



Office of  
the Schools  
Adjudicator

## **DETERMINATION**

**Case reference:** VAR806

**Admission Authority:** Ealing Council for Stanhope Primary School,  
Ealing

**Date of decision:** 25 March 2019

### **Determination**

**In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I approve the variation to the admission arrangements for 2019 determined by Ealing Council for Stanhope Primary School, Ealing.**

**I determine that for admission in September 2019 the Published Admission Number will be 60.**

### **The referral**

1. Ealing Council (the local authority) has referred a variation to the Adjudicator about the admission arrangements at Stanhope Primary School, Ealing (the school). The school is a maintained community primary school for 3 to 11 year olds in the London Borough of Ealing. The referral requests a reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 90 to 60 for admissions in September 2019.

### **Jurisdiction**

2. 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.

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

## **Procedure**

4. In considering this matter, I have had regard to all relevant legislation, guidance and the School Admissions Code.
5. The documents I have considered in reaching my decision include:
  - a) the local authority's referral of 17 December 2018 and subsequent correspondence;
  - b) the determined arrangements for primary schools in the local authority;
  - c) comments on the variation from the school;
  - d) a copy of the local authority's booklet for parents seeking admission to schools in the area in September 2019; and
  - e) a copy of the letter consulting the relevant bodies about the proposed variation.

## **Background and consideration of factors**

6. The school is a 3 to 11 local authority maintained school. It is in the local authority's GNP Central planning area within the London Borough of Ealing. The school is a community school so the admission authority is the local authority and the admission arrangements for admission in September 2019 were discussed and determined by the Cabinet of the local authority on 13 February 2018.
7. The referral states that a borough-wide review of reception age places took place in October 2018. The review coincided with the October census and therefore provided an accurate number of children across all the planning areas and within each school year in the local authority's area. The local authority found that there are surplus places across four of the planning areas including the GNP Central Planning Area in which the school is situated; it considers this a major change in circumstance and the information prompted this request. The school reports that the area has a "*highly mobile*" population and the local authority wanted to plan for September 2019 using the most up to date figures.
8. There are seven primary schools in the GNP Central Planning area. Currently the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) provide for 540 places in reception (YR). In October 2018 487 pupils were admitted to the YR of the schools. This is a surplus of 53 places which constitutes a surplus of 10 per cent. The local authority seeks to reduce this surplus by reducing the PAN of one of the seven schools.
9. The school currently has a PAN of 90. In September 2018 there were 34 first preference applications to the school and for September 2019 there were 32. In September 2018, 36 places were allocated to YR of the school and the number admitted by October 2018 had risen to 47. This is well below both the current PAN of 90 and the proposed PAN of 60. Across the school

the number on roll has reduced from 495 in October 2017 to 433 in October 2018. I am satisfied that no pupils seeking a place at the school will be displaced if the reduced PAN of 60 is approved.

10. In a letter of 1 February 2019, the school states that there were 47 pupils in YR in October 2018. In order to maintain the required teacher/pupil ratio in infant classes the school are currently providing two classes with two qualified teachers. If the school receive in future applications, for pupils who would have to be admitted given the current PAN of 90, and so more than 60 pupils are admitted to the two infant classes, it would have to employ an additional teacher. In an email of 8 February 2019 the school have indicated that its governing board are in agreement with the proposed reduction of PAN.

11. The local authority has undertaken a consultation process in preparation for setting the 2020 PANs across its schools. This consultation proposes the reduction in PAN for the school from 90 to 60. The local authority states that no negative responses were received during the consultation. The council has subsequently determined the arrangements for admission in 2020 and these arrangements incorporate the reduction in PAN as requested.

12. The variation request is therefore to reduce the PAN for September 2019 in anticipation of the previously determined reduction for September 2020.

13. I am satisfied that there are sufficient places available in the area for all the children who are applying for a place in September 2019 and I agree that it is not financially viable to employ an additional teacher should numbers exceed 60 in an infant class year. I therefore approve the variation requested by the school. The PAN for admission to the school in September 2019 will be 60.

### **Conclusion**

14. In order to maintain a viable number of classes in the school I approve the variation request to reduce the PAN from 90 to 60 for September 2019.

### **Determination**

15. In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I approve the variation to the admission arrangements determined by Ealing Council for Stanhope Primary School, Ealing.

16. I determine that for admission in September 2019 the Published Admission Number will be 60.

Dated: 25 March 2019

Signed:

Schools Adjudicator: Tom Brooke