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Definitions used in this scheme:

LBH - The London Borough Of Havering

LIAAG - The London Inter Admissions Authority Group

The Application Year - The academic year in which the parent makes an application (i.e. in relation to the academic year of entry, the academic year preceding it).

The Board - the Pan-London Admissions Executive Board, which is responsible for the Scheme

The Business User Guide (BUG) - the document issued annually to participating LAs setting out the operational procedures of the Scheme

The Common Application Form - this is the form that each authority must have under the Regulations for parents to use to express their preferences, set out in rank order

The Equal Preference System - the model whereby all preferences listed by parents on the Common Application Form are considered under the over-subscription criteria for each school without reference to parental rankings. Where a pupil is eligible to be offered a place at more than one school within an LA, or across more than one participating LA, the rankings are used to determine the single offer by selecting the school ranked highest of those which can offer a place

The Highly Recommended Elements - the elements of the Template Scheme that are not mandatory but to which subscription is strongly recommended in order to maximise co-ordination and thereby simplify the application process as far as possible

The Home LA - the LA in which the applicant/parent/carer is resident

The LIAAG Address Verification Register - the document containing the address verification policy of each participating LA

The Local Admission System (LAS) - the IT module for administering admissions in each LA and for determining the highest offer both within and between participating LAs

The London E-Admissions Portal - the common online application system used by the 33 London LAs and Surrey County Council

The Maintaining LA - the LA which maintains a school, or within whose area an academy is situated, for which a preference has been expressed

The Mandatory Elements - those elements of the Template Scheme to which authorities **must** subscribe in order to be considered as 'Participating Authorities' and to benefit from use of the Pan-London Register

The Notification Letter the agreed form of letter sent to applicants on the Prescribed Day which communicates any determination granting or refusing admission to an infant / primary or junior school.

The Prescribed Day - the day on which outcome letters are posted to parents/carers. 16 April (infant / primary and junior) in the year following the relevant determination year except that, in any year in which that day is not a working day, the prescribed day shall be the next working day.

The Pan-London Register (PLR) - the database which will sort and transmit application and outcome data between the LAS of each participating LA

The Pan-London Timetable - the framework for processing of application and outcome data, which is attached as Schedule 2

The Participating LA - any LA that has indicated in the Memorandum of Agreement that they are willing to incorporate, at a minimum, the mandatory elements of the Template LA Scheme presented here.

The Qualifying Scheme - the scheme which each LA is required to formulate in accordance with The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 2012, for co-ordinating arrangements for the admission of children to maintained primary and secondary schools and academies.

Scheme for the Co-ordination of Admissions to Infant / Primary and Junior in 2024/25

Background

In accordance with the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, all Local Authorities (LAs) are required to formulate a schemes for co-ordinating arrangements for the admission of children to maintained Infant / Junior and Primary schools and academies. Details of the London Borough of Havering (LBH) scheme for **2024/25** for the Reception / Junior entry which forms part of the Pan-London Co-ordinated Admissions System are set out in this document. All maintained schools and academies are required to take part.

Where Parents/carers apply for places at a Voluntary Aided Denominational School or an Academy / Free School (in or outside Havering) they may need to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for each of these Schools / Academies and submit them direct to the School / Academy concerned with any documents that the School requests by the closing date. The SIF forms will be available via Schools own websites.

Scheme for the co-ordination of Admissions into Infant / Primary & Junior in 2024/25

1. Applications from residents of LBH will be made on the Common Application Form (CAF). The CAF will include all the fields and information specified in Schedule 1. These will be supplemented by any additional fields and information which are deemed necessary by LBH to enable the admission authorities in the LA area to apply their published oversubscription criteria. Applicants can complete the CAF by applying online via the London eAdmissions portal provided by London Grid For Learning (LGFL). This can be accessed via the LBH website at: www.havering.gov.uk/eadmissions.
2. LBH will take all reasonable steps to ensure that every parent of a child due to start school in **September 2024** is made aware of the application process. LBH will also provide information to every Ofsted registered early years provider within LBH for them to disseminate to parents of children that are due to start school in **September 2024**. The information provided will detail how parents can access LBH's composite prospectus (referred to as the "online admissions booklet" in this document) and details of how to apply online. The online admissions booklet will also be available to parents who do not live in LBH, and will include information on how they can access their home LA's CAF.
3. The admission authorities within LBH will not use Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs) except where the information available through the CAF is insufficient for consideration of the application against the published oversubscription criteria. Where SIFs are used by the admissions authorities within LBH, the LA will seek to ensure that these are used to collect information which is required by the published oversubscription criteria only, in accordance with paragraph 2.4 of the School Admissions Code 2021.
4. Where SIFs are used by admission authorities in LBH, they will be accessible via the schools website. Such forms will advise parents that they **must also** complete their Home LA's CAF. LBH's online admission booklet and website will indicate which schools in LBH require SIFs to be completed.
5. Where a school in LBH receives a SIF, LBH will not consider it to be a valid application unless the parent has also listed the school on their Home LA's CAF, in accordance with paragraph 2.3 of the School Admissions Code 2021.

6. Applicants will be able to express a preference for **up to six** maintained infant, junior or primary schools or academies within and/or outside the Home LA.
7. The order of preference given on the CAF will not be revealed to any school within the area of LBH to comply with paragraph 1.9 of the School Admissions Code 2021. However, where a parent resident in LBH expresses a preference for schools in the area of another LA, the order of preference for that LA's schools will be revealed to that LA in order that it can determine the highest ranked preference in cases where a child is eligible for a place at more than one school in that LA's area.
8. If parents experience difficulties completing a CAF online they can access support by contacting the Havering School Admissions Team via phone or email. All applications must be submitted by 11.59pm on the closing date **15 January 2024**.
9. The online Admissions booklet provides guidance and should be read in conjunction with making an online application. Where more than one version of the online application is submitted, the last version submitted will be used.
10. LBH undertakes to carry out the address verification process set out in its entry in the LIAAG Address Verification Register. This will, in all cases, include validation of resident applicants against LBH's maintained nursery data and the further investigation of any discrepancy. In addition, LBH may request documentary evidence of the child's address. Where LBH is not satisfied as to the validity of an address of an applicant whose preference has been sent to a maintaining LA, it must advise the maintaining LA no later than **9 February 2024**.
11. Where there is a discrepancy between the address given on the CAF and a school SIF, the Admissions Team will work to identify the correct home address. If the matter remains unresolved, the address on the CAF will be deemed as the correct address.
12. Applications made from LBH resident families working, or temporary living abroad, will be processed with all other applicants. The address that the child is living at the time of application, and at the closing date, will be used for purpose of processing. The applicant must inform the LA on their return in order for the address to be updated. Proof of address and occupancy will be requested.
13. LBH will confirm the status of any resident child for whom it receives a Common Application Form stating s/he is currently or previously a 'Looked After Child' and will provide any additional evidence on receipt of a reasonable request by the maintaining LA in respect of a preference for a school in its area by **2 February 2024**.
14. LBH will advise a maintaining LA of the reason for any preference expressed for a school not in LBH's area, in respect of a resident child born outside of the correct age cohort and will forward any supporting documentation to the maintaining LA by **2 February 2024**.

Processing Applications

15. Applicants resident in LBH must submit the Common Application Form **online** by **15 January 2024**.
16. Application data relating to all preferences for schools in the area of a participating LA, which have been expressed within the terms of LBH's scheme, will be uploaded to the Pan London Register (PLR) by **2 February 2024**. Supplementary information provided with the CAF will be sent to maintaining LAs by the same date.
17. The timetable for the exchange of application and offer information between the LA and schools within LBH will be communicated to schools prior to **15 January 2024**.

18. LBH will not normally consider late applications (i.e. applications received after the closing date) until after the National offer date unless there are very exceptional circumstances. Examples of what will be considered as good reason include: when a single parent has been ill for some time, or has been dealing with the death of a close relative; a family has just moved into the area or is returning from abroad (proof of ownership or tenancy of a property within LBH will be required in these cases) or there is uncertainty affecting the date that the application was received. Each case will be decided on its own merits.
19. Where such applications contain preferences for schools in other LAs, LBH will forward the details to maintaining LAs via the PLR as they are received. LBH will accept late applications which are considered to be on time within the terms of the Home LA's scheme.
20. The latest date for the upload of late applications which are considered to be on-time to the PLR is on **9 February 2024**.
21. Where a parent moves from one participating home LA to another after submitting an on-time application under the terms of the former home LA's scheme, the new home LA will accept the application as on-time up to **8 February 2024**, on the basis that an on-time application already exists within the Pan-London system.
22. LBH will participate in the application data checking exercise to be scheduled between **12 and 16 February 2024** in the Pan-London timetable in Schedule 2.
23. All preferences for schools and academies within LBH will be considered by the relevant admission authorities against the school's published oversubscription criteria without reference to rank order in accordance with paragraph 1.9 of the School Admissions Code 2021. When the admission authorities within LBH have provided a list of applicants in criteria order to LBH, LBH shall, for each applicant to its schools for whom more than one potential offer is available, use the highest ranked preference to decide which single potential offer to make (This is the 'Equal Preference System' as defined in Schedule 3).
24. All applicants for a school must be included on the schools ranked list. LBH will provide all own admission authorities home to school distances (straight line) to prioritise applicants tied under a certain criterion. Where a school specifies a certain number of places to be offered under each category e.g. performing arts and distance, a ranked list should be provided for each category. Where appropriate, pupils may be included on more than one list.
25. LBH will carry out all reasonable checks to ensure that pupil rankings are correctly held in its LAS for all maintained schools and academies in LBH before uploading data to the PLR.
26. LBH will upload the highest potential offer available to an applicant for a maintained school in LBH to the PLR by **14 March 2024**. The PLR will transmit the highest offer made by the Maintaining LA to the Home LA.
27. The Local Admission System (LAS) of LBH will eliminate, as a Home LA, all but the highest ranked offer where an applicant has more than one potential offer across Maintaining LAs submitting information within deadline to the PLR. This will involve exchanges of preference outcomes between the LAS and the PLR (in accordance with the iterative timetable published in the annual Business User Guide) which will continue until notification that a steady state has been achieved or until **22 March 2024** if this is sooner.
28. LBH will not make an additional offer between the end of the iterative process and **16 April 2024** which may impact on an offer being made by another participating LA.
29. Notwithstanding paragraph 28, if an error is identified within the allocation of places at a maintained school or academy in LBH, LBH will attempt to manually resolve the allocation to correct the error. Where this impacts on another LA (either as a Home or Maintaining LA) LBH will liaise with that LA to attempt to resolve the correct offer and any multiple offers which might occur. However, if another LA is unable to resolve a multiple offer, or if the impact is too far

reaching, LBH will accept that the applicant(s) affected might receive a multiple offer.

30. LBH will participate in the offer data checking exercise to be scheduled between **25 March and 10 April 2024** in the Pan-London timetable (Schedule 3).
31. LBH will send a file to the eAdmissions portal, with outcomes for all residents who have applied online, no later than **10 April 2024**. (33 London LAs & Surrey LA only).

Offers

32. LBH will inform all Havering applicants via the online eAdmissions application system of their highest potential offer of a school place and, where relevant, the reasons why higher preferences were not offered, whether they were for schools in the Home LA or in other participating LAs.
33. LBH will ensure that, if there are places available, each resident applicant who cannot be offered a preference expressed on the Common Application Form, receives an offer of an alternative school place in accordance with paragraph 2.12 of the Schools Admissions Code 2021. In these circumstances the nearest school with vacancies, after all other on-time offers have been made, will be offered (as measured by straight line distance).
34. On **16 April 2024**, LBH will send notification of the outcome to resident applicants via the eAdmissions portal. The notification email will include the information set out as detailed below (depending on the outcome):
 - i) the name of the school at which a place is offered. If it is not possible to offer a school preference listed on the CAF, an alternative offer will be made to the closest school at which a vacancy exists after all other offers have been made.
 - ii) the reason why an offer was not made for any school for which a higher preference may have been expressed;
 - iii) Where applicable, the statutory right of appeal against a decision to refuse a place at any school for which they expressed a higher preference;
 - iv) The deadline of **30 April 2024** by which time a parent must respond to their offer of a place by.
35. If parents do not respond by **30 April 2024** LBH will issue a reminder. If the parent still does not respond LBH will make every reasonable effort to contact the parent to find out whether or not they wish to accept the place. Only where the parent fails to respond and LBH can demonstrate that every reasonable effort has been made to contact the parent, will the offer of a place be withdrawn.

Post-offer

36. LBH will request that resident applicants accept or decline the offer of a place by **30 April 2024**, or within two weeks of the date of any subsequent offer.
37. Where an applicant resident in LBH accepts or declines a place in a school maintained by another LA by **30 April 2024**, LBH will forward the information to the maintaining LA by **8 May 2024**. Where such information is received from applicants after **1 May 2024**, LBH will pass it to the maintaining LA as it is received.
38. Where a place becomes available in an oversubscribed maintained school or academy in LBH's area, it will be offered from a waiting list in accordance with paragraph 2.15 of the School Admissions Code 2021.
39. When acting as a maintaining LA, LBH will place an applicant resident in the area of another

LA on a waiting list of any higher preference school.

40. Where a waiting list is held and maintained by a school / academy which is its own admission authority in LBH, the admission authority will inform LBH of a potential offer, in order that the offer may be made by the home LA.
41. When acting as a maintaining LA, LBH will inform the home LA, where different, of an offer for a maintained school or Academy in LBH's area which can be made to an applicant resident in the home LA's area, in order that the home LA can offer the place.
42. When acting as a maintaining LA, LBH and the admission authorities within it, will not inform an applicant resident in another LA that a place can be offered.
43. When acting as a home LA, LBH will offer a place at a maintained school or academy in the area of another LA to an applicant resident in its area, provided that the school is ranked higher on the CAF than any school already offered.
44. When acting as a home LA, when LBH is informed by a maintaining LA of an offer which can be made to an applicant resident in LBH's area which is ranked lower on the CAF than any school already offered, it will inform the maintaining LA that the offer will not be made and the applicant must re-apply.
45. When acting as a home LA, when LBH has agreed to a change of preferences or preference order, it will inform any maintaining LA affected by the change. In such cases, paragraphs 43 and 44 shall apply to the revised order of preferences.
46. When acting as a maintaining LA, LBH will inform the home LA, where different, of any change to an applicant's offer status as soon as it occurs.
47. When acting as a maintaining LA, LBH will accept change of preferences or preference order (including reinstated or additional preferences) from home LAs for maintained schools and academies in its area.
48. Applicants' names will be included on waiting lists for schools within LBH which have been named as a higher preference than the one offered. For example, if a child has been offered their third preference school, they will be included on the waiting list for their first and second preference schools. Applicants' names will not be included on waiting lists for schools which were a lower preference than the one offered. Waiting lists will be created on the **1 May 2024** and any places available will be offered after this date. The admissions authority will decide who is offered any subsequent vacancies. These places will be offered to children on the waiting list for a LBH school in accordance with the schools' published admission arrangements.
49. For all schools, late applicants will be included on the school waiting list along with unsuccessful applications received before the closing date, ranked in order of priority under the school's published admission criteria in accordance with paragraph 2.14 of the School Admissions Code 2021.
50. LBH will start to make offers from the waiting list from **7 May 2024**. LBH will continue to make offers as and when places become available.
51. After preferences expressed in accordance with paragraph 6 above have been determined, applicants may, before the start of the school term, revise their application by submitting a changed application form via the LBH website. The total number of preferences will be restricted to 6 at any one time.

SCHEDULE 1 - Minimum Content of Common Application Form (CAF) for Admissions into Infant / Primary & Junior in 2024/25

Child's details:

- Surname
- Forename(s)
- Middle name(s)
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Home address
- Name of current school
- Address of current school (if outside home LA)

Parent's details:

- Title
- Surname
- Forename
- Address (if different to child's address)
- Telephone number (home, daytime, mobile)
- Email address
- Relationship to child

Preference details (x 6 recommended):

- Name of school
- Address of school
- Preference ranking
- Local authority in which the school is based

Additional information:

- Reasons for preferences (including any medical or social reasons)
- Does the child have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)? Y/N
- Is the child a 'Looked After Child' or a Previously Looked After Child but now adopted or subject of a 'Child Arrangements Order or 'Special Guardianship Order'? Y/N

If yes

- name of responsible local authority

- Is there a sibling currently attending the school? Y/N

If yes

- Surname of sibling
- Forename of sibling
- Date of birth of sibling
- Gender of sibling
- Name of school the sibling attends

Other:

- Signature of parent or guardian
- Date of signature

SCHEDULE 2 – LIAAG Timetable for Admissions to Infant / Primary & Junior in 2024/25

Mon 15 Jan 2024	Statutory deadline for receipt of applications
Fri 2 Feb 2024	Deadline for the transfer of application information by the Home LA to the PLR (ADT file).
Fri 9 Feb 2024	Deadline for the upload of late applications to the PLR.
Mon 12 – Fri 16 Feb 2024	Checking of application data
Mon 19 Feb 2024	Ranking Applications
Thu 14 Mar 2024	Deadline for the transfer of potential offer information from Maintaining LAs to the PLR (ALT file)
Fri 22 Mar 2024	Final ALT file to PLR
Mon 25 Mar – Wed 10 Apr 2024	Checking of offer data
Wed 10 Apr 2024	Deadline for on-line ALT file to portal
Tue 16 April 2024	Parents advised of offer
Tue 30 April 2024	Deadline for return of acceptances
Wed 8 May 2024	Deadline for transfer of acceptances to maintaining LAs

SCHEDULE 3 – The Equal Preference System

Admission authorities are legally required to operate an ‘equal preference’ system. This means that places are offered purely on the strength of how well children fit each school’s admissions criteria. Schools can’t give priority to children who listed the school as their first choice, nor rule out those who placed it lower down their list; in fact, they are not even told where they were ranked in your list of preferences.

How The Equal Preference System Works

1. School applications open on the 1st September for Reception, Junior and Secondary school places
2. On the application form, you will be asked to **list up to 6 schools in order of preference.**
3. After the closing date, the LA will put your child’s name on the list for each of the schools you have listed. Their position on the list will depend on how well your child fits the school’s admission criteria – for example, they may be higher up a school’s list if you live very near to it.
4. The equal preference system means that at this stage, **the order in which you ranked the schools will not be taken into account.** Your child will be put on the list for every school you have applied to.
5. Each school has a published admission number (PAN): the number of places it has to offer. The LA will mark up the names at the top of each school’s list, up to its PAN. This is known as the ‘Pre-Offer List’. Those children whose names fall outside the PAN will be placed on a waiting list.
6. If your child’s name appears on only one ‘Pre-Offer List’, your child will be offered a place at that school, regardless of where it ranked in your preferences.
7. **If your child is on more than one ‘Pre-Offer List’, the LA will then take into account the order in which you ranked the schools** on your application form. Your child will be offered a place at the school that you ranked highest. This happens around March 1 for secondary places and April 16 for Reception and Junior places.
8. If your child isn’t allocated a place at any of your ranked schools, the LA will allocate a place at the nearest school to your home address with a space.
9. If you have been offered a school that wasn’t your first preference, **your child will remain on the waiting list for any other schools that you ranked higher** than the one they have been offered. If a vacancy then comes up because another child decides not to accept a place, the LA will allocate the place to the next child on the waiting list. You can find out where your child is on the waiting list by contacting the Havering school admissions team after the **1 May 2024.**