

STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO QUEENSBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL – establishment of Autism Resource Provision

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

1 School and LA details

School: Queensbridge Primary School

Address: Queensbridge Road, London, E8 4ET

Local Authority: London Borough of Hackney

2 Description of alteration

Hackney Learning Trust (HLT) proposes to establish Autism Resourced Provision (ARP) of 10 places at Queensbridge Primary School from September 2020.

HLT proposes to refurbish the Annexe at the Tomlinson Centre (adjacent to the school) to accommodate the ARP on the ground floor.

3 Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

If the proposal is agreed, it is planned to undertake the building work during 2020, delivering the facilities for the new ARP at Queensbridge Primary School for September 2020.

4 Evidence of demand

In recent years the number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has increased significantly, approximately 36% over the last 5 years, with an average annual growth of 6.1%¹. The most common special educational need within this group is Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), making up approximately 30% of all EHC plans, and is continuing to steadily rise. Hackney schools have seen pupils with ECHPs for ASD rise approximately 62% in the last 5 years with an average annual growth of 10%². There is especially growth in key stage 1 to 3. This is in line with increasing EHC requests and advancements in diagnosis.

Demand for places at schools with ARP has been consistently high for several years. At Hackney Learning Trust's ARP allocations panel in February 2018, there were four times as many applications than available places. In September 2018, there were 20 applications for places but only 5 places available. For places in September 2019, there were 17 applications with only 9 places available.

¹ Source: MISA SEND Data Booklet 2018 based on the Schools Census returns data from DfE

² Source: MISA SEND Data Booklet 2018 based on the Schools Census returns data from DfE

Hackney has one dedicated ASD special school – The Garden School, which provides 150 places for pupils aged 4-16 years with ASD and severe learning difficulties. Three mainstream primary schools (Shoreditch Park Primary School, Tyssen Primary School and Millfields Primary School) have ARPs providing a total of 30 places. Mossbourne Community Academy (a secondary school) has an ARP providing 15 places. In addition, the Garden School has been identified for new (post 16) ASD provision and an increase in KS4 places.

5 Objectives

5.1 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision

The ARP will be for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with a diagnosis of ASD. The provision will enable the increasing number of pupils with a diagnosis of Autism to benefit from attending a mainstream school, whilst also receiving specialist input for Autism relevant to the child's needs.

Pupils attending Queensbridge with a diagnosis of ASD will benefit from having access to a bespoke curriculum which addresses the core challenges of pupils with autism. The school has experienced and well trained staff with experience of specialist pedagogical and assessment strategies such as TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication-Handicapped Children), PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) and SCERTS (Social-Communication, Emotional Regulation, and Transactional Support).

The allocation of places of all ARPs in Hackney are decided by the Hackney Learning Trust's ARP Forum. There will be no priority to the ARP for existing Queensbridge Primary School pupils applying for a place at the ARP, as is the case for other children on roll at mainstream schools with ARPs.

5.2 School Organisation Principles

Hackney Learning Trust has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for Hackney resident children. In recommending this the proposal to establish an ARP at Queensbridge, HLT should have regard to the borough's School Organisation principles. The principles relevant to this proposal are outlined below.

- **School changes**

HLT will support viable expansions of popular and successful schools in line with Department for Education (DfE) policy wherever possible.

In planning for changes to school organisation such as expansion, amalgamation, federation and closure, HLT will take into account the factors set out in HLT's School Organisation Matrix, which includes the school's Ofsted rating.

- **Quality and diversity**

HLT will seek to ensure that sufficient attractive high-quality state-funded school provision is available within the borough to meet the needs of all children aged 5-16.

- **School budgets/finances**

HLT will consult with schools prior to the implementation of any changes to funding of maintained schools. The funding will be allocated in line with the Operational Guidance, School Funding Regulations and sanctioned by Schools Forum.

- **Education property**

HLT will seek to ensure that school premises are well maintained, fit for purpose and meet all relevant national standards for space and health and safety.

6 Project costs and funding

The cost for works at the site to accommodate the ARP is estimated at £250,000. Funding will be allocated from SEND Capital Funding as outlined in the Council's SEND Capital Plan of Intent. The ARP will not remove funding from the mainstream school, as it will be fully independently resourced.

7 Consultation

To inform this proposal, Hackney Learning Trust ran an initial public consultation from 9 September to 7 October 2019. The initial consultation received six responses, all of which were in favour of the proposal. A copy of the consultation document can be viewed at <https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/content/consultations>.

8 Decision-making

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is Hackney Learning Trust in the event that no objections are received. If objections are received, a decision on the proposal will be made by Hackney Council's Group Director for Children, Adults and Community Health. A decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of this representation period.

9 Objections and comments

Any person wishing to submit any comments either in support of, or objecting to, the proposal may do so by sending them to:

Iris Carrington
School Place Planning Officer
Hackney Learning Trust
London Borough of Hackney
1 Reading Lane
London
E8 1GQ; or by emailing iris.carrington@learningtrust.co.uk

Any objections or comments must be received before Friday 6 December 2019.