



Office of
the Schools
Adjudicator

Determination

Case reference: VAR2435

Admission authority: The London Borough of Brent for Leopold Primary School, Willesden

Date of decision: 9 July 2024

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 Brent for Leopold Primary School for September 2025.

I determine that the published admission number for the school will be 60.

The referral

1. The London Borough of Brent (the local authority (LA)) has referred to the adjudicator a proposal for a variation to the admission arrangements for Leopold Primary School (LPS or the school) for September 2025 (the arrangements).
2. The school is a community school for children aged 3 to 11 in Willesden, London. It is a co-educational, non-selective primary school with no designated religious character. The governing body describes LPS as: “*two distinct schools, with distinct communities and separate staffing*”. However, the school is in fact one entity effectively operating over a split site, with two forms of entry on each site. The main site is located on Hawkshead Road, NW10 9UR (the Hawkshead Road site) and the second site is located on Brentfield Road, NW10 8HS (the Gwenneth Rickus site). The nursery provision is only on the Hawkshead Road site. The LA say that the Gwenneth Rickus site was first opened in 2013 as temporary provision when there was a high demand for primary school places. Google Maps shows that the two sites are 0.9 miles away from each other (walking route), 1.6 miles by road (fastest road route) and 0.57 miles (straight line distance).
3. The school was judged to be ‘Good’ by Ofsted at its last inspection in June 2022.

4. The proposed variation is for the published admission number (PAN) of the school to be reduced from 120 to 60 for September 2025.

Jurisdiction and procedure

5. The referral was made to me in accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the Act) which deals with variations to determined arrangements. Paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 of the School Admissions Code (the Code) say (in so far as relevant here):

“3.6 Once admission arrangements have been determined for a particular school year, they cannot be revised by the admission authority unless such revision is necessary to give effect to a mandatory requirement of this Code, admissions law, a determination of the Adjudicator or any misprint in the admission arrangements. Admission authorities may propose other variations 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, and the appropriate bodies notified. Where the local authority is the admission authority for a community or voluntary controlled school, it **must** consult the governing body of the school before making any reference.

3.7 Admission authorities **must** notify the appropriate bodies of all variations”.

6. The arrangements were determined by the LA cabinet on 5 February 2024. The LA has provided me with confirmation that the appropriate bodies have been notified and I have seen confirmation that the school’s governing body has been consulted on the proposed variation. I find that the appropriate procedures were followed, and I am also satisfied that the proposed variation is within my jurisdiction.

7. In considering the proposal, I have had regard to all relevant legislation, and the Code.

8. The information I have considered in reaching my decision includes:

- a. the referral from the LA dated 18 June 2024, and supporting documents including comments submitted by the governing body of the school during the statutory proposal process that preceded and underpinned the need for the variation request;
- b. the determined arrangements for 2025/26 and the proposed variation to those arrangements;
- c. responses received from the school and the LA in respect of my requests for further information;

- d. maps, including Google Maps and those showing the locations of the school's two sites; and
- e. information available on the websites of the LA, the school, the Department for Education (DfE) (including 'Get Information About Schools' (GIAS) and 'Schools Financial Benchmarking' (SFB)) and Ofsted.

9. I note here that the arrangements for 2026/27 have not yet been determined. This means that if I decide to vary the arrangements for 2025/26 by reducing the PAN as proposed, it will have the effect of forming the 'baseline' PAN for subsequent years.

10. There is no formal consultation required for a variation and so parents and others do not have the opportunity to express their views. Clearly it is desirable that changes to arrangements are made via the process of determination following consultation as the consultation process allows those with an interest to express their views. It also allows for objections to the adjudicator. None of this is afforded by the variation process.

Consideration of proposed variation

11. Paragraph 3.6 of the Code (as above) requires that admission arrangements, once determined, may only be revised, that is changed or varied, if there is a major change of circumstance or certain other limited and specified circumstances. I will consider below whether the variation requested is justified by the change in circumstances.

12. The LA told me that the reason for it seeking the variation is:

"As part of our measures to mitigate falling demand for primary school places in the local area, Brent Council Cabinet has resolved to close the Gwenneth Rickus site of Leopold Primary School as part of a phased closure at the end of July 2027. The site, located at NW10 8HE can admit up to 60 children. The other 60 places are available at the Hawkshead Road site.

In order to minimise disruption for pupils, families and staff as far as possible, Cabinet agreed to implement a phased closure by ending normal round admissions to the Gwenneth Rickus site of the school from September 2025. This requires the Published Admission Number of the school to be reduced from 120 to 60 for admissions from September 2025 as the Hawkshead Road site can only accommodate 60 children.

The Council was undergoing informal consultation to close the Gwenneth Rickus site at the same time as it was consulting on its admission arrangements for 2025/26. It was not possible during the admissions arrangement consultation to include a proposal to reduce the PAN for Leopold Primary School, as in doing so this would have pre-empted any decisions from the informal consultation.

The determined arrangements do contain a note regarding the informal consultation and the possible need for a variation:

“Leopold Primary School is split into two sites – the main site on Hawkshead Road and a satellite site the Gwenneth Rickus site. Both sites are two-form entry and can accommodate 60 children in each year group. An informal public consultation was held from 1 November to 13 December 2023 on a proposal to close the Gwenneth Rickus site of the school. If this is implemented this would require a variation to the admissions arrangements of the school.”

As part of its decision on 28 May 2024, Brent Council Cabinet resolved the council should seek a variation for Leopold Primary School to reduce its PAN from 120 to 60 places for September 2025.”

13. The statutory proposal documentation recorded that:

“[...] there are currently 246 pupils on the Gwenneth Rickus site. The current Key Stage one year groups each have less than 30 pupils on roll. There are 73 vacancies in the Key Stage two year groups.”

14. By way of further background, the LA told me:

“The decision to close the Gwenneth Rickus Site of Leopold Primary School was part of a wider project with Brent school leaders looking at surplus places in Brent’s Primary Planning Area 4. This included the reduction of Published Admission Number at another school in the local planning area, which will come into effect from 2025. The local authority identified that the surplus capacity in the area was such that it would be possible to effectively close three two form entry schools and still have sufficient capacity to meet demand over the next 5 – 15 years. The decision to consider the closure of the Gwenneth Rickus site was made because the site was only brought in to use from 2013 in response to increasing demand. The local authority took the view that closure of the site would protect any school in the area from completely closing and Leopold Primary School would remain open and revert to its status prior to 2013 operating on one site.

[...] The local authority published its School Place Planning Strategy 2024 – 2028 in October 2023 and this Strategy had a focus on sustainability of schools experiencing falling demand. The closure of the Gwenneth Rickus site will not only promote the sustainability of Leopold Primary School which will have the opportunity to operate to full capacity as a two form entry school, but will also promote the sustainability of other schools in the area also experiencing falling demand.

During the informal Consultation Stage, respondents at the public meetings raised the suggestion of keeping both sites open but reducing the number of classes. The local authority responded at the time Capital Costs would remain the same. This was also addressed in our formal response to the informal consultation [...]”

15. The LA provided documentation from the statutory proposal process. The proposed variation arises from and therefore formed part of that proposal. The Representation (consultation) process allowed the governing body of the school to provide its views on the closure of the Gwenneth Rickus site and the variation of the PAN (that forms the subject of this determination) that would result. I note the governing body did not express support for the closure of the Gwenneth Rickus site and provided comprehensive reasons for this in their response to the consultation process. However, I will only be considering those parts of the statutory proposal documentation and the school's comments therein that are relevant to the request to reduce the PAN. The decision to close the Gwenneth Rickus site was made by the LA Cabinet on 28 May 2024; it is not within my jurisdiction to consider that decision.

16. I am satisfied that the reasons given for the proposed variation (quoted above) by the LA provide an appropriate justification for not having dealt with the PAN reduction through the process of consultation in line with paragraphs 1.45 to 1.48 of the Code, as would be preferable.

17. The LA has a duty to make sure that there are sufficient places for the children in its area. To fulfil this duty the LA assesses the likely future number of places to be needed and plans to meet that need. The LA uses planning areas, which are geographical areas and the schools within those areas, for this purpose. The school is one of 12 schools in the LA's 'Primary Planning Area 4' (PPA4 or the planning area). The other 11 schools in the planning area are (in order of straight line distance (in miles) from the postcode of LPS's main Hawkshead Road site, taken from the DfE's GIAS website and in brackets after each): St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School (0.16); Newfield Primary School (0.23); St Mary's CofE Primary School (0.34); John Keble CofE Primary School (0.46); Mitchell Brook Primary School (0.48); Harlesden Primary School (0.61); Donnington Primary School (0.62); Brentfield Primary School (0.69); The Stonebridge School (0.76); Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School (0.81); and Furness Primary School (0.83)

18. The LA provided me with the PANs for all schools in PPA4 between 2021/22 and 2025/26. I have added that data to Table 1.

Table 1: PANs for the schools in the planning area between 2021/21 and 2025/26

Schools in PPA4 / PANs	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Brentfield Primary School	90	90	90	90	90
Donnington Primary School	30	30	30	30	30
Furness Primary School	60	60	60	60	60
Harlesden Primary School	60	60	60	60	60
John Keble CofE Primary School	60	60	60	60	60
Leopold Primary School	120	120	120	120	120
Mitchell Brook Primary School	90	90	90	90	60
Newfield Primary School	60	60	60	60	60
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	30	30	30	30	30

Schools in PPA4 / PANs	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	60	60	60	60	60
St Mary's CofE Primary School	45	45	45	45	45
The Stonebridge School	90	90	90	90	90
Total number of places in YR^A	795	795	795	795	765

Key:

^A Reception Year

19. The data in Table 1 show that there have been 795 places in PPA4 since 2021/22 until 2025/26 when it will reduce by 30 places to 765. This is because the PAN at Mitchell Brook Primary School has been reduced from 90 to 60 in that year. If I agree to reduce the PAN at LPS to 60 in 2025/26, that will further reduce the number of places to 705.

20. The LA provided data showing the number of parents expressing a preference for schools in PPA4 for 2022/23 to 2024/25, which I have put into Tables 2 to 4. I note here that parents applying for places for their children in London can express six preferences.

Table 2: Number of parents expressing a preference for schools in PPA4 for 2022/23

Schools in PPA4 / preferences	1	2	3	4	5	6
Brentfield Primary School	19	15	15	9	3	6
Donnington Primary School	31	17	18	21	9	9
Furness Primary School	27	10	11	4	8	12
Harlesden Primary School	28	14	4	5	5	4
John Keble CofE Primary School	28	13	14	10	10	7
Leopold Primary School	51	32	24	31	15	5
Mitchell Brook Primary School	62	19	25	13	10	4
Newfield Primary School	20	10	15	8	1	6
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	26	19	8	2	3	2
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	77	36	24	18	10	6
St Mary's CofE Primary School	15	10	10	9	4	3
The Stonebridge School	15	8	10	3	7	4
Total preferences for PPA4	399	203	178	133	85	68

Table 3: Number of parents expressing a preference for schools in PPA4 for 2023/24

Schools in PPA4 / preferences	1	2	3	4	5	6
Brentfield Primary School	25	15	21	10	6	2
Donnington Primary School	27	14	12	7	7	4
Furness Primary School	29	11	13	8	7	11
Harlesden Primary School	35	14	9	5	5	3
John Keble CofE Primary School	23	19	10	10	8	3
Leopold Primary School	52	54	24	20	7	8
Mitchell Brook Primary School	58	23	22	22	10	2

Schools in PPA4 / preferences	1	2	3	4	5	6
Newfield Primary School	13	8	7	10	5	7
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	24	20	12	6	3	2
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	74	31	19	17	6	5
St Mary's CofE Primary School	17	11	20	4	6	5
The Stonebridge School	14	11	7	4	7	2
Total preferences for PPA4	391	231	176	123	77	54

Table 4: Number of parents expressing a preference for schools in PPA4 for 2024/25

Schools in PPA4 / preferences	1	2	3	4	5	6
Brentfield Primary School	18	20	15	11	3	6
Donnington Primary School	24	12	13	9	11	7
Furness Primary School	28	14	9	9	5	4
Harlesden Primary School	31	12	17	11	7	4
John Keble CofE Primary School	43	14	13	10	6	3
Leopold Primary School	46	33	21	11	9	10
Mitchell Brook Primary School	64	23	17	11	11	8
Newfield Primary School	9	9	10	5	4	6
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	25	16	9	4	2	2
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	57	29	16	12	10	6
St Mary's CofE Primary School	12	8	5	5	4	5
The Stonebridge School	15	16	7	8	6	5
Total preferences for PPA4	372	206	152	106	78	66

21. The data in Tables 2 to 4 show that over time, the overall number of preferences expressed by parents for places in schools in PPA4 has dropped from 1066 in 2022/23 to 1052 in 2023/24 and then to 980 in 2024/25. That is a reduction of 86 preferences for places for schools in PPA4 over that period (the equivalent of just under the number of children that would fill three infant classes).

22. The LA provided me with data showing the number of children admitted to schools in PPA4 for the last three years and the forecast numbers to be admitted in the next two years. I have put that data into Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5: Number of children admitted to schools in PPA4 at the start of the academic year in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24

Schools in PPA4 / admission numbers (September)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Brentfield Primary School	55	30	44
Donnington Primary School	30	30	29
Furness Primary School	20	37	32
Harlesden Primary School	50	42	42
John Keble CofE Primary School	54	53	43

Schools in PPA4 / admission numbers (September)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Leopold Primary School	84	78	80
Mitchell Brook Primary School	73	82	77
Newfield Primary School	27	30	27
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	30	27	30
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	60	60	59
St Mary's CofE Primary School	22	25	23
The Stonebridge School	30	32	26
Total admitted in schools in PPA4	535	526	512

Table 6: Number of children offered places (for 2024/25) and forecast to apply for places (for 2025/26) in schools in PPA4

Schools in PPA4	Offered 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26
Brentfield Primary School	27	26
Donnington Primary School	28	26
Furness Primary School	34	33
Harlesden Primary School	39	38
John Keble CofE Primary School	49	47
Leopold Primary School	73	70
Mitchell Brook Primary School	81	78
Newfield Primary School	27	26
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	26	25
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	57	55
St Mary's CofE Primary School	25	23
The Stonebridge School	31	30
Total admitted in schools in PPA4^B	497	477

Key:

^B The LA provided me with the totals of 535 for 2024/25 and 526 for 2025/26 in their dataset; these are inaccurate, so I have corrected them as shown.

23. I have calculated the number of spare places in schools in PPA4 in the same time period as that covered by the data in Tables 5 and 6. I have put the resulting data in Tables 7 and 8 (without the PAN reduction at LPS and with the PAN reduction at LPS respectively).

Table 7: Number of spare places in schools in PPA4 (where the PAN at LPS is not reduced) between 2021/22 to 2025/26

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Number of school places in PPA4	795	795	795	795	765
Number admitted / forecast	535	526	512	497	477
Number of spare places	260	269	283	298	288

Table 8: Number of spare places in schools in PPA4 (where the PAN at LPS is reduced) between 2021/22 to 2025/26

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Number of school places in PPA4	795	795	795	795	705
Number admitted / forecast	535	526	512	497	477
Number of spare places	260	269	283	298	228

24. I can see from the data in Table 7 that the number of spare places in schools in PPA4 is between 32.7 per cent in 2021/22 (at its lowest) and 37.6 per cent in 2025/26 (at its highest, even with the reduction in overall places because of the PAN reduction at Mitchell Primary School). Had the PAN not been reduced at Mitchell Primary School in 2025/26, the number of the spare places in schools in PPA4 would be 318 (40 per cent of the total). If the PAN at LPS is reduced to 60 in 2025/26, it would still leave 32.3 per cent of places spare in schools in PPA4. In the documentation presented to the LA Cabinet in May 2024, it was recorded that census data “suggests that this [situation] will not change over the next five years”.

25. The 288 spare places forecast in 2025/26 without the reduction in PAN at LPS would be equivalent to almost ten empty infant classes (almost eight classes if the PAN is reduced). It does not appear, therefore, that the reduction in PAN at LPS will affect the LA's ability to meet its duty to provide sufficient places in the planning area. There is clear evidence that there will be a considerable number of spare places in 2025/26 should they be needed.

26. Turning now to the school. Tables 2 to 4 show that although the number of parents expressing a preference for places at the school rose between 2022/23 and 2023/24 (from 158 to 165), it fell to the lowest level in 2024/25 (130). I note from Table 5 that in the three previous years, the school admitted between 78 and 84 children. Table 6 shows that the number of children offered places for 2024/25 is 73 and the number forecast to apply for places in 2025/26 is 70. The number of children admitted to the school is clearly forecast to reduce over the next two years and is on a downward trajectory over the period covered by the data in Tables 5 and 6.

27. The school provided the number of children it has in each class on each site (as of July 2024). I have put that data into Tables 9 and 10.

Table 9: The number of children in each year group on the Hawkshead Road site (as of July 2024)

Year Group	YR	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Number of children	48	42	47	38	49	37	39	300

Table 10: The number of children in each year group on the Gwenneth Rickus site (as of July 2024)

Year Group	YR	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Number of children	28	25	24	32	38	34	54	235

28. The total number of children on both sites is 535. The school capacity (according to the DfE's GIAS website) is 870.

29. The LA has not put forward the argument that the school's finances are such that they need to reduce staffing because of falling numbers. Indeed, the governing body stated during the statutory proposal consultation period that it had taken steps to ensure that the school's finances would be healthy for a number of years. This is certainly borne out by the evidence on the DfE's SFB website, which recorded a healthy in-year balance of £450.8k and revenue reserve of £926.5k at the end of the last financial year (2022-23). However, the LA has requested a PAN of 60 from 2025/26. This may have an effect in future years because schools are funded, in large part, on a per child basis. A reduction in the number of children admitted, therefore, results in a reduction in income. The governing body's response during the statutory proposal consultation period was that it recognised the need for it to have to take further steps to ensure a healthy financial position should the school be restricted to the Hawkshead Road site (where the LA say there is only space for 60 children in YR). However, the governing body's response did not flag up any specific financial issues that I needed to consider in respect of the proposed variation.

30. The LA have requested the PAN reduction at LPS not only as part of its plan to deal with the wider issue of the increasing surplus of primary school places in the area but also because, as part of it dealing with that issue by closing the Gwenneth Rickus site of LPS, the PAN at the school will be restricted by virtue of the school being confined to the remaining Hawkshead Road site. The LA told me that its plan for the school between now and 2027 is:

"The variation will allow the council to accommodate all children who apply for Leopold Primary School in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 normal round of admissions in the main site at Hawkshead Road. This means from September 2025, the Gwenneth Rickus site would not have a Reception year group, and from September 2026, the site would not have a Reception or Year 1 year group.

The site will close completely at the end of July 2027. Remaining children who are being taught in Years 2 to 5 at the Gwenneth Rickus site will transfer to the Hawkshead Road site. If parents do not wish their child to transfer to the Hawkshead Road site from September 2027, they are able to apply through the normal in-year admissions process for a place at an alternative school."

31. I can see from Table 6 that the number of children forecast to apply for places at the school in 2025/26 is 70. This could potentially frustrate parental preference as the forecast number is 10 more than the PAN being proposed by the LA for the school. About this the LA told me that:

“The projection figures are based on historical patterns of admissions at Leopold Primary School. Due to the distance between the two sites, we anticipate that children living closer to the Gwenneth Rickus site would become less likely to choose the school as a preference, instead choosing other schools which are more local to them”.

32. The school told me that:

“If the variation is agreed this will result in pupils leaving the [Gwenneth Rickus] site prematurely. The school will also be negatively impacted financially as a result of the proposed variation. There is also the potential for overcrowding when children from [the Gwenneth Rickus site] are moved to the [Hawkshead Road] site.”

33. The LA argue that the area around the Gwenneth Rickus site has a high density of primary schools. From the postcode of the Gwenneth Rickus site the DfE’s GIAS website lists 12 primary schools within one mile (excluding the Hawkshead Road site of LPS, straight line distance in miles in brackets after each): Brentfield Primary School (0.17); Mitchell Brook Primary School (0.21); St Mary’s CofE Primary School (0.33); St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Primary School (0.38); The Stonebridge School (0.45); Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School (0.46); Oakington Manor Primary School (0.66); Harlesden Primary School (0.67); Newfield Primary School (0.72); John Keble CofE Primary School (0.78); Northview Junior and Infant School (0.82); and St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School (0.93). Aside from St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School (which has no current Ofsted judgement) and The Stonebridge School (judged ‘Requires Improvement’) all of these schools are judged to be at least ‘Good’, with the St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Primary School being judged as ‘Outstanding’. Every one of the schools listed to be within one mile of the Gwenneth Rickus site and which is in PPA4 are forecast to have vacant places in 2025/26. The closure of the Gwenneth Rickus site and reduction in PAN at LPS would not appear to disadvantage parents looking for a good primary school for their children in that area.

34. Given the pattern of offers and admissions which has been established between 2021/22 and 2024/25, and that the number of applications forecast for places at the school in 2025/26 as set out in Table 6 is 70, I considered whether a reduction of the PAN to 90, as opposed to 60, would have been appropriate. I asked the school and the LA for their views on this. The school did not comment, but the LA told me:

“Over recent years, demand for the school has been at around 50% on National Offer Day. The Gwenneth Rickus site is capped at one form entry in a number of year groups and the Hawkshead Road site is undersubscribed in every year group.

Closure of the Gwenneth Rickus site would allow the Hawkshead Road site to operate at full capacity, as well as delivering economies of scale by ending the requirement to operate two school sites where only one is potentially required. This is why the PAN of 60 has been proposed, Despite in year admissions, neither [...] of the school sites has reached 90 with the exception of two years groups in the January 2024 census. [...]

The local authority does not consider the reduction of PAN to 90 to be a viable long term solution. Leopold Primary School is already operating below three form entry in every year group apart from Year 4 and Year 6 which had 92 and 93 pupils on roll respectively at the time of the January 2024 census. Projections do not indicate the number of children on roll in each year group at the Hawkshead Road site following a phased closure of the Gwenneth Rickus site will require a third [class].

In the context of falling demand, there is no longer a need for Leopold Primary school to be split across two sites as there are sufficient spare places on both the Leopold Primary School Hawkshead Road site and in other local schools to accommodate future demand for primary provision in the area.”

35. In considering the possibility of a PAN of 90 further, I took into account that LPS will be contained on its single remaining site in Hawkshead Road from 2027. I find that reducing the PAN to anything more than 60 from 2025/26 would not be viable; the school has to prepare from this point forwards not only to operate on a single site with its overall capacity effectively halved but also incorporate onto its Hawkshead Road site the children being schooled on the Gwenneth Rickus site in Years 2 to 5 when that site is permanently closed. If the PAN was to be determined at 90 for 2025/26 onwards, the school would have to run three classes when there was not the space or the number of children to fill all three classes. I therefore find that a PAN of 90 would not be sustainable.

36. I determine that the LA has provided compelling evidence that it will be able to manage school places in the planning area after the PAN is reduced to 60 at LPS. In fact, there will remain a substantial number of spare places in PPA4. The reduction in PAN at LPS follows the school losing half of its overall capacity by one of its two sites being closed in 2027. There is a high density of primary schools in the area around the current Gwenneth Rickus site, meaning that parents will have a choice of 10 primary schools, other than LPS, within one mile that are judged to be at least ‘Good’ by Ofsted. The LA is of the view that no parents who wish their children to attend LPS will find that their child cannot get a place at the school. The proposed variation would not appear to frustrate the LA’s duty to ensure a sufficiency of places in its schools, or parental preference, from 2025/26.

37. I therefore determine that the PAN at the school will be reduced from 120 to 60 for 2025/26.

Determination

38. 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 Brent for Leopold Primary School for September 2025.

39. I determine that the published admission number for the school will be 60.

Dated: 9 July 2024

Signed:

Schools adjudicator: Dr Robert Cawley