



Office of
the Schools
Adjudicator

Determination

Case reference: VAR2763

Admission Authority: The London Borough of Haringey for
Park View School

Date of decision: 30 June 2026

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 Park View School for 2026/27.

I determine that the published admission number for admissions to Year 7 in 2026/27 shall be 180.

The referral

1. The London Borough of Haringey (the Admission Authority; the Local Authority) has referred to the adjudicator a proposal for a variation to the admission arrangements (the Arrangements) for Park View School (the School) for 2026/27.
2. The School is a community school for children aged 11 to 16. It is a co-educational school with no designated religious character.
3. The proposed variation is that the published admission number (PAN) of the School, which applies to admissions to Year 7, be reduced from 189, as determined, to 180 for 2026/27.

Jurisdiction and procedure

4. Section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the Act) makes provision for variations to determined arrangements. Paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 of the School Admissions Code (the Code) say (insofar as is 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”.

5. The Arrangements were determined by the Local Authority on 11 February 2025.

6. The Local Authority has provided me with confirmation that the appropriate bodies have been notified of the proposed variation in line with the Code, and that the governing body of the School has been consulted on the proposed variation. I find that the appropriate procedures were followed, and I am satisfied that the proposed variation is within my jurisdiction.

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

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

- the referral from the Local Authority dated 22 June 2026, and supporting documents;
- the determined Arrangements and the proposed variation to those Arrangements;
- responses from the Local Authority and the governing body of the School to my requests for further information;
- maps, including Google Maps and those showing the location of the School;
- [VAR2645](#). In October 2025, I approved a request to vary the determined admission arrangements for the School for September 2025. My determination then was to reduce the PAN from 216 (as previously determined) to 180 for 2025/26; and
- information available on gov.uk websites (including the ‘Get Information About Schools’ (GIAS) and ‘Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool’ (FBIT) websites); and on the websites of the Local Authority and the School.

9. There is no formal consultation required for a variation and so parents and others do not have the opportunity to express their view. 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 view. It also allows for objections to the adjudicator. None of this is afforded by the variation process.

10. I note here that the Arrangements for 2027/28 have been determined, and the PAN is set at 180. This means that if I agree to the Admission Authority's request to vary the Arrangements for 2026/27 by reducing the PAN as proposed, it will be for that year only and will not have a bearing on subsequent years.

11. In the interest of dealing speedily with this and other requests for variations for schools, I have not considered other aspects of the Arrangements. Therefore, nothing in this determination should be taken as indicating that other aspects of the Arrangements do or do not conform with the requirements relating to admissions.

Consideration of proposed variation

12. 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.

13. The Local Authority has proposed that the PAN of the School be reduced from 189 to 180 in 2026/27. The proposed variation has the support of the School's governing body.

14. Having regard to the declining birth rates and admissions to Year 7 in recent years, the Local Authority told me the following reason for it seeking a variation to the PAN for the School:

"Following the determination of Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for September 2026 entry (finalised in February 2025), a number of maintained secondary schools in Haringey entered into formal discussions with recognised trade unions regarding proposed changes to class size arrangements. These discussions were prompted by local contextual developments and aimed to support an increase in class sizes from 27 to 30 pupils. Agreements were reached during the summer term of 2025.

This adjustment was endorsed by the Local Authority and aligns with national funding assumptions and Department for Education guidance, which recognises 30 pupils as the standard class size in secondary education. The change will enable these schools to achieve a range of operational and financial efficiencies, including improved deployment of resources and enhanced staffing flexibility."

15. I have considered the latest available data to form a view about the sufficiency of school places in the local area if the PAN of the School is reduced from 189 to 180 in 2026/27. I have also considered the demand for places at the School, the reasons given for the change in demand, the potential effect of the proposed PAN reduction on parental preference, and whether the proposed reduction is justified taking into account all relevant circumstances.

16. The Local Authority has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient places for the children in its area. To fulfil this duty, the Local Authority assesses the likely future number of places to be needed and plans to meet that need. In the borough there are twelve secondary schools, including the School, for which the usual year of entry is Year 7. Together, these twelve schools provide a combined total PAN of 2,574 places for September 2026. The current allocations for September 2026 show a surplus of around 150 Year 7 places (5.8 per cent) in the borough. Were I to approve the variation there would still be a surplus of 141 places (5.5 per cent of the reduced combined PAN of 2,565 places).

17. I am satisfied that if the PAN of the School were to be reduced to 180 for 2026/27, there would be sufficient places within the borough for any parents seeking a Year 7 place for their child both for September 2026 and in-year admissions.

18. I turn now to the demand for places at the School. The Local Authority stated:

“For the current admissions cycle for entry to September 2026, currently Park View only has 186 confirmed offers against a PAN of 189, leaving 3 vacancies, with no current waiting list. As the admission authority, we remain under a statutory duty to honour offers made up to the PAN, should these convert to admissions in September; however, we anticipate some pupil movement and potential drop-off ahead of the start of the new term. By way of context, the current Year 7 cohort (transitioning to Year 8 in September) has 175 pupils on roll, against an [reduced PAN] of 180 agreed last year by the Schools Adjudicator.”

19. If the PAN of the School were to be reduced by nine places to 180, the Local Authority confirmed that it would continue to discharge its duty to admit all 186 offeres to the School, regardless of the possibility that a few of them might give up such offers at any point from now till September. However, in the current circumstances, if any family were to make a late or in-year application for a Year 7 place at the School, a place may not be available resulting in some parental frustration. I do not anticipate that there will be a large number of such applications. In any event, if any parents were unsuccessful in securing a place for their child at the School, they would likely be able to secure a place at one of the four secondary schools in the borough which still have vacant Year 7 places (many within three miles of distance from the School).

20. I am satisfied that there is unlikely to be any substantial frustration of parental preference if the variation were to be agreed for September 2026.

21. I will now consider the impact on the School of my approving, or not approving, the proposed variation.

22. As schools are largely funded on the number of pupils on roll and the most expensive element of a school budget is staff, it is generally considered financially efficient to have classes that have 30 pupils or close to 30 pupils. The request for the variation refers to financial pressures faced by the School and the wish to align class organisation and staffing to the number of children. The situation the School wishes to avoid is staffing classes of a size that are not financially viable.

23. There are 175 pupils currently on roll at the Year 7 cohort of the School, below the reduced PAN of 180 for 2025/26 (as I determined in VAR2645). If the PAN of the School for 2026/27 were reduced, this would continue the planned transition to having six classes of Year 7 in September 2026, with each having around 30 pupils, depending on the actual admissions. The Local Authority stated:

“Aligning the number of available places with projected demand will strengthen the school’s financial position from 2026/27 onwards. Moving to a 30-pupil class model will support more efficient resource deployment, improved staffing stability, and sustainable curriculum delivery.

A planned reduction in PAN will therefore support Park View in achieving long-term financial sustainability, while maintaining educational standards and contributing to a more balanced and resilient secondary school system across Haringey.”

24. The FBIT website shows that for the financial year ending March 2025, the School had an in-year deficit of about £236,000, and a negative revenue reserve of about £666,000.

25. In response to my request for further information, the School stressed that:

“The school remains in a deficit position. Due to the falling pupil roll in the borough, the current staffing model is not sustainable and a planned reduction in staffing to address the shortfall is required to prevent the school falling into an unsustainable financial position. Without a planned and sustained reduction in PAN, the school will fall further into deficit as we will not be able to afford the staffing model that is in place. In 2024/25 Park View increased class sizes from 27 to 30 and will move to six forms of 30 pupils as the PAN.”

26. Having considered all the matters above, my reasoning can be summarised as follows:

- If the proposed variation is approved, it does not give rise to any concern about the sufficiency of Year 7 places in the borough for 2026/27. Those children in the local area seeking Year 7 places would have been offered admissions to the School, or any secondary school for which their parents expressed a preference, in September 2026. There is unlikely to be any

frustration of parental preference as the Admission Authority has undertaken to admit all 186 children being offered a Year 7 place at the School. The possibility of any parental frustration in relation to any in-year application is small given the availability of surplus Year 7 places within the borough at present. There is compelling evidence that a reduction in the PAN to 180 would allow the School to plan accordingly, make the best use of its resources, and in the longer term, improve its financial position.

- If the proposed variation is not approved, the School would be obliged to offer a Year 7 place up to the existing PAN of 189 for any applicant in 2026/27. This could result in the School having to restructure its classes which may create logistical and financial challenges.

27. Taking everything into consideration, I find that the variation is justified by the circumstances and approve it.

Determination

28. 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 Park View School for 2026/27.

29. I determine that the published admission number for admissions to Year 7 in 2026/27 shall be 180.

Dated: 30 June 2026

Signed:

Schools Adjudicator: Jackie Liu