



Office of  
the Schools  
Adjudicator

## **DETERMINATION**

**Case reference:** VAR750

**Admission Authority:** The London Borough of Haringey for Tiverton Primary School

**Date of decision:** 20 April 2018

### **Determination**

**In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I approve the proposed variation to the admission arrangements determined by the London Borough of Haringey for Tiverton Primary School for September 2018.**

**I determine that, for admissions in September 2018, the published admission number for admission to the Reception Year shall be 30.**

### **The referral**

1. The London Borough of Haringey (the local authority), the admissions authority for Tiverton Primary School (the school), has referred a proposed variation to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for September 2018 to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. The school is a community school for children aged 3 to 11.
2. The proposed variation is to reduce the PAN for admission to the Reception Year (YR) in September 2018 from 60 to 30.

### **Jurisdiction**

3. The referral was made to me in accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the Act) which states that:

*“where an admission authority (a) have in accordance with section 88C determined the admission arrangements which are to apply for a particular school year, but (b) at any time before the end of that year consider that the arrangements should be varied in view of a major change in circumstances occurring since they were so determined, the authority must [except in a case where the authority’s proposed variations fall within any description of variations prescribed for the purposes of this section] (a) refer their proposed variations to the*

*adjudicator, and (b) notify the appropriate bodies of the proposed variations”.*

4. I am satisfied that the proposed variation is within my jurisdiction.

### **Procedure**

5. In considering this matter, I have had regard to all relevant legislation, and the School Admissions Code (the Code).
6. The documents I have considered in reaching my decision include:
  - the local authority’s referral dated 1 March 2018 and supporting documents;
  - the determined arrangements for 2018 agreed on 8 February 2017 and the proposed variation to those arrangements;
  - a copy of the local authority’s booklet for parents seeking admission to schools in the area in September 2018;
  - a copy of the minutes of a meeting where the local authority consulted a member of the governing board and the headteacher of the school and this proposal was supported; and
  - a copy of the letter notifying the appropriate bodies about the proposed variation.

### **The proposed variation**

7. The proposed variation was received on 1 March 2018. The effect of the variation would be to reduce the PAN for September 2018 from 60 to 30. The local authority determined the arrangements for community schools in the borough on 8 February 2017 and the PAN for the school was set at 60. The local authority has now projected a surplus of places (2 - 3 forms of entry) for admission to YR in Planning Area 3, which includes the school.

### **Consideration of the case**

8. Since 2003, there has been an increasing demand for reception places in schools across London. In Haringey, this increased demand was accommodated through a number of bulge classes and permanent expansions across the borough’s primary schools. The local authority’s school place planning is governed in large part by the annual School Place Planning Report (SPPR) and the data that underpins it. This is produced by the Greater London Authority’s School Rolls projection service. For the purposes of planning school places, the borough is divided into five Planning Areas. Both the 2016 and 2017 editions of the SPPR showed a reduction in the number of projected births in the borough and Planning Area 3 –which includes the school - compared to earlier years. This was due in large part to the input of updated migration flows data into the 2015 projections. As a result, projected

numbers of births have declined.

9. The local authority is now projecting a surplus of reception places of around 2-3 forms of entry between 2017/18 and 2026/27 in Planning Area 3. The local authority recognises the possible impact of future regeneration in that area but in the meantime, it seeks to maintain the financial sustainability of the schools by ensuring that there are sufficient places for children but not over-capacity.
10. Past Pupil Numbers admitted to the school are shown in this table provided by the local authority.

<b>Applications for Admission to Reception in:</b>	<b>Published Admission Number</b>	<b>Number Offered as at National Offer Day</b>	<b>Number Admitted as at September</b>	<b>Number of On-Time Applications Received</b>	<b>Number of Appeals Lodged</b>
<b>September 2014</b>	60	60	60	101	0
<b>September 2015</b>	60	46	38	69	0
<b>September 2016</b>	60	37	40	66	0
<b>September 2017</b>	60	33	47	71	0

11. The local authority representatives met a member of the school governing board and the headteacher of the school on 19 February 2018 to discuss the PAN and the number of applications to YR for September 2018. At that time, it was reported that there had been 26 first place preferences. The governor present reported that the issue had already been discussed at a meeting of the governing board and that everything had been done to increase applications. There was concern about the possibility of maintaining a two-form entry but with only a funding stream sufficient for a one-form entry school. Given the requirements of the infant class size regulations, admitting more than 30 children would have required the school to organise itself to ensure that no more than 30 key stage one children were taught by a single teacher.
12. The appropriate bodies as specified in the Code were notified on 1 March and no comments have been received. The local authority reports that there is sufficient capacity in other schools in the area to accommodate this reduction in the number of places. It anticipates the reduction to be a temporary measure. It will review the position when it

receives 2018 projections for numbers for 2019 onwards.

13. On National Offer Day, 16 April, 28 places for the school were offered, of which 26 were for first preferences.

### **Summary**

14. The local authority has made the decision to apply for this reduction in light of reduced demand in this area of the borough. The offers made on 16 April, reflecting the demand for places at the school, support this position and ensure that the school will not be in the position of needing to add a second class, which is not likely to be full, and could create some funding difficulties.

### **Determination**

15. In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I approve the proposed variation to the admission arrangements determined by the London Borough of Haringey for Tiverton Primary School for September 2018.
16. I determine that, for admissions in September 2018, the published admission number for admission to the Reception Year shall be 30.

Dated: 20 April 2018

Signed:

Schools Adjudicator: Lorraine Chapman