

Clare Craig: Parent of
children in Yrs 9, 7, 6
and 4.

SECONDARY APPLICATIONS — A PARENT'S VIEW

PROBLEMS WITH WEST HAMPSTEAD

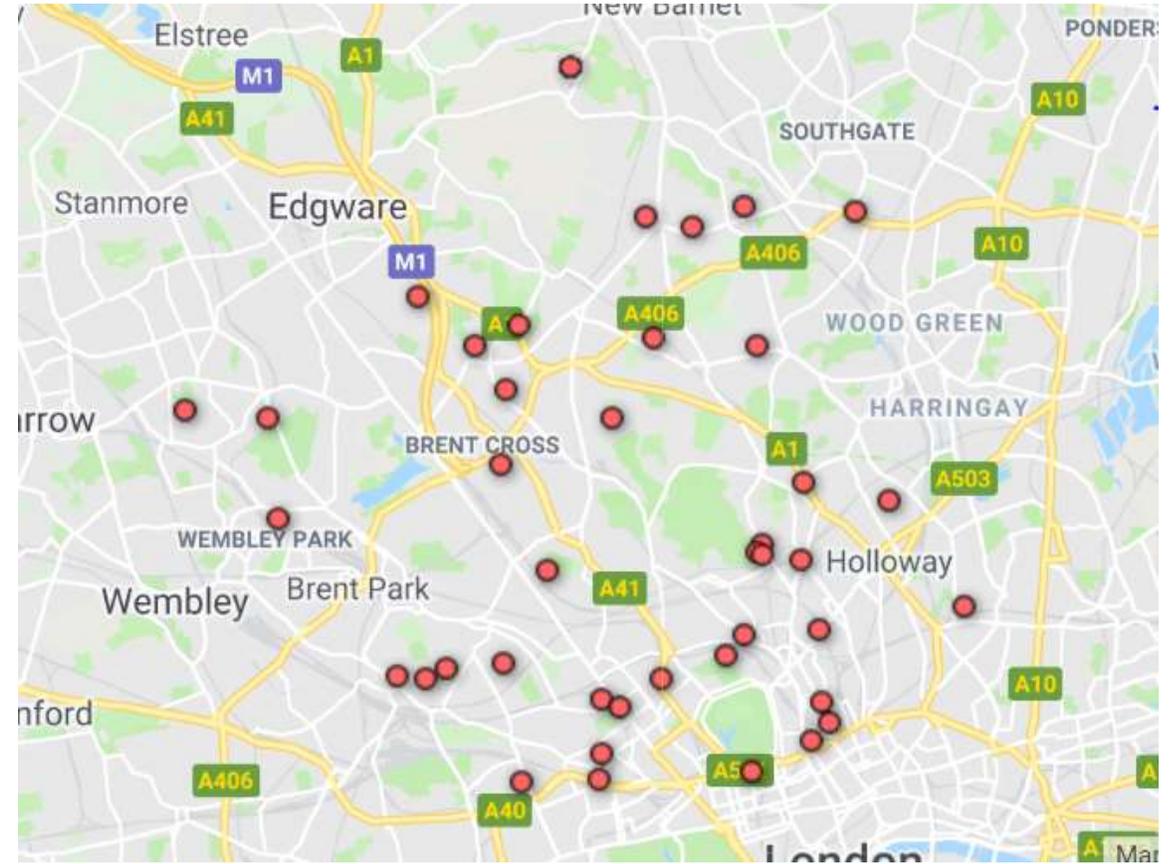
Black hole: Mile radius from West Hampstead Station with no state secondary provision

Primary pupils scatter to numerous geographically dispersed secondary schools

Map of Camden's schools



WHERE WEST HAMPSTEAD CHILDREN GO TO SECONDARY SCHOOL: 2012



CHOICES

1

Expand the net
geographically

2

Don't dismiss less
popular schools

3

Consider all types of
schools: free schools;
selective schools +/-
independent schools.

EXPANDING THE NET



Travelling:

Don't underestimate your child's capabilities; Children are time rich; If they have friends on the journey it can become the best part of the day



Going in or out of London

Space: for PE, break times and extracurricular and the building itself. Narrow corridors are a disaster for bullying.



Camden (or your borough) is legally bound to offer you a school place



Spare Capacity:

Legal obligation to have spare capacity
expand schools that are less popular



Brent

Illegal for councils to preferentially take pupils from their borough
Brent use feeder schools that are all Brent primaries.



Look out for bulge classes in other boroughs:

Westminster: 2020 King Solomon and Pimlico
Barnet: Saracens High School; St James' Catholic High School; Compton Free School.

CAMDEN VS OTHER BOROUGHES

HEADTEACHERS

Children at
secondary
for 7
whole
years

- Headteachers could leave and or transform a school in that time.

Pimlico
academy:

- 2008 was a sink school forced into becoming an academy
- 2010 Ofsted outstanding
- 2012 new head
- 2018 of 732 children with straight 9s at GCSE, 2 were at Pimlico
- 2018 3 children left for Cambridge
- 2019 her first yr 7 cohort will complete 6th form

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT A SCHOOL



Government performance charts are full of data:



<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>



Exam results: inc by gender / FSM / prior attainment / subject



How many kids take triple science / take a language?

e.g. St George's Catholic School and Bishop Douglass – both great schools but no child takes triple science GCSE.



Attainment: average total GCSE score per pupil



Progress 8: For best 8 GCSEs did they exceed expected level based on Sats?



Ebacc: Maths, English, Science, Humanity and Modern Language

LEAGUE TABLE DATA: PROS AND CONS ABOUT GOOD LEAGUE TABLE RESULTS

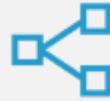
Some schools get protective of their data to the detriment of the children e.g. being prevented from taking triple science; or made to do BTECs instead of A-levels.

Pseudoselection: e.g. distorted distance criteria for different ability bands

GIRLS VS BOYS



If you're comparing mixed and single sex schools then make sure you look at results for the right gender.



Girls do better than boys.



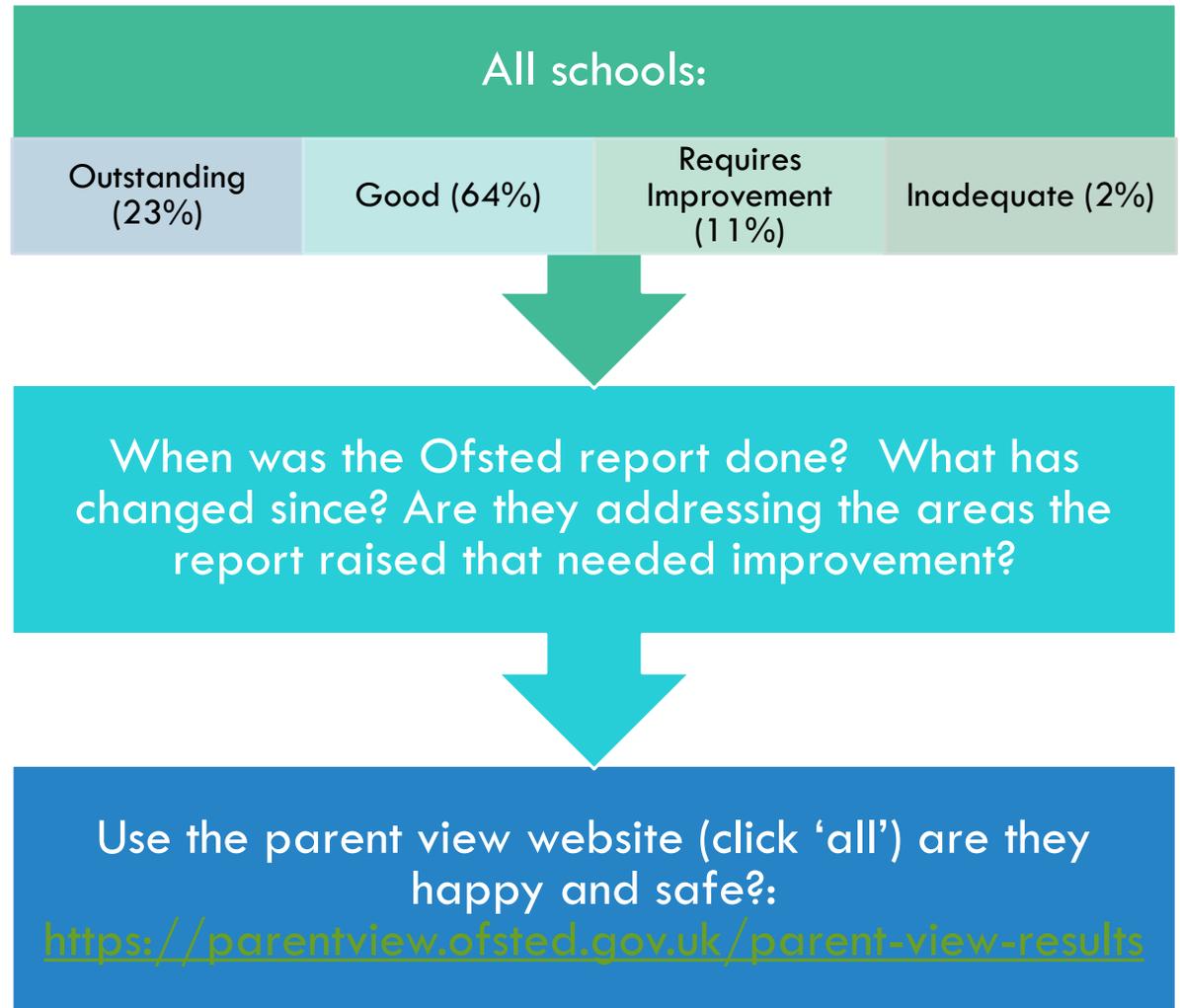
Unfair to compare boys with girls.



Even within a mixed school performance can be wildly different by gender

e.g. girls at St Augustine's have an astounding progress 8 of 1.12 but boys get only 0.2

OFSTED



Useful tool for knowing what you'll get on offer day

Be sceptical beyond that.

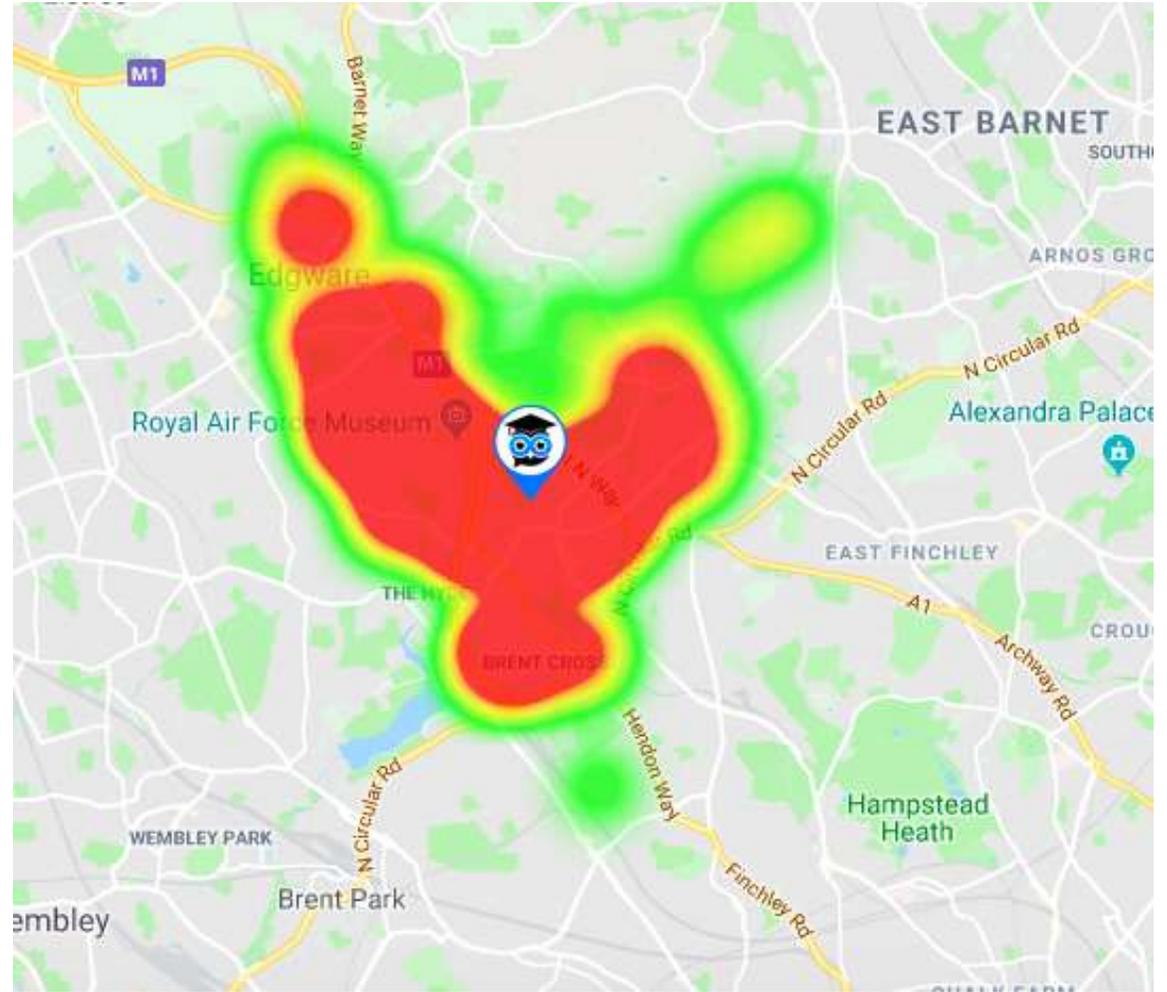
Many secondary schools struggle to stay full.

Real catchment areas e.g. www.schoolreviewer.co.uk

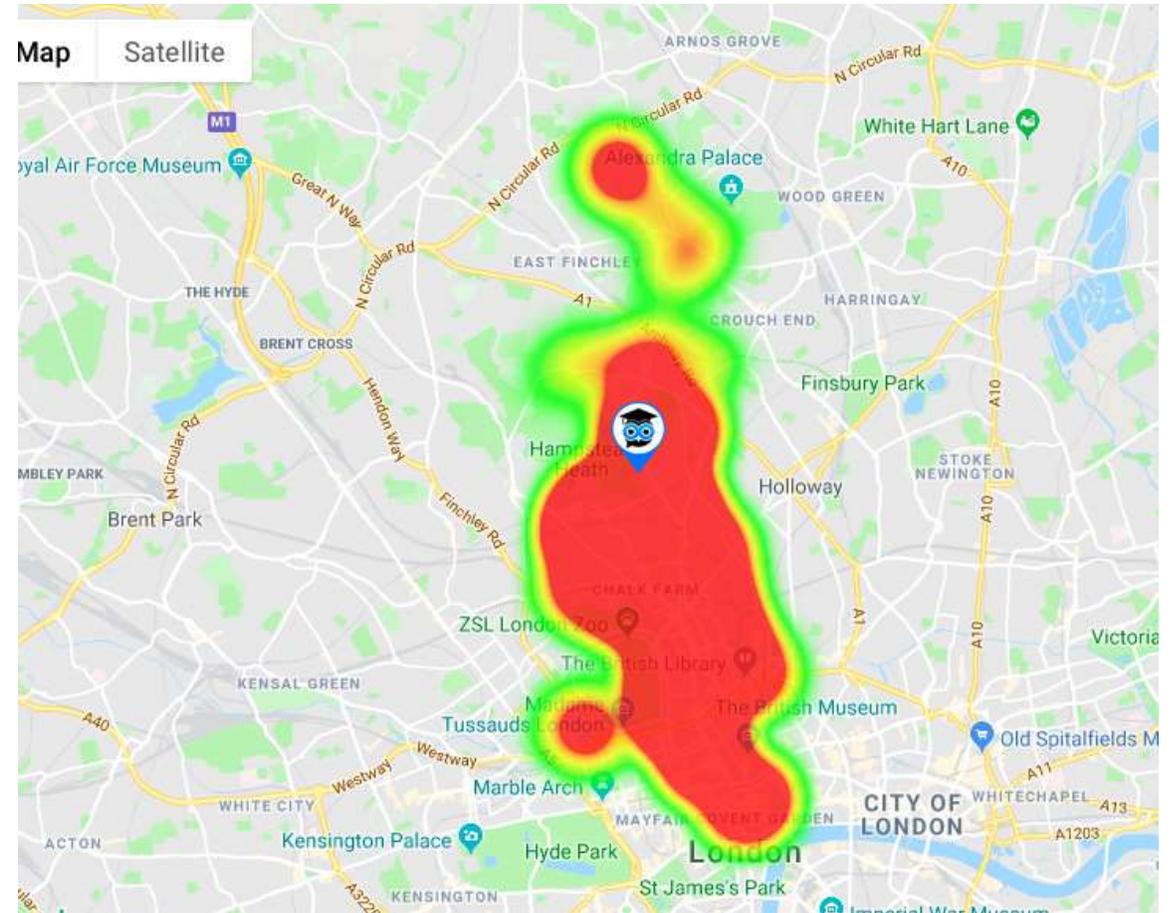
School Jan census data from secondary place planning publications (usually in borough's minutes of their education scrutiny committee meetings).

DISTANCE CRITERIA

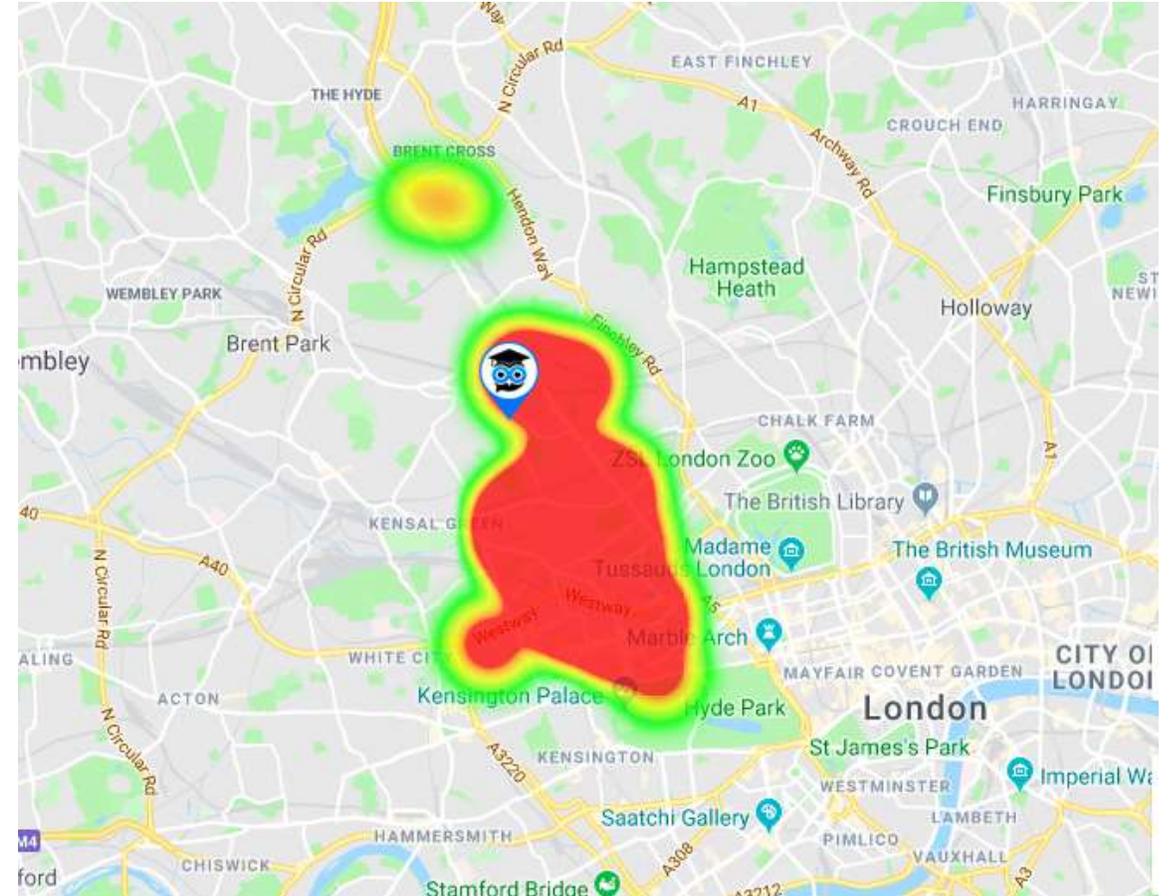
ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S



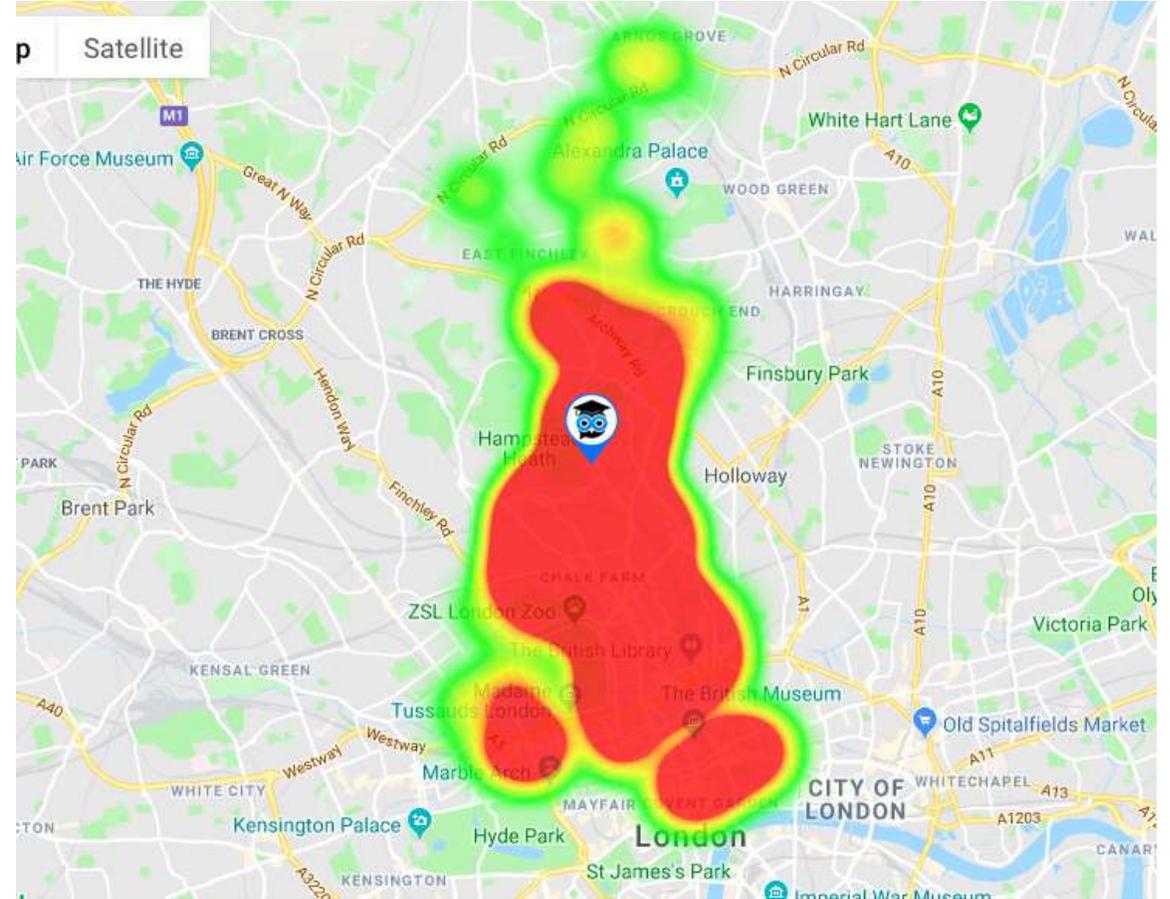
WILLIAM ELLIS



MARYLEBONE BOYS

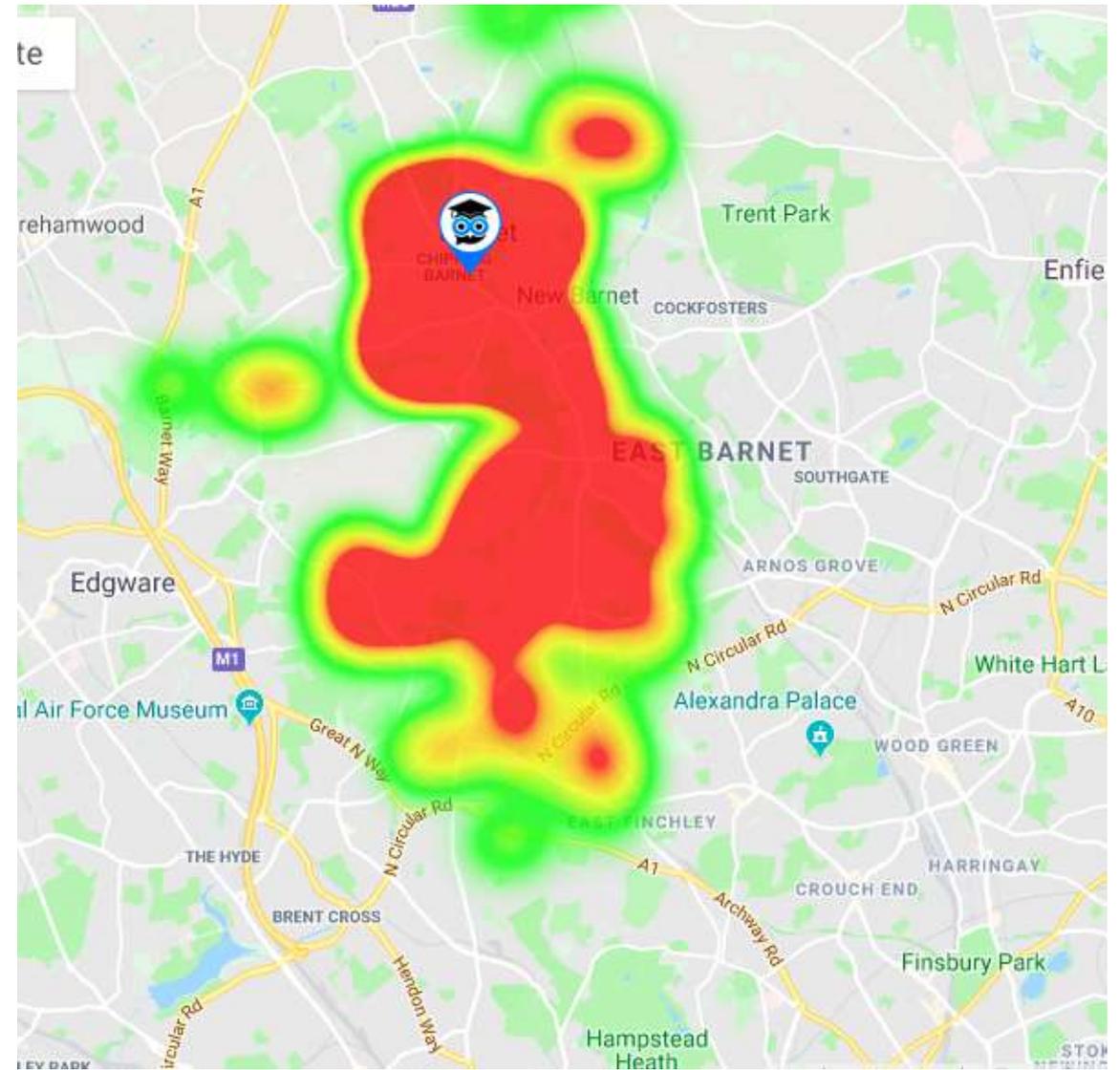


PARLIAMENT HILL SCHOOL



Q E GIRLS BARNET

The distance criteria was 3.358 miles on offer day. We live 7 miles away....



LA name	School Name	SPARE CAPACITY	Total capacity	Total Year 7 pupils in Jan 2017	Sex of school description
Brent	The Crest Academy	152	330	178	Mixed
Barnet	The Totteridge Academy	108	180	72	Mixed
Barnet	Christ's College Finchley	100	210	110	Mixed
Brent	Ark Elvin Academy	97	270	173	Mixed
Brent	Alperton Community School	93	324	231	Mixed
Barnet	Bishop Douglass School Finchley	48	180	132	Mixed
Barnet	Copthall School	43	210	167	Girls
Brent	JFS	30	330	300	Mixed
Brent	Newman Catholic College	29	120	91	Boys
Barnet	Friern Barnet School	28	162	134	Mixed
Barnet	JCoSS	23	210	187	Mixed
Camden	Maria Fidelis Roman Catholic Convent School FCJ	22	150	128	Mixed
Barnet	Whitefield School	17	150	133	Mixed
Brent	Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College	16	180	164	Girls
Camden	Acland Burghley School	15	180	165	Mixed
Brent	Capital City Academy	11	208	197	Mixed

LA name	School Name	SPARE CAPACITY	Total capacity	Total Year 7 pupils in Jan 2017	Sex of school description
Brent	St Gregory's Catholic Science College	10	192	182	Mixed
Camden	Parliament Hill School	8	180	172	Girls
Westminster	Pimlico Academy N.B. expanding by 30 in sept 2020	7	210	203	Mixed
Camden	Haverstock School	6	180	174	Mixed
Camden	Regent High School	6	180	174	Mixed
Westminster	St Augustine's CofE High School	6	168	162	Mixed
Barnet	Menorah High School for Girls	6	54	48	Girls
Camden	William Ellis School	5	120	115	Boys
Westminster	St George's Catholic School (expanded by 30 in Sept 2017)	3	150	147	Mixed
Barnet	Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School	2	180	178	Girls
Brent	Preston Manor School	2	252	250	Mixed
Barnet	The Compton School	2	210	208	Mixed
Camden	Hampstead School	2	210	208	Mixed
Barnet	Hendon School	2	200	198	Mixed
Camden	La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School	2	180	178	Girls

WHICH SCHOOLS HAVE SPARE CAPACITY

YOUR CHILD'S EMOTIONS

Don't say anything negative about a school they may get on offer day

Show them a school you think they'll want to reject so they can be glad about what they do get.

If you are going to play the waiting game they need to understand how patient you will have to be and how hard it will be when their friends are getting places and getting excited about them.

Be realistic about hedging – if you hedge with an independent school you are likely to be too committed to it by the time an offer comes from your first choice state school.