



Consultation

**A proposal to create Additional
Resource Provision for Autism at
Nightingale Primary School and
Simon Marks Jewish Primary School**

Consultation period: 20 June - 17 July 2022

Consultation - a proposal to create Additional Resource Provision for Autism at Nightingale Primary School and Simon Marks Jewish Primary School

Why are we consulting?

Increasing number of Education & Health Care Plans

In recent years, the number of children and young people in Hackney with Education & Health Care Plans (EHCPs) has increased, with a marked upward trend between 2009 and 2021. This trend also occurred across London.

The number of children and young people identified with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has accounted for a significant proportion of the increase in EHCPs in Hackney. From 2019-20 there was an increase of 15%, and in 2020 the highest number of children and young people with a primary need of ASD was recorded (586). An increase in the number of children and young people with a primary need of Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) was also seen - up by 6%.

If the number of EHCPs continues to grow at the rates seen over the last few years, with no additional SEND places created, Hackney Education projects that there will be an increase of 400 SEND children and young people each year between 2021 and 2026 with limited specialist provision to support them.

What are the plans for creating more places for children with Autism?

This consultation seeks views from stakeholders on the creation of Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs) for children with Autism within mainstream schools. ARPs specialise in provisioning focussed and specific education for SEND needs and will often have dedicated class rooms and other facilities within the school as well as qualified SEND professionals. Children typically spend part of their time in the ARP and the remaining time with their mainstream peers in class.

During 2021, the Council asked education providers in Hackney whether they were interested in setting up and managing an ARP for children with Autism. Positive responses were received from a range of settings expressing interest in supporting children with Autism through the creation of new places.

Where will the new Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs) be located?

Following a detailed assessment of the proposals received from schools, Nightingale Primary School and Simon Marks Jewish Primary School were chosen to progress to the next stage of the process to create new Autism provision, and Side by Side Special School (an Independent Orthodox Jewish School) was chosen to create additional places for Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD). Side by Side Special School (proposal to create 50 SLD places) falls outside of this consultation process and as such the school will carry out a separate consultation.

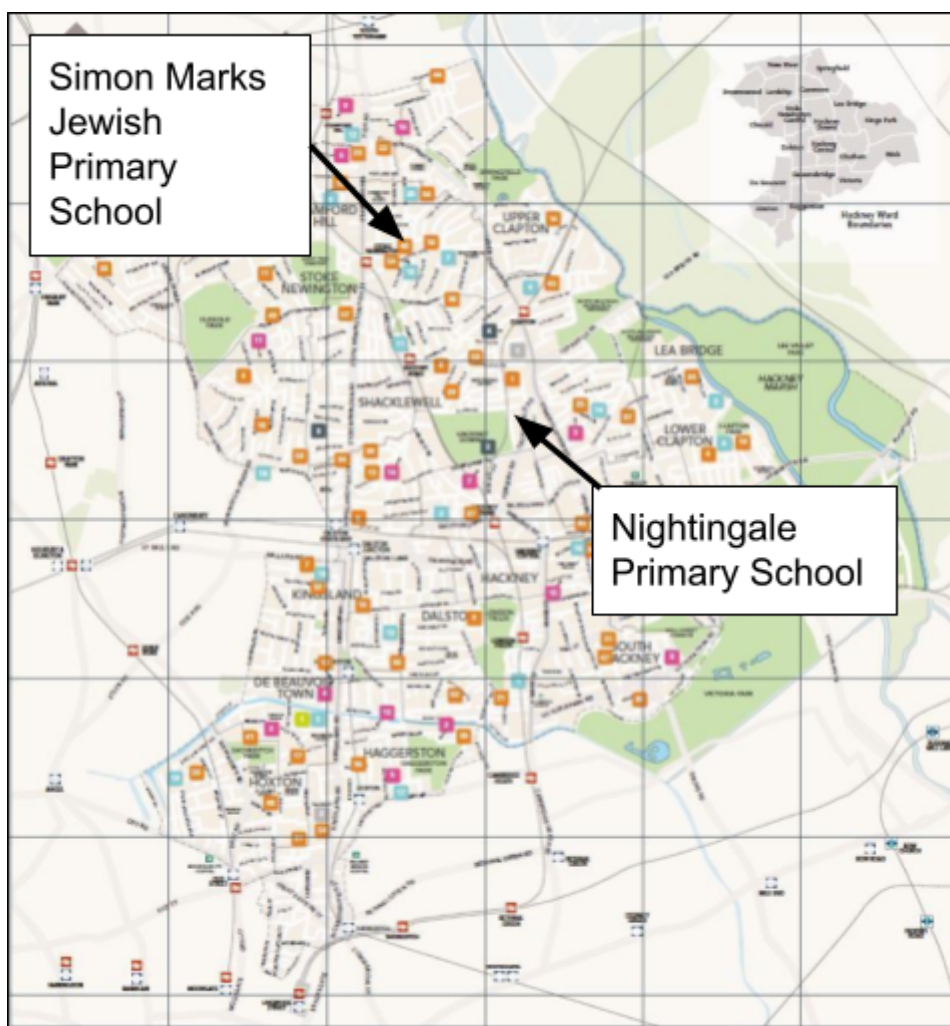
This consultation seeks views on a proposal for additional places at Nightingale Primary School and Simon Marks Jewish Primary School.

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Nightingale Primary School is a maintained primary school on Tiger Way, E5 8NA. It is located in a large modern building completed in 2019, close to Hackney Downs Park. Nightingale offers a high standard of education and has an Ofsted rating of 'Good' (November 2017 - short inspection). If agreed, the ARP at Nightingale will provide 12 places for children with a primary need of Autism by the end of 2023. The school's website can be found here: <http://www.nightingale.hackney.sch.uk/>.

Simon Marks Jewish Primary School is a voluntary-aided school in the north of the borough, situated on Cazenove Road, N16 6PD. The school welcomes children from Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds and received an Ofsted rating of 'Good' in June 2017. If agreed, the ARP will provide 12 places for children with Autism by the end of 2023. The school's website can be found here: <https://simonmarks.hackney.sch.uk/>.

The locations of Nightingale Primary School and Simon Marks Jewish Primary School are indicated in the map below.



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Who can apply for a place in an ARP and how will the admissions process work?

The allocation of places for the new ARPs will be made by the Local Authority's Education, Health and Care Panel on the basis of agreed admissions criteria.

When will the changes take place?

The proposals are the subject of feasibility studies that are currently being progressed and will be completed in June 2022. The timescale for implementation of each ARP will be known at this stage. It is expected that all of the facilities will be completed by the end of 2023 at the latest, but earlier if possible.

Consultation timeline

Date	Activity	End date
20 June 2022	Non-statutory consultation period	17 July 2022 (4 weeks)
16 September 2022	Comments received during the consultation are considered by Hackney Education's Senior Leadership Team (SLT). A decision on the statutory publication of a notice of the proposal is made by SLT.	-
29 September 2022	Publication of a statutory notice.	26 October 2022 (4 weeks)
11 November 2022	If no objections are received during the statutory notice period, Hackney Education's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will make a decision on the proposal. If objections are received during the statutory notice period, these will be considered by Hackney's Director of Children's Services.	-
By the end of 2023	The new ARPs open	

If you wish to comment on this proposal please use the online forms for each school [here](https://education.hackney.gov.uk/consultations). (education.hackney.gov.uk/consultations).

If you have specific questions about the SEND provision being proposed which have not been answered in the Questions & Answers, please contact Joe Wilson (Head of SEND, joe.wilson@hackney.gov.uk).

Meetings can be arranged to take place remotely via Google Meet and accommodate a maximum of 10 per meeting. To arrange a Google Meet meeting please contact the School Place Planning team (schoolplaceplanning@hackney.gov.uk).

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Questions & Answers

Why are we consulting?

The number of children presenting with a diagnosis of Autism has increased and is projected to continue this upward trend. Our data tells us that we need to create more places.

How were the schools chosen for the creation of the new ARPs?

In June 2021 Hackney Education contacted schools in the borough to assess whether they wished to provide provision for children with Autism at their school. We received interest from several schools and settings which were then evaluated against a set of criteria. Nightingale Primary School and Simon Marks Jewish Primary School were among those chosen to set up new Autism provision for the first stage of a wider programme to deliver new SEND provision in Hackney.

Why is the number of children with Autism increasing?

Autistic Spectrum Disorder includes a range (spectrum) of disorders that affect children and adults in different ways such as their social skills, speech, movement, learning, cognition, mood and behaviour. Factors which cause or contribute to autism are not fully understood and agreed, however, it is suggested that the significant increase in rates of Autism seen may be due to better awareness of the condition as well as increased screening.

How will children receive a place in the ARP?

Children will be allocated based on need and by the Council's Education, Health and Care Panel. Twelve ARP places will be provided in each school across all years, from Reception to Year 6. The majority of children placed will have an EHC Plan and diagnosis of Autism. In exceptional circumstances some children will be placed on an assessment basis via agreement between the host school and local authority. In these instances children will have social communication difficulties. The ARP places will be included within the school's Published Admissions Number (PAN) in the same way that admissions of all children with EHCPs are included in the school's PAN.

How will the new ARPs be funded?

The new Autism ARPs are being delivered by the High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) from 2021. This grant is paid to local authorities to support the provision of places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those children requiring alternative provision.

Who makes the final decision on whether the creation of the new ARPs will go ahead?

Once the consultation period has ended and the responses (if any) received, these will be analysed and a report submitted to Hackney Education's Senior Leadership Team for consideration and a decision. If Hackney Education's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) decide to proceed to the next stage, a statutory notice will be published. If there are no objections at this stage, SLT can agree to the proposal. If objections are received, the proposal will be considered by the Director of Children's Services.

What will happen if the ARPs are delayed beyond the end of 2023?

At this stage, the Council is working to deliver the ARP places by the end of 2023 at the latest, subject to feasibility studies and works (if required) to the school buildings. If this timeline is not achieved the ARP will open as soon as possible thereafter.