



## **Responses to Southwark Council's consultation on admissions 2025/26**

The following responses to Southwark council's consultation on admission arrangements for 2025/26 were received during the consultation period, 14 December 2023 to 25 January 2024 (1pm).

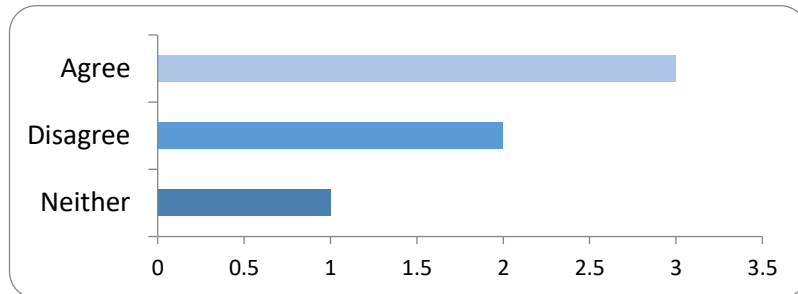
Six (6) responses were received by the deadline date.

### **Question 1**

**Do you agree with Southwark Council’s proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Grange Primary School from 60 to 30 places for the September 2025 intake onwards?**

Response

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Agree    | 3 |
| Disagree | 2 |
| Neither  | 1 |



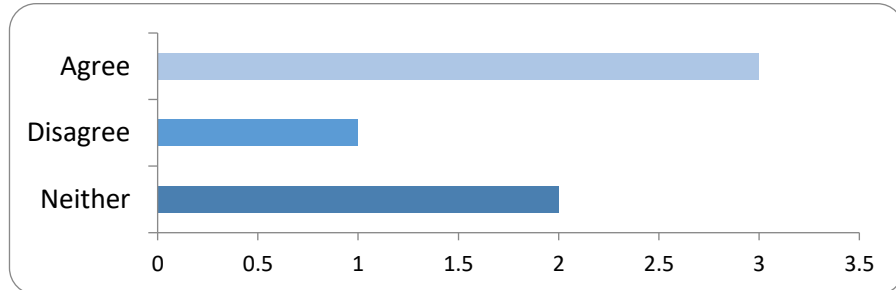
| Summary of comments received  | Officer response   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“It is truly disheartening to hear that Grange Primary School will face a significant reduction in funding due to Southwark Council's proposal to decrease the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 30 places for future intakes.</i></li> <li>• <i>While it is understandable that the council may have its reasons, it is essential to consider the long-term impact this decision will have on the school and their students.</i></li> <li>• <i>Schools require adequate funding to provide high-quality education, maintain infrastructure, and support students' needs effectively.</i></li> <li>• <i>Cutting funding will undoubtedly hamper efforts to enhance the learning environment, recruit qualified staff, and provide necessary resources for students.”</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school is funded according to the numbers of children attending not the numbers of places it has. It is not funded for vacant places. Therefore it is not reducing the PAN that affects funding but the falling numbers of children attending the school. The proposal is to reduce the PAN in line with the actual numbers currently at the school, not to reduce the budget.</li> <li>• In the event that numbers of children needing school places in the area increase in future, it will be possible to increase the PAN.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Significant new housing (market, social and HA) has been built in the surrounding area, for example, along Crimscott, Fendall, and Maltby Streets.</i></li> <li>• <i>It seems unwise to reduce the intake of Grange Primary School with neighbourhood populations rising.”</i></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school still has space for more children if needed in future; the PAN could be increased if this occurs</li> </ul>  |

**Question 2.**

**Do you agree with Southwark Council’s proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Bessemer Grange Primary School from 90 to 60 places for the September 2025 intake onwards? (Please see document B).**

Response

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Agree    | 3 |
| Disagree | 1 |
| Neither  | 2 |



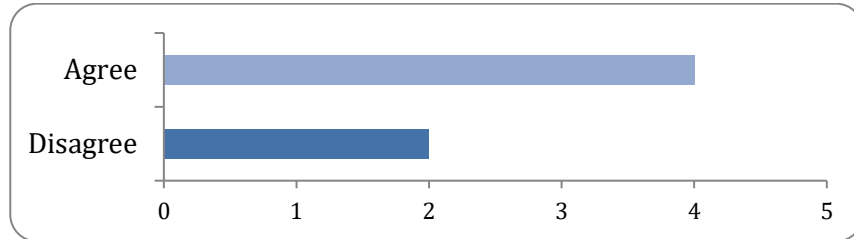
| Summary of comments received  | Officer response   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“With the current ranking of 9,206 out of 19,117 schools, it is clear that there is room for growth and development.</i></li> <li>• <i>Cutting funding in a third may have detrimental effects on the teaching quality, which ultimately impacts the education and well-being of the students.</i></li> <li>• <i>It is crucial that the authorities prioritise the necessary improvements and ensure that the school has the resources it needs to provide a high-quality education for all students.”</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal is to reduce the PAN in line with the actual numbers currently at the school, not to reduce the budget. Schools are funded according to actual numbers attending, not according to the Published Admission Number</li> </ul> |

**Question 3**

**Although there are no changes, do you agree with Southwark Council's proposed admission arrangements 2025 - 26 for community primary schools in the borough? (Please see document A)**

Response

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Agree       | 4 |
| Disagree    | 2 |
| Neither     | 0 |
| No response | 0 |



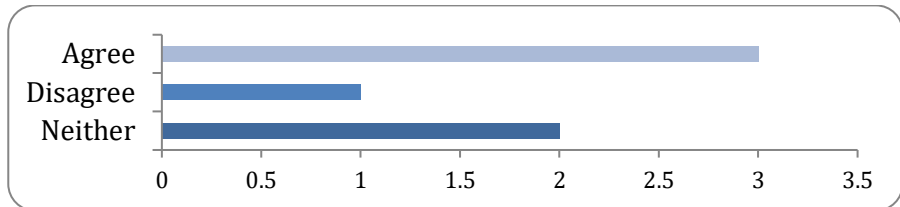
| Summary of comments received  | Officer response  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Enhancing transparency in the waiting list ranking by digitising the process, rather than requiring requests, would be an improvement.</i></li> <li>• <i>Moreover, fostering greater collaboration between top schools and other less prestigious schools would be beneficial, offering parents a broader selection from which to choose instead of everyone vying for the same schools.</i></li> <li>• <i>Implementing a lottery system could be a good solution to avoid exorbitantly high rents around certain schools.”</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council’s admission arrangements would be applicable to those families applying for a place at a Southwark community school.</li> <li>• Families applying for a school place in the normal admissions round would automatically have their child’s name added to the waiting list of any higher preference school/s that Southwark LA was unable to offer a place at.</li> <li>• For children aged over 5 but under the age of eight, the statutory walking distance is 2 miles from the child’s home.</li> <li>• Having a distance based criterion facilitates the LA to offer families of young children local places closer to their home.</li> <li>• If the council were to adopt a lottery based criterion, there may be a risk that families applying at our community primary schools may be offered a primary school place beyond the two mile distance, which may cause difficulty or inconvenience to families.</li> </ul> |

**Question 4**

**Although there are no changes, do you agree with Southwark Council’s proposed co-ordinated schemes for admission of children to Reception, Junior, Year 7 and Year 10 for the academic year 2025-26? (Please see documents D, E, F, and G below)**

Response

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Agree       | 3 |
| Disagree    | 1 |
| Neither     | 2 |
| No response | 0 |



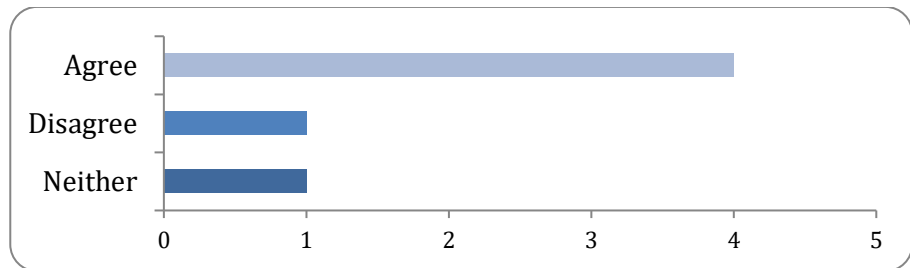
| Summary of comments received   | Officer response  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“I did not have enough time to review so many hefty documents.”</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The co-ordinated admissions schemes are agreed by the London Inter-Admission Authority Group and are the same for all 33 local authorities across Greater London.</li> <li>• This ensures conformity with neighbours, particularly when cross-border applications are received.</li> </ul> |

**Question 5**

**Do you agree with Southwark Council’s ‘relevant area’ remaining the same as the administrative area for the council?**

Response

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Agree       | 4 |
| Disagree    | 1 |
| Neither     | 1 |
| No response | 0 |



| Summary of comments received   | Officer response   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“I concur with Southwark Council's decision to keep their 'relevant area' the same as the council's administrative area, provided the numbers indicate that there aren't enough children from other councils applying to schools.”</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted.</li> </ul> |