proposing to continue these arrangements?

The Council believes that maintaining a coordination for community schools and participating academy primary schools provides significant benefits for children, families and schools.

The current arrangements offer a simpler and more accessible process for parents and carers by allowing them to submit a single application rather than making separate applications to individual schools. They also provide greater clarity regarding which schools participate in the coordinated scheme and how applications are managed.

In-year admissions can often involve children who are moving home, have recently arrived in the area, or who may be vulnerable or experiencing challenging circumstances. A coordinated system helps to ensure that applications are considered promptly and consistently, supporting the fair placement of children and reducing delays in securing education.

While academy schools have autonomy over the organisation of their provision and may manage admissions differently from local authority-maintained schools, cooperation between admission authorities remains essential in ensuring that children can access suitable school places during the academic year. The Council considers that coordinated admissions play an important role in supporting effective place planning and the efficient allocation of available places.

#### What would the proposal mean?

The proposal is to continue the existing arrangements under which the Royal Borough of Greenwich coordinates in-year admissions for:

- Community primary schools;
- Community secondary schools;
- Participating academy primary schools that have agreed to be included in the coordinated scheme.

There would be no change to the published admissions arrangements of participating academy schools or their applications due to this proposal. Published arrangements for these will continue to be applied as determined by the relevant admissions authorities. Academy schools will continue to be responsible for determining their own admissions arrangements.

This proposal simply ensures that applications are processed through a single coordinated system, providing a more streamlined experience for families and supporting consistency across participating schools.

#### Schools participating in the local authority's in-year coordination

The following is the list of schools participating in the Royal Borough of Greenwich's in-year admission coordination scheme:

| <b>Community Schools</b>        | <b>Type</b>         | <b>Academy Schools</b>             | <b>Type</b>     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Alexander McLeod Primary School | Community Primary   | Alderwood Primary School           | Academy Primary |
| Cardwell Primary School         | Community Primary   | Bannockburn Primary School         | Academy Primary |
| Charlton Manor Primary School   | Community Primary   | Boxgrove Primary School            | Academy Primary |
| Cherry Orchard Primary School   | Community Primary   | Brooklands Primary School          | Academy Primary |
| Conway Primary School           | Community Primary   | Deansfield Primary School          | Academy Primary |
| De Lucy Primary School          | Community Primary   | Foxfield Primary School            | Academy Primary |
| Discovery Primary School        | Community Primary   | Greenacres Primary School          | Academy Primary |
| Ealdham Primary School          | Community Primary   | Halstow Primary School             | Academy Primary |
| Eglinton Primary School         | Community Primary   | Hawksmoor Primary School           | Academy Primary |
| Eltham Hill School              | Community Secondary | Horn Park Primary School           | Academy Primary |
| Fossdene Primary School         | Community Primary   | Kidbrooke Park Primary School      | Academy Primary |
| Gordon Primary School           | Community Primary   | Millennium Primary School          | Academy Primary |
| Greenslade Primary School       | Community Primary   | Nightingale Primary School         | Academy Primary |
| Haimo Primary School            | Community Primary   | Rockliffe Manor Primary School     | Academy Primary |
| Henwick Primary School          | Community Primary   | South Rise Primary School          | Academy Primary |
| Heronsgate Primary School       | Community Primary   | Timbercroft Primary School         | Academy Primary |
| Invicta Primary School          | Community Primary   | Windrush Charlton Primary School   | Academy Primary |
| James Wolfe Primary School      | Community Primary   | Windrush Thamesmead Primary School | Academy Primary |
| Meridian Primary School         | Community Primary   | Wingfield Primary School           | Academy Primary |
| Middle Park Primary School      | Community Primary   | Woodhill Primary School            | Academy Primary |
| Meridian Primary School         | Community Primary   |                                    |                 |
| Linton Mead Primary School      | Community Primary   |                                    |                 |
| Montbelle Primary School        | Community Primary   |                                    |                 |

|                             |                     |  |  |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Morden Mount Primary School | Community Primary   |  |  |
| Mulgrave Primary School     | Community Primary   |  |  |
| Plumcroft Primary School    | Community Primary   |  |  |
| Plumstead Manor School      | Community Secondary |  |  |
| Sherington Primary School   | Community Primary   |  |  |
| Thomas Tallis School        | Community Secondary |  |  |
| Thorntree Primary School    | Community Primary   |  |  |
| Wyborne Primary School      | Community Primary   |  |  |

### Benefits of the proposal

Continuing the coordination for in-year admissions would:

- Provide a single application process for parents and carers applying to participating schools;
- Allow applicants to express preferences for up to six schools on one application;
- Improve transparency regarding which schools are included within the coordinated scheme;
- Support the timely placement of children, particularly those who may be vulnerable or require additional support;
- Promote fairness and consistency in the allocation of school places;
- Reduce complexity for families seeking school places during the school year; and
- Support effective cooperation between schools and the local authority in managing pupil mobility.

The Council therefore proposes to continue coordinating in-year admissions for community schools and participating academy primary schools from September 2028 onwards.

### **Next steps:**

The outcome of this consultation will determine the action to be taken by Royal Greenwich on the proposals being made in our admissions arrangements. If there is an overwhelming support for these proposals, they will take effect from the 2028/29 academic year.

The consultation documents are available via the following link:

**Responses are welcomed from 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026.** Responses should be submitted to [school-admissions@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:school-admissions@royalgreenwich.gov.uk) with Admissions Consultation in the subject heading.

The deadline for responses is **noon on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2026.**