IYFAP End of Year Summary
Academic Year September 2025 - July 2026

This summary is intended to provide schools with an overview of Fair Access activity during 2025/26, highlight the key placement trends, and confirm the approach that will be taken into 2026/27. It should be read alongside the existing Fair Access Protocol, which sets out the operational process, eligibility criteria and expectations for schools.

The In Year Fair Access Panel (IYFAP) has continued to fulfil its statutory purpose by supporting the timely placement of unplaced children outside the normal admissions round, with a particular focus on vulnerable pupils. In 2025/26, the Panel completed 43 Fair Access placements and helped keep the time children spent out of school to a minimum.

Primary referrals remained minimal in 2025/26, reflecting effective communication between the local authority, school admissions officers and schools, alongside sufficient place planning. The Local Authority remains grateful for schools' continued support in placing Year 11 pupils in mainstream settings. Overall, the Panel has continued to support timely, appropriate placements in line with statutory guidance.

2025/26 Highlights

- **43** Fair Access placements completed.
- **43%** reduction in placements compared with 2024/25 is likely due to a combination of reduced demand from families in hotel accommodation, greater availability of school places within the borough during 2025/26, more timely responses from schools to in-year applications, and stricter adherence to Fair Access Protocol criteria. We will continue to monitor this trend and undertake further analysis if required to understand the longer-term drivers behind the reduction.
- No primary referrals were made to the IYFAP, compared with one referral in 2024/25.
- **65%** of placements involved Year 11 pupils.
- **81%** of placements related to children residing in the south of the borough.
- Half of all referrals involved children out of education for four weeks or more.

The statistics include four placements agreed in July 2025 where the children did not start until the 2025/26 academic year.

Year 11

The general expectation is that mainstream education should be inclusive and that pupils with a wide range of needs should be able to access a mainstream school place. However, Year 11 pupils seeking a new school place can face additional challenges because they are nearing post-compulsory school age. Where appropriate and subject to availability, pupils were offered a place at Hillingdon's Interim Provision. Where a mainstream school place was required, the case was considered against the Fair Access eligibility criteria and, where eligibility was met, a placement was allocated through the Fair Access Panel.

Placements

The table below shows Fair Access placements from September 2025 to July 2026 and indicates where pupils were living within the borough. For secondary schools, the north of the borough is defined as above the A40 and the south as below the A40. The referrals reflect all pupils presented to the Panel. There continued to be a concentration of referrals from the south of the borough, which places pressure on local school capacity and highlights the importance of maintaining flexibility within the Fair Access Protocol to support equitable distribution.

	Secondary referrals						
Month/Year Group	**Year 7**	**Year 8**	**Year 9**	**Year 10**	**Year 11**	**North**	**South**
September	0	1	2	2	11	2	14
October	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
November	0	0	1	1	4	0	6
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
January	0	0	0	2	4	1	5
February	0	0	2	0	2	3	1
March	0	1	1	1	3	1	5
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total per year	**0**	**2**	**7**	**6**	**28**	8	35
Total	**43**					**43**	

The month of May will not appear in any statistics as no IYFAP meetings were scheduled in May.

No placements were made in December or April either, as there were no children who met the criteria to be presented.

Below is a breakdown of the reasons each referral was made to the IYFAP. The additional eligible categories have not been included as there were no referrals.

The largest referral category remained children who had been out of education for four weeks or more, accounting for 50% of all placements (21 pupils). The next highest categories were:

- Children of Gypsies, Roma, Travellers, refugees, and asylum seekers (5 pupils)
- Children subject to a Child in Need or Child Protection Plan (5 pupils)
- Children requiring reintegration from alternative provision (5 pupils)

	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	June	July	Total
Children in alternative provision who need to be reintegrated into mainstream education or who have been permanently excluded but are deemed suitable for mainstream education.	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	**5**
Children who have been out of education for four or more weeks where it can be demonstrated that there are no places available at any school within a reasonable distance of their home. This does not include circumstances where a suitable place has been offered to a child, and this has not been accepted	9	1	2	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	**21**
Children for whom a place has not been sought due to exceptional circumstances	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**4**
Children of Gypsies, Roma, Travellers, refugees, and asylum seekers	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**5**
Children either subject to a CIN/CP Plan or having had a CIN/CP Plan within 12 months	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	**5**

Previously looked after children for whom the local authority has been unable to promptly secure a school place	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Children with SEN (without an EHCP)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Children who have been refused a school place on the grounds of their challenging behaviour and referred to the Protocol in accordance with paragraph 3.10 of this Code	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Total	**15**	**4**	**6**	**0**	**7**	**4**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**43**

Place planning areas

When considering placements outside a child's immediate local area, the Panel will take account of reasonable travel distance, parental preference where this is known, school capacity, the child's circumstances and any relevant safeguarding or vulnerability information. Decisions will continue to be made on a case-by-case basis.

Of the 43 secondary school placements made through Fair Access, 35 children lived in the south of the borough and 8 lived in the north. This means 81% of children placed through Fair Access lived in the south. The Panel remains mindful of this imbalance and will consider allocation to a school in the north where the journey is within a reasonable distance, or where a parent has named a northern school as a preference. This supports fairer distribution across schools and provides a clear rationale where a placement is made outside a child's immediate local area.

The Local Authority will keep placement patterns under review during 2026/27, including year group distribution, north and south placement pressures, the time children spend out of education, and the use of appeals or representations from schools. This will help ensure that the Protocol continues to operate fairly for children, families and schools.

Comparison with previous academic years
The table below compares the number of In Year Fair Access Panel placements made in 2025/26 with the previous two academic years.

2023-2024			2024-2025			2025-2026		
Primary	Secondary	**Total**	Primary	Secondary	**Total**	Primary	Secondary	**Total**
0	21	**21**	0	17	**17**	0	16	**16**
0	14	**14**	0	8	**8**	0	4	**4**
0	14	**14**	0	6	**6**	0	6	**6**
0	10	10	0	12	**12**	0	0	**0**
0	18	**18**	0	7	**7**	0	6	**6**
1	12	13	0	8	**8**	0	4	**4**
0	7	**7**	0	4	**4**	0	6	**6**
1	13	14	0	6	**6**	0	0	**0**
0	6	**6**	1	3	**4**	0	1	**1**
0	15	15	0	4	**4**	0	0	**0**
2	**130**	**132**	**1**	**75**	**76**	**0**	**43**	**43**

Appeals
The current Fair Access Policy allows schools five days to contact the Local Authority and provide factual evidence that admitting additional children would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources at their school. The Local Authority will also consider any relevant information not available at the time of placement, including evidence about the suitability of the placement and whether it would be in the child's best interests.

Two appeals were received from schools during the academic year, representing less than 4% of placements made. This indicates broad support for Panel decisions and effective allocation processes. Of the two appeals received:

- Both placements were withdrawn and the children were referred to CME
  Where a placement is withdrawn following an appeal or further review, the Local Authority remains responsible for ensuring that the child is not lost to education. Referral to Children Missing Education allows the case to be tracked and progressed through the appropriate route.

School Attendance Orders
School Attendance Orders are considered alongside IYFAP to support fair distribution across Hillingdon schools. The Children Missing Education Team names

schools in the parent's second warning letter, after which both parents and named schools have 15 days to comment on the decision. This legally binding process allows Hillingdon Council to escalate legal proceedings where necessary to safeguard children who are not receiving suitable education.

This process was agreed so that, where an SAO could not appropriately name the pupil's previous school, the Local Authority could consider fair distribution across schools when identifying the school to be named.

Below is data on the SAO cases presented this academic year.

School Name	Agreed by panel	Agreed by allocated school in principle	Withdrawn and reallocated to another school	Withdrawn due to suitable education evidenced by parent	Withdrawn – moved out of borough or started alternative school	Successful placement, without implementation of SAO	Implemented/Ongoing SAO	Total	Additional comments
Bishop Ramsey CofE School	1						1	**1**	
The Skills Hub	1						1	**1**	
Total	**2**						**2**	**2**	

Fair Access Protocol 2026-2027

The School Placement and Admissions Team is not proposing any changes to the current Fair Access Protocol, which will continue to be used for 2026/27.