

Date: 08 September 2022  
Our ref: School letter for  
parent/carers on reducing  
primary school surplus

Dear Parent / Carer

## **RE: Plans to reduce surplus places in Haringey primary schools**

You may already be aware from your child's school that there are currently more primary school places than we need (a surplus), and this letter gives you some information about what we are doing to handle these surplus places and why. I am writing to you to tell you about what the Council is doing to reduce the number of reception places we have in our borough.

In common with most London boroughs, Haringey has seen a fall in birth rates in recent years. Families are also moving out of the borough at a higher rate than before, to take advantage of remote working and cheaper property prices outside London. As a result, the number of surplus primary school places has grown and is expected to grow further in future years if no action is taken now.

When a school has high numbers of surplus places, this can create problems for staff and pupils because of the reduced funding this brings (schools are funded through the government on a per pupil basis). We therefore need to plan to ensure that we do not have too many surplus places.

Since 2018, we have been working with schools to reduce their surplus places both on a temporary and a permanent basis. However around 10% of Haringey's reception places are still vacant because of the continued falling demand for school places, as explained above.

I want to reassure you that any proposed reductions in school places will not prevent your child from being offered a place at one of the local schools of your choice. We intend to remove only those school places that are unused. Any proposed reductions will also be flexible so that if population numbers rise in the borough in the future, we will easily be able to increase the overall number of school places available again, to ensure that everyone in the borough who wants a school place can still access one.

The Council is currently carrying out a review of primary school places across Haringey, to establish where surplus places might best be removed so that:

- The high standards of education in Haringey are maintained
- All children have access to a local school of choice
- Schools can work together and pool their resources effectively
- Haringey schools as a group are made robust enough to continue to cope with future changes in demand for school places

Following this review, a public consultation will be carried out to seek your views and answer any questions you may have before any final decisions are made. The consultation will begin in November 2022.

I do hope that the above reassures you and explains why the Council is taking this action at this time. If you want to read more about how we plan for school places, you can find more information at [www.haringey.gov.uk/schoolplaceplanning](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/schoolplaceplanning)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eveleen Riordan', written in a cursive style.

Eveleen Riordan  
Assistant Director, Schools and Learning

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