



Office of
the Schools
Adjudicator

Local Authority Report
to
The Schools Adjudicator
from

London Borough of Bromley
to be provided by
31 October 2025

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**Please email your completed report to: [Office of the Schools Adjudicator](#) by
31 October 2025 and earlier if possible**

Contents

Introduction

Section 1 - Normal points of admission	4
A. Co-ordination.....	4
B. Looked after and previously looked after children.....	4
C. Special educational needs and/or disabilities	5
 Section 2 - In-year admissions.....	6
A. Overall level of challenge for your in-year admissions.....	6
B. Looked after children and previously looked after children	6
C. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities	7
D. Fair access protocol	8
E. Directions to maintained schools to admit children	10
F. Other points on in-year admissions	10
 Section 3 - Other matters.....	11
 Section 4 - Feedback.....	12

Introduction

1. Section 88P of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the Act) requires every local authority to make an annual report to the adjudicator. The Chief Adjudicator then includes a summary of these reports in the annual report to the Secretary of State for Education. The School Admissions Code (the Code) sets out the requirements for reports by local authorities in paragraph 6. Paragraph 3.30 specifies what must be included as a minimum in the report to the adjudicator and makes provision for the local authority to include any other matters. Paragraphs 6 and 3.30 of the Code require that each local authority publish its report locally.
2. **This year's report must cover the 2024/2025 academic year and be submitted to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) by 31 October 2025.**
3. Please note that, in response to feedback on the previous template and in the light of consultation with a group of local authorities, changes have been made to various sections of this year's template.

Section 1 - Normal points of admission

A. Co-ordination

Which of the following best describes the level of challenge for your **main admissions round in 24/25 compared to 23/24?**

Year Group	Much less challenging	Less challenging	No change	More challenging	Much more challenging
Reception			X		
Year 7			X		
Other relevant years of entry			X		

Please give examples to illustrate your answer if you wish:

All applications were processed and offers made on the relevant offer date, for those received by the relevant closing date for applications.

Late applications have been processed and places offered effectively on an ongoing basis

B. Looked after and previously looked after children

- i. How well does the admissions system in your local authority area serve the interests of looked after children at **normal points of admission?**

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- ii. How well do the admissions systems in other local authority areas serve the interests of children looked after by your local authority at **normal points of admission?**

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- iii. How well does your admissions system serve the interests of children who are looked after by other local authorities but educated in your area at **normal points of admission?**

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- iv. How well does the admissions system in your local authority area serve the interests of previously looked after children at **normal points of admission?**

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

v. If you wish, please give examples of any good or poor practice or difficulties which exemplify your answers about the admission to schools of looked after and previously looked after children at **normal points of admission**:

As all schools (primary, infant, junior and secondary) with the London Borough of Bromley are their own admission authorities; the Council is not responsible for determining their admission arrangements. Notwithstanding that the Council check all admission arrangement for legal compliance and that they provide priority for children falling into these categories.

C. Special educational needs and/or disabilities

- i. How well served are children with special educational needs and/or disabilities who **have** an education, health and care plan that names a school at **normal points of admission**?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any comments you wish to make on the admission of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities at normal points of admission:

There is good cooperation between SEN and Admissions in this area.

Section 2 - In-year admissions

A. Which of the following best describes the overall level of challenge for your in-year admissions in 24/25 compared to 23/24?

Phase	Much less challenging	Less challenging	No change	More challenging	Much more challenging
Primary			X		
Secondary				X	

If you wish, please explain the factors that have changed the level of challenge for your in-year admissions:

Primary in-year admissions remain constant, as there are sufficient places available across all year groups to help accommodate the number of in-year admissions received.

Secondary in-year admissions, however, are more challenging due to the reduced number of places available in all year groups due to admission authorities exercising their right to 'cap' numbers. In some cases, this has seen significant 'caps' in certain schools and areas resulting in the LA finding it difficult to secure preference offers or find available spaces within a reasonable distance. This has led to (and continues to result in) a higher volume of Fair Access cases under category L, simply because there is no school in a reasonable distance.

Thankfully, schools are consistently supportive of the FAP processes in the majority of cases enabling identification of education provision.

Securing places in Year 11 continues to be complex and difficult, due to the issues around matching exam courses and boards, the impact it may have on a school's results and the potential disruption it may cause a year group within a school.

B. Looked after children and previously looked after children

- i. How well does the **in-year admission** system serve children who are looked after by your local authority and who are being educated in your area?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- ii. How well does the **in-year admission** systems in other local authority areas serve the interests of your looked after children?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- iii. How well does the **in-year admission** system serve the interests of children who are looked after by other local authorities but educated in your area?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- iv. How well does your **in-year admission** system serve the interests of previously looked after children?

☐ Not at all ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- v. If you wish, please give examples of any good or poor practice or difficulties which support or exemplify your answers about **in-year admissions** for looked after and previously looked after children:

On the whole, schools in the borough work collaboratively with the virtual school and the Council is able to secure school admission places quickly for CLA and those previously looked after.

C. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities

- i. How well served are children with special educational needs and/or disabilities who **have** an education, health and care plan that names a school when they need to be **admitted in-year**?

☐ Not at all well ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- ii. How well served are children with special educational needs and/or disabilities who **do not have** an education, health and care plan when they need to be **admitted in-year**?

☐ Not at all well ☐ Not well ☐ Well ☒ Very well ☐ Do not know

- iii. Please give examples of any good or poor practice or difficulties which support or exemplify your answers about **in-year admissions** for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities:

Again, there is good work between SEN and Admissions. Children's needs are discussed and considered, with appropriate targeted support put in place.

D. Fair access protocol

What proportion of the state-funded mainstream schools in your area have said that they agree to the local authority fair access protocol?

Primary

Between 0% and 49% ☐

Between 50% and 74% ☐

Between 75% and 89% ☐

Between 90% and 99% ☒

100% ☐

Secondary

Between 0% and 49% ☐

Between 50% and 74% ☐

Between 75% and 89% ☐

Between 90% and 99% ☒

100% ☐

If you have below 75% for either phase, please explain why:

N/A

- i. How many children were admitted to schools in your area under the fair access protocol between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025?

Type of school	Number of Primary aged children admitted	Number of Secondary aged children admitted
Community and voluntary controlled	0	0
Foundation, voluntary aided and academies	0	66
Total	0	66

- ii. If you have seen a change in the number of children referred to your Fair Access Protocol between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025 compared to the previous academic year please indicate what you consider the key reasons for this change to be?

The Council has seen an increase in the number of secondary Fair Access cases. This is primarily due to an increase of families moving into the LA and there being no available spaces in the relevant year groups within a reasonable distance, therefore triggering FAP as they become hard-to-place pupils under category L.

The vast majority of FAP cases arise through a lack of capacity invariably brought about by schools capping numbers in later year groups and the LA needing to have a fair mechanism to place schools over number as opposed to placements following exclusions etc. Figures are therefore slightly misleading in so far as a number of children are hard to place simply because schools are full.

Securing places in Year 11 continues to be complex and difficult, due to the issues around matching exam courses and boards and the impact it may have on a school's results.

- iii. How well do you consider children referred to the Fair Access Protocol are served in in your area?

☐ Not at all well ☐ Not well ☒ Well ☐ Very well ☐ Not applicable

- iv. Please provide any comments you wish on the protocol not covered above:

As in previous years, the vast majority of secondary schools in the LA are actively and positively engaged with FAP, although there continues to be particular challenges around Year 11 pupils.

E. Directions to maintained schools to admit children¹

How many directions did the local authority make between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025 to maintained schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority to admit children (including children looked after by the local authority but resident in another area)?

Total number of children	Of which, looked after	Of which, not looked after
0	0	0

F. Other points on in-year admissions

- i. For the schools for which the local authority co-ordinates in-year applications, in the year between 1 Aug 2024 and 31 July 2025 did you receive

- ☐ Significantly fewer applications than last year
☒ slightly fewer applications than last year
☐ about the same
☐ slightly more than last year
☐ significantly more than last year

- ii. For what proportion of **primary** schools in your area did the local authority co-ordinate in-year admissions during the 2024/2025 academic year

- Between 0% and 24% ☐
Between 25% and 49% ☐
Between 50% and 74% ☐
Between 75% and 100% ☒

- iii. For what proportion of **secondary** schools in your area did the local authority co-ordinate in-year admissions during the 2024/2025 academic year

- Between 0% and 24% ☐
Between 25% and 49% ☐
Between 50% and 74% ☐
Between 75% and 100% ☒

¹ It is important that only Directions to maintained schools are included here. Numbers of Directions to academies are already held by the Department.

iv. If you wish, please provide any comments about how **well in-year admissions** works for children who are **not** looked after or previously looked after and/or do **not** have SEND:

For the vast majority of bromley schools, where the Council co-ordinates the in-year admission processes, it works very well.

For the few schools that administer their own in-year admission processes, the Council is often not provided with information or updates on available places or individual cases (i.e. the details of every application received and its outcome, as required by the School Admissions Code 2021, paragraphs 2.27 and 2.30), despite requests for such information. The Council is, therefore, unaware of where there are places in year groups at these schools, the quality of the admissions information provided to parents, or whether their right to appeal refused places is appropriately communicated.

v. If you wish, please provide any other comments on the admission of children **in-year** not previously raised (you may wish to include here any comments about cases where it has not proved possible to find places for children):

There is a strong and robust practice between the Council and schools in relation to our FAP process and for children unable to secure a place through the in-year processes, who invariably are offered places through FAP. This includes the participation of those schools who manage their own in-year processes.

Section 3 - Other matters

Are there any other matters that the local authority would like to raise that have not been covered by the questions above?

N/A

Section 4 - Feedback

We would be grateful if you could provide any feedback on completing this report to inform our practice for 2026.

The report is concise, simple to complete, and presented in a helpful and clear format.

Thank you for completing this template.

Please return to [Office of the Schools Adjudicator](#) by 31 October 2025