

Council Query: Principle of Development Objection received from School Place Planning and Policy Manager

The school is now at capacity with a growing waiting or consultation list of 35+ pupils. These students will be progressing through the academic years, for which consistency (minimal change) is highly important for children with autism. A reminder that the proposal is for the expansion of the school to provide additional classrooms (primary education) for the primary school and to expand to an offering for older year groups (secondary education).

The table below provided by the Head Teacher and school management at the school shows the number of referrals/ forecast and the cumulative total of pupils wanting SEND Education at Landon School, Hillingdon. This is in part the basis and justification for the expansion of the school. That is in addition to the Policy support which is set out clearly in the Planning Statement Principle of Development.

Month (2025–26)	New Referrals (Actual/Forecast)	Cumulative Total
Aug 2025 (A)	1	1
Sep 2025 (A)	14	15
Oct 2025 (A – to 14/10)	20	35
Nov 2025 (F)	10	45
Dec 2025 (F)	5	50
Jan 2026 (F)	12	62
Feb 2026 (F)	10	72
Mar 2026 (F)	11	83

In addition to the above, it is worth noting that the school is a Private School and as a result is not limited to the confines of the Borough's described need as stated in the Council's comments. The school provides education for SEND pupils who may live outside of the London Borough of Hillingdon, and these students currently represent the vast majority of the school at Aviation House which is now at full capacity.

In addition to the above, the NPPF makes, clear in Paragraph 100. that local planning authorities should support development for education by giving 'great weight' to developments coming forward for this use. Importantly, the NPPF does not distinguish

between private and state school education within its terminology. A position which is supported by appeal decisions. Paragraph 100 is set out in full below for the Council's awareness and use.

100. It is important that a sufficient choice of early years, school and post-16 places are available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:

a) give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter early years, schools and post-16 facilities through the preparation of plans and decisions on applications; and

Given the above, it is clear that the principle of development and use of the building is supported by national planning policy which goes beyond the local policies and circumstances stated in the Council's comments.

In addition to the above, the current buildings are either fully vacant or partially vacant. The NPPF supports heritage assets securing their optimum viable use. Therefore, the change of use and bringing the building back into use is justified and the principle of development is firmly established.