



## Context of the new school:

Eden Park High School will be a new school which, once full, will provide 1600 places for students aged 11-18. Initially, the school will be opening in temporary accommodation at The Ravensbourne School in 2016 with a 6 form-entry for two years. In 2018 Eden Park High School will move to its permanent purpose-built site where the school will then grow to become an 8 form of entry school.

There will be 400 places in the sixth form.

The argument for 8 forms of entry is very clear;

- The Council's secondary planning report on 30 January 2014 (Secondary: Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee, Agenda item 1b) indicated that there is an imminent shortage of places as the higher primary rolls from 2009 onwards start to feed through into the secondary phase from 2016 onwards. The rise in primary rolls has been significant over the past few years, caused by families moving out from inner London along with the baby boom of the past decade.
- The Mayor's draft Housing Strategy (The Mayor's Draft Housing Strategy, para 4.13, 2014) published in April 2014 proposes a substantial increase in dwellings across London using brownfield sites at higher densities. Bromley (the area to be served by Eden Park High School) is identified as one of 38 'Opportunity Areas' which are expected to provide up to 300,000 new homes across London over the next ten years. These will be factored into subsequent school roll projections. This further increases pressure on secondary places in the area to be served by Eden Park High School.
- In addition to what we currently know about Basic Need, planning forecasts are assuming 500 new dwellings a year in London, which will in turn lead to a further growth in the demand for school places.
- Bromley is a net importer of students in the secondary phase; 21% of all Bromley places are taken by residents residing outside of the borough. The immediately surrounding Boroughs (Croydon, Lewisham, Lambeth) are under similar population growth pressures, thus further increasing demand for Bromley schools in this area of the Borough.
- School rolls need to consider the impact of the raising of the participation rate for P16 students. From 2013 all students are required to stay on until the age of 17 in either education or training, and this rises to 18 from 2015.
- By 2025, there is likely to be a need for up to 30 additional forms of entry across the borough. The most rapid forecast shows a +10 form entry difference between 2018/2019. This equates to the significant expansion of several existing schools, plus two new free schools to be opened.
- The rise in rolls has been felt most markedly in the north and west of the borough – many families are continuing this trend as they move out from inner London and this pattern is expected to continue through 2020-2030. This is the specific area that would be served by Eden Park High School.

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The expansion of existing schools is not practical and whilst places do exist in schools in neighbouring boroughs this would mean a long commute for these students. Therefore, providing a new comprehensive, co-educational school that focuses on opportunity for all, social mobility and bringing excellence to the local area and offers 8 forms of entry is appropriate and meets a local need.

Additional to the basic need for a new school in terms of numbers, the context for Eden Park High School is very clear.

- There is a requirement for another school that provides good/outstanding education as some of the local schools fall short of this judgement.
- In terms of diversity Eden Park High School is unique in its STEM specialism and extended school day.
- Eden Park High School provides another choice for parents in addition to the two single sex Academies nearby and the sponsored Academies belonging to a national chain that offer a relatively homogenous curriculum, ethos and values.
- Responding to parental demand is key and the support received so far has demonstrated a tangible plea for another secondary school in the area.
- The demand for Eden Park High School is very clear and comes from a wide cross section of our community, evidenced by the heavily over-subscribed number of applications from parents in round 1 of recruitment. This over subscription came at a time when the school site was unknown and the Trust was unable to confirm either a temporary or permanent site.

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