

# **Admission Arrangements September 2026**

## **Public Consultation**

**6 December 2024 – 31 January 2025**



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# Overview

- The Council held an engagement exercise 2 October 2024 – 23 October 2024
- 2600+ responses to the 3 illustrative models. Further details can be found [here](#).
- The Council are formally consulting on admission arrangements for September 2026 including:
  - Changes to the catchment area boundaries between Varndean & Dorothy Stringer schools and Longhill High School
  - Changes to how secondary school places are allocated – introducing an ‘Open Admissions’ criteria
  - Reducing the Published Admission Numbers (‘PANs’) at Blatchington Mill School, Dorothy Stringer School and Longhill High School
  - Increasing the number of preferences families can use from 3 to 4
  - Increasing the PAN at Rudyard Kipling Primary School
- The public consultation runs between 6 December 2024 – 31 January 2025
- Responses can be given [here](#)

# Overview

These proposals seek to further the aims of the [Council Plan](#)

- The Council Plan 2023 to 2027: “A better future for children and young people”
- “Our goal is to keep children safe, for no child, young person or family to be left behind, and to provide high quality, inclusive, and accessible services”
- Support the provision of high quality and inclusive education from early years through to adult learning by delivering...strategies for children and young people at risk of educational disadvantage

# Overview

Our School Organisation Strategy seeks to:

- provide families with a good choice of schools in the city that meets their child's needs,
- deliver schools which are sustainable and able to thrive, including actions to tackle the issue of falling pupil numbers.
- ensure risk (budget) to the Council is manageable and proportionate,
- deliver children's outcomes which are good and improving especially for those at risk of disadvantage.  
Continue work to close the attainment gap.
- facilitate schools working together and with the Council in an effective partnership model

# Overview (Continued)

Our School Organisation Strategy seeks to:

- develop a supportive review of school SEND provision and sufficiency to evaluate the effectiveness of current whole school practices for SEND support and identify opportunities to deliver high quality interventions creatively.

The reviews will look at the following areas:

- inclusive education practices
- individualised support
- multi-agency collaboration and partnership working
- teacher training and professional development
- use of technology
- environmental adaptations
- effective use of teaching assistants
- SEND notional budget and top up funding

# Pupil Forecast

## Primary - Citywide

- 2460 places\*
- Sept 2025 – 1970 pupils
- Sept 2026 – 1953 pupils
- Sept 2027 – 1787 pupils

## Secondary – Citywide

(existing catchment areas)

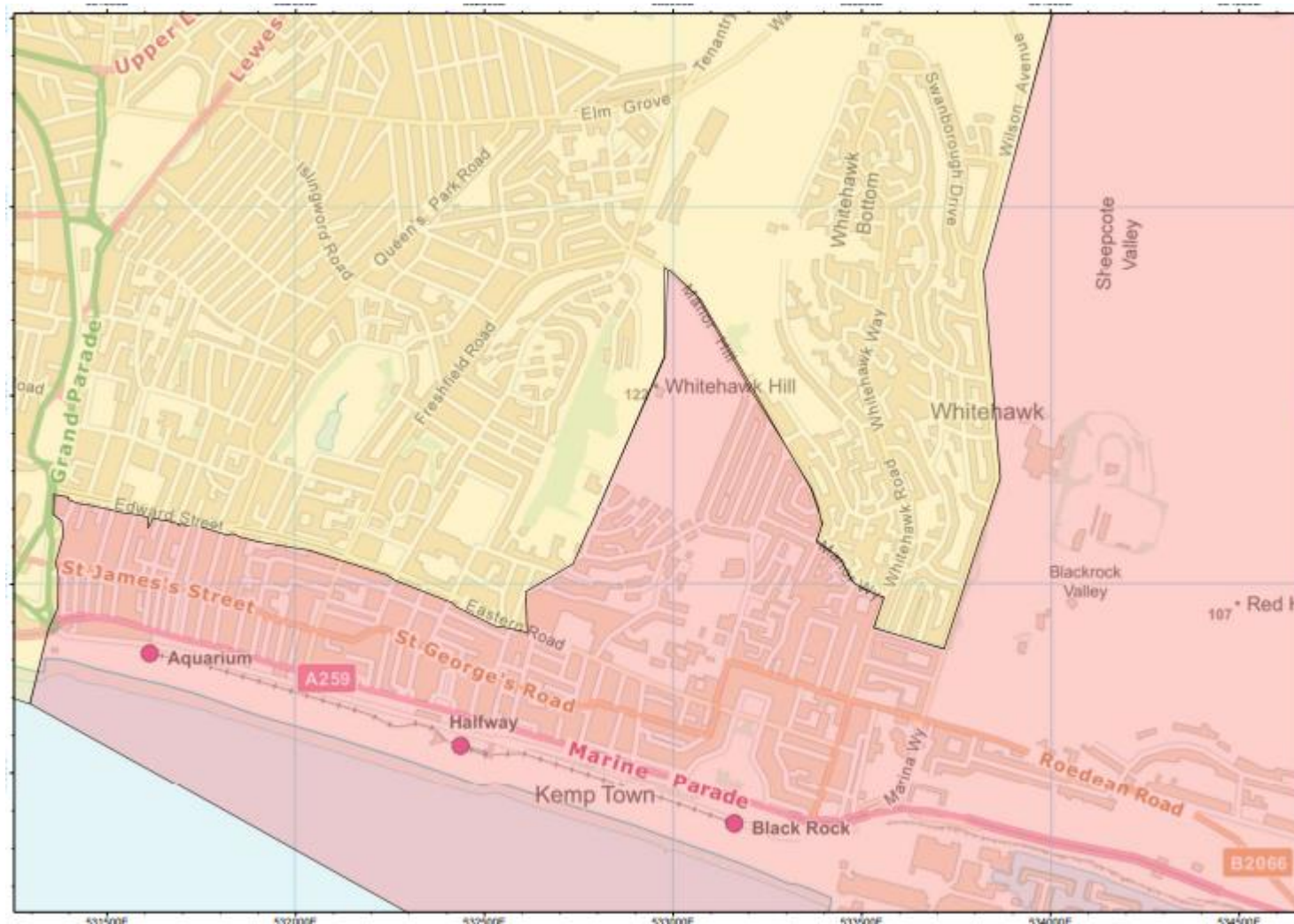
- 2560 places
- Sept 2026 – 2279 pupils
- Sept 2027 – 2231 pupils
- Sept 2028 – 2204 pupils
- Sept 2029 – 2116 pupils
- Sept 2030 – 2025 pupils
- Sept 2031- 2010 pupils

# Catchment Area Boundaries

- It is proposed that the BN2 5 north area above Manor Way and Manor Hill is moved to within the Dorothy Stringer & Varndean catchment area.
- It is proposed that the Kemptown area BN2 1 and BN2 5 (south) is moved to the Longhill High School area.



# Catchment Area Boundaries



# Catchment Area Boundaries

Proposed Catchment Area (PAN)	Pupil Numbers Sept 2026	Forecast Places Needed Sept 2026	Reduction CNCS and Kings	% FSM
PACA (220)	264	259	221	30%
HP & BM (480)	750	709	434	23%
DS & V (600)	726	698	624	29%
LHS (210)	301	233	175	33%
BACA (180)	165	153	129	51%
PHS (225)	241	233	205	22%

# Secondary School Priorities

## Current Priorities

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to Brighton & Hove City Council) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Compelling medical or other exceptional reasons to attend the school
3. Sibling link
4. Children eligible for Free School Meals and living within the school's Catchment area.
5. Other children eligible for free school meals, up to the city average.
6. Catchment area
7. Other children

Within all these priorities, the tie break is random allocation.

## Proposed Priorities

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the council) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Compelling medical or other exceptional reasons for attending the school.
3. A sibling link applied for those living within the designated catchment area only.
4. Children living within the designated catchment area and eligible for Free School Meals up to the city average.
5. Other children eligible for Free School Meals up to the city average.
6. Children living outside the school's catchment area but within the catchment area for BACA, PACA, Patcham or Longhill up to 20%.
7. Pupils living in the designated catchment area for the school(s).
8. Other children.

Within all these priorities, the tie break is random allocation.

# Secondary School Priorities

## Open Admissions

- The council proposes to introduce an 'Open Admissions' criteria in the priorities.
- As currently proposed, this would allow 20% of a school's admissions to be 'Open' to those living outside of the two central catchment areas, but within the catchment area for BACA, PACA, Patcham High or Longhill High schools.
- Whilst a choice of school can never be guaranteed, the introduction of a new priority increases the chances of a pupil being able to secure a school place and therefore increases genuine choice.
- This proposal starts to address the perceived unfairness of the fact that some catchment areas include two schools whilst others include only one, whilst recognising the geographic necessity of catchment areas.

# Secondary School Priorities

## Open Admissions

The below table shows the estimated impact of introducing the Open Admissions criteria at 20% as per the published report, alongside the other criteria.

September 2026	No. pupils in NEWLY PROPOSED catchment area likely requiring a catchment area school	No. FSM places available for out of catchment pupils	No. of open admission places available Based on Proposed PANs	No. of pupils who may not receive a place within catchment area, if
PACA	221	0	0	5
Hove Pk & Blatch Mill	434	7	96	57
DS & Varndean	624	0	120	144
Longhill	175	0	42	0
Patcham	205	19	45	44
BACA	129	0	0	0

# Published Admission Numbers

## PANs

- It is proposed to reduce Published Admission Numbers at:
  - Longhill High School – 270 to 210
  - Dorothy Stringer School – 330 to 300
  - Blatchington Mill School – 330 to 300

Existing catchment areas and unchanged PAN's

Year of Secondary entry	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of surplus places	281	329	356	444	535	550
% of surplus places	11%	13%	14%	17%	21%	21%

Proposed new catchment areas and reduced PAN's

Year of Secondary entry	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of surplus places	156	206	234	323	412	431
% of surplus places	6%	8%	10%	13%	17%	18%

- The forecast number of places required for Year 7 entry in September 2026 is 2279.
- There are currently 2560 places available meaning 281 unfilled places. 10.97% of places available
- A reduction in PAN of 120 places would mean only 161 unfilled places in the city which is 6.59% of the amended total number of places (2440)

# Next Steps and How to respond

- The public consultation closes 31 January 2025
- [Your Voice Brighton & Hove](#)
- People Overview and Scrutiny – 14 January 2025
- Cabinet - TBC
- Full Council - TBC
  
- [Thursday 12 December](#) – Online 10:00 – 11:30
- [Monday 16 December](#) – Online 17.30 – 19.00
- [Tuesday 7 January](#) – In-person 18:00 – 19:30, Hove Town Hall
- [Saturday 11 January](#) – In-person 10:30 – 12:00, Jubilee Library
  
- Further meetings will take place and the details will follow.

# Questions and Comments