

NORTH BRENT SCHOOL STATEMENT

The legal background

Section 86(1) of the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act requires the school to make arrangements to enable parents to express a preference as to the school at which they wish education to be provided for their child and to give reasons.

North Brent School has a duty under the Act to comply with parental preference expressed in accordance with the co-ordinated admission arrangements, which was published by the London Borough of Brent in their Secondary School composite prospectus and also on the Wembley High Technology College and East Lane Primary School websites. However, the duty imposed does not apply if compliance with the preference would prejudice the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources at the school.

The applications

In accordance with the WMAT's admission arrangements for secondary transfer, parents/guardians were invited to complete an Application Form for their child transferring to secondary school in September 2026. Application forms were also available via the above websites.

North Brent School had 557 on time applicants for 180 places. As a consequence of following the school's published admission criteria set out below, the school was unable to offer them a place for September 2026 as other children, under the policy, were deemed to have a higher priority.

Criteria for Admission to North Brent School

All children with an Education, Health and Care Plan are given the top priority. This is co-ordinated via SENAS.

All on time applications were considered by the Trust under the following oversubscription criteria:

1. Looked After Children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.
2. Special medical or social reasons. These reasons must relate to the student and does not apply to family members. Parents applying under this criterion must provide supporting evidence from a professional e.g. a consultant, stating why North Brent School is the most suitable school and the difficulties caused if the child attends another school.
3. Children of staff of North Brent School who have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
4. Siblings of students attending North Brent School on the date of admission. Siblings means a whole, half or step brother or step sister resident at the same address. In case of twins or brothers or sisters in the same year group where there is only one place available in the school, both will be considered together as one application.
5. Distance Measurement
 - 75% of places will be offered to children who live closest to Wembley High Technology College (Zone A). Distance will be measured using a straight-line measurement from the main entrance of Wembley High Technology College to the main entrance of the child's home.

- 25% of places will be offered to children who live closest to the permanent site of North Brent School (Zone B). Distance will be measured using a straight-line measurement from the main entrance of North Brent School to the main entrance of the child's home.

6. Other children.

The school received **557** interested applicants. Offers were allocated using the criteria above as follows:

- 1 Looked After Children/Previously Looked After (5035.31)
- 37 Those with a sibling connection (7798.16m)
- 129 Those living closest to Wembley High Technology College (4894.51)
- 43 Those living closest to North Brent School (705.19m)

Prejudice to the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources

The Trustees of Wembley Multi-Academy Trust considers that it is relieved of its duty to comply with parental preference under Section 86(2) of the School Standard and Framework Act 1998 because to accept additional pupils would prejudice the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources under section 86(3)(a) of the Act for the reasons set out below.

Fundamental to the Trust's case is the fact that the admission of any more pupils to the school would prejudice the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources. This is exacerbated when some local schools are overcrowded while other schools' resources are under used.

Accommodation, Capacity and Intake Level

North Brent School is a new school (6FE) which moved to its own premises in September 2024.

The PAN for the school is 180, however, the Trustees have approved a number of 210 as an intake for entry in September 2026 to allow more students in the local area an opportunity to attend the school, it is therefore already well over capacity. This has also added pressure on staffing costs at the site.

Conclusion

The school would argue most strongly, that to allow this appeal would be prejudicial to the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources under section 86(3)(a) of the School Standard and Framework Act 1998.

The success of North Brent School is dependent on our ability to deliver our vision to give young people the best possible education. This would be in serious jeopardy given our current limitations and challenging environment if any additional students were admitted to the school.

Mr E Martin
Headteacher