

Consultation on proposed alterations to Barnes Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames intends to make prescribed alterations to Barnes Primary School, Cross Street, London, SW13 0QQ, from 1 September 2019.


It is proposed that with effect from the 2019/2020 school year intake, the school should be expanded and its admission number for Reception entry should be permanently increased to 90.

It is also proposed that from the 2019/2020 school year a 'specialist resource provision' should be established at the school which would admit up to 14 children with Education and Health Care Plans who have Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and associated Complex Learning Needs as their main presenting special educational needs.

The current permanent capacity of the school is 420 and the proposed capacity will be 630. The current number of pupils registered at the school (as at October 2017) is 447 plus 70 (35 full-time equivalents) in the attached maintained nursery. The current admission number for all year-groups at the school – except in the current Year 4, whose number is 90 – is 60, and the proposed admission number for Reception entry from September 2019 will be 90.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Matthew Paul, Associate Director, School Place Planning, Achieving for Children, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, 42 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BW; matthew.paul@achievingforchildren.org.uk; or from www.richmond.gov.uk.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, no later than Friday 23rd February 2018, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by emailing them to matthew.paul@achievingforchildren.org.uk or posting them to Matthew Paul, Associate Director, School Place Planning, Achieving for Children, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, 42 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BW.

Signed: 

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Consultation on proposed alterations to Barnes Primary School

What's being proposed?

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames is proposing to expand Barnes Primary School – a community school located at Cross Street, London, SW13 0QQ – from two to three forms of entry from September 2019.

It is also proposing to establish a specialist resource provision at the school for up to 14 children with Education and Health Care Plans who have Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and associated Complex Learning Needs as their main presenting special educational needs.

How would the proposals be implemented?

The proposed expansion would be implemented over seven years, as follows:

- On 1 September 2019 the school's admission number for Reception would permanently increase from 60 to 90 and the school would have up to 90 children in Reception and Year 6 and up to 60 in all other year-groups;
- in 2020/2021, the school would have up to 90 children in Reception and Year 1 and up to 60 in all other year-groups;
- in 2021/2022, the school would have up to 90 children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 and up to 60 in all other year-groups;
- and so on until 2025/2026, when the school would have up to 90 children in all year-groups, i.e. from Reception to Year 6. (The school admitted an extra Reception class in 2013/2014, which is currently in Year 4.)

The proposed resource provision would open in September 2019.

What is the school's current capacity and how would it change?

The current permanent capacity of the school is 420 (plus a temporary 'bulge' class of 30 additional pupils admitted in 2013, which is currently in Year 4); and the proposed capacity, by September 2025, when each year-group would have an admission number of 90, would be 630.

As at the October 2017 pupil census, numbers in all year-groups at the school were at, or slightly below, the published admission number:

Year-group	Number
Reception	60
Year 1	59
Year 2	60
Year 3	60
Year 4	88*
Year 5	60
Year 6	60
Total	447

* The school admitted an additional, 'bulge' class in September 2013.

There were also 70 children, which is 35 full-time equivalents (FTE) in the attached maintained nursery, against a capacity of 78 (39 FTE).

Why is expansion of the school being proposed?

The expansion of the school would meet the need for additional school places in the Barnes/Mortlake & Barnes Common school place planning area (coterminous with the electoral wards of the same name). The Authority's Reception class forecasts indicate that there will be a consistent shortfall of at least 30 places per year in this area from 2019/2020 onwards:

Capacity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
232	260	264	263	266	270

Barnes Primary admitted an extra Reception class in 2013/2014 in order to meet high demand from within the Barnes/Mortlake and Barnes Common area. Without those additional places, up to 30 children would not have been placed at schools anywhere within a reasonable distance of their homes, if at all.

The two primary schools in the adjacent East Sheen planning area, East Sheen Primary and Sheen Mount Primary, were permanently expanded in September 2014 and 2016 respectively, but do not have room for further expansion.

Without the additional 30 places per year that this proposal would provide, the Local Authority would be reliant upon a strategy of providing *temporary* additional places, which is considered to be a less than ideal solution compared with permanent expansion, given that the shortfall of places is predicted to

continue on an ongoing basis unless additional places are made available. It would also represent poor value for money compared with permanent expansion, which enables the school's facilities to be enlarged proportionately in a way that temporary expansion does not.

The school has sufficient space for expansion and is popular and successful. Although it is no longer a requirement to state whether or not the school is regarded as 'popular and successful', the Department for Education still advise that wherever expansions are needed, they should be at schools which Ofsted rate as 'outstanding' or 'good'. By any criteria, Barnes Primary would be defined as 'popular and successful':

- For September 2017 entry, the school received 343 applications for its 60 Reception places, including 119 first preferences.
- In June 2008, [Ofsted rated Barnes Primary as 'outstanding'](#).
- In the summer 2016 and 2017 Key Stage 2 results, [the school's performance in Reading, Writing and Mathematics](#) was significantly higher than the average within Richmond Borough, which is ranked second among local authorities in England behind only the City of London (which has only one primary school).

Expansion would give the school a larger budget and enable larger economies of scale, which in turn would enable it to have a broader curriculum and extra-curricular offer, with a greater variety of teaching expertise and specialisms; and enable a greater degree of collaboration and sharing and observation of good practice by year-group teachers and teaching assistants.

Which other local schools have been considered as expansion options, and what impact would the expansion of Barnes Primary School have upon them?

The expansion of Barnes Primary would provide more state-funded secular school places in an area where the current availability consists of six forms of secular places and two/three forms of Catholic school places. The other secular schools in the area are Lowther Primary School and Thomson House School, both of which serve distinct areas in north Barnes and Mortlake respectively, whereas Barnes Primary serves a very close catchment in 'west' Barnes and Barnes village. The cut-off distance of the last child offered a Reception place at Barnes Primary in the last few years has been very close to the school:

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
404	429	691*	288	232	389	319

(Distances are given in metres. * In 2013, an additional 30 places were offered, and the cut-off

distance for the first 60 places offered was 400 metres.)

Lowther was expanded from one- to two-form entry in 2011, does not have room for further expansion and, in any case, is less suitably located to meet the forecast demand for additional places. Although Lowther is not currently full in Reception, the forecast demand for an additional form of entry in the area takes account of any possible spare capacity being used up in 2017 and 2018, so it would not adversely impact upon Lowther.

Thomson House, a two-form entry free school, opened in 2013 and does not have room to be expanded to three-form entry.

The two one-form entry Catholic schools within the area – St Mary Magdalen’s and St Osmund’s – do not have room for full expansion to two-form entry and instead are part of a ‘shared form of Reception entry’ arrangement with St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School, in which they take turns to admit an additional Reception class each year. That arrangement is due to cease after St Mary Magdalen’s admits an extra class in September 2018.

The admission of 30 extra children at Barnes Primary in 2013, as a late ‘bulge’ class after the initial allocations had been made, impacted upon the number of children who were eventually admitted in the extra class at St Osmund’s that year; however, the proposed permanent expansion of Barnes Primary is expected to impact much less upon St Osmund’s (or St Mary Magdalen’s), because the shared form of Reception entry arrangement will come to an end at the point that the proposed expansion of Barnes Primary would take effect, and because the additional places proposed to be available at Barnes Primary would be ‘in the mix’ at the start of the initial allocations process.

Why is the establishment of a specialist resource provision being proposed?

The establishment of a specialist resource provision for up to 14 children with Education and Health Care Plans who have Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and associated Complex Learning Needs as their main presenting special educational needs would help to provide additional places within the borough for children with special educational needs who might otherwise be placed outside the borough, away from their home community.

In spring 2017, Achieving for Children (AfC), which provides children’s services for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (and for the Royal Boroughs of Kingston upon Thames and Windsor and Maidenhead), undertook a thorough [review of provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#) within Richmond Borough and

Kingston Borough. One of the review's key findings, which were published in May 2017, was that the number of local places for children with SEND should be increased:

More local places for children with SEND should be established so that families have more choice and so that more children and young people can be educated in their community. This should include more places in mainstream provision (maintained and academy schools), more specialist resource provisions based in mainstream schools, and more special school places.¹

Of the 1,235 Richmond Borough children and young people with EHCPs / statements in March 2017, 324 had a primary need of ASD. The proposal to establish a specialist resource provision at Barnes Primary would enable 14 children with ASD and associated Complex Learning Needs to be educated locally, at an outstanding primary school within their home community, rather than at an out-borough educational provision.

Barnes Primary, as an Ofsted-rated 'outstanding' school, with a wealth of expertise in education children with SEND, and ASD in particular, is ideally placed to manage an outstanding, popular and successful specialist resource provision.

The revenue funding of the proposed specialist resource provision would enable the school to appoint a teacher-in-charge (as well as other staff) who would be expected to lead training and promote best practice in inclusion across the school and to undertake outreach work to other local schools and settings.

How would the proposals be funded?

The capital costs for design and build would be met by the Local Authority, by using Education Funding Agency 'Basic Need' allocations, Section 106 'education' receipts and borrowing, and by a contribution from the school itself.

The revenue costs would be met from the Dedicated Schools' Grant High Needs Block and the normal per-pupil AWPU ('age weighted pupil unit') funding.

¹ [SEND Review](#), p.31

How can representations on the proposals be made?

Please email representations to matthew.paul@achievingforchildren.org.uk, or post to:

Matthew Paul, Associate Director, School Place Planning,
Achieving for Children,
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames,
42 York Street,
Twickenham,
TW1 3BW.

How long is the representation period and when does it start and end?

In accordance with [Department for Education guidance](#), the representation period will last for at least four weeks, commencing on Friday 19th January 2018 and ending on Friday 23rd February 2017 (five weeks to take account of half-term).

When and how will decisions be made in respect of each of the two proposals?

At its meeting on 15 March 2018, the Council's Cabinet, acting in its role as 'local decision maker', will consider the proposals and the representations made upon them, and will decide whether or not to approve the proposals.

If Cabinet were to approve the proposals, they would then be legally binding, subject to planning permission for the requisite building works.