

Consultation on a proposed alteration to Barnes Primary School

What's being proposed?

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames ("the Council") is proposing to establish a specialist resource provision (SRP) at the school for up to 14 children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) who have Social Communication Needs including both Autism and Moderate Learning Difficulties as their main presenting special educational needs. The first intake of pupils into the SRP would be admitted in September 2021.

An SRP enables a small number of children and young people with EHCPs, for whom accessing mainstream education full-time would be inappropriate due to their needs, to be taught in a mainstream school, so that they can:

- be educated and maximise their potential within an overall mainstream educational setting; and
- have their teaching and learning needs met appropriately through the support of specialist teachers and teaching assistants who identify effective strategies and interventions so that the children make the best possible progress.

The children concerned would spend the majority of their time in the SRP, with access to mainstream lessons where that would be appropriate for them.

The proposal is being made in accordance with [Department for Education guidance](#).

How would the proposal be implemented?

The proposed SRP would build up its pupil numbers over a period of three school years, as follows:

School year	Infant years	Junior years	Total
2021/2022	4	4	8
2022/2023	6	6	12
2023/2024	6	8	14

The intention is that there would be no more than two children per year-group in the proposed SRP.

This model would enable the school to establish the SRP gradually, so that its anticipated excellent practice can be consolidated before it reaches capacity.

Places in the proposed SRP would be allocated by Achieving for Children's SEND Panel, on behalf of the Council. Achieving for Children (AfC) provides children's services for the Council (and for the Royal Boroughs of Kingston upon Thames and Windsor and Maidenhead). All 14 places would be reserved for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or, rarely, who are undergoing assessment for an EHCP.

The places would be supernumerary, i.e. *in addition to* the permanent capacity of 420, so there would be no decrease in the number of places available at the school through the mainstream admission application routes.

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 5).

As at the October 2018 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	60
Year 2	60
Year 3	60
Year 4	59
Year 5	84*
Year 6	59
Total	448

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

There are also 26 full time children and 39 part time children, which equates to 45.5 full-time equivalents (FTE) in the attached maintained nursery, against a capacity of 46 FTE.

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

In spring 2017, AfC 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 1,320 Richmond Borough children and young people with EHCPs in September 2018, 371 (28%) had a main presenting need of Autism. The proposal to establish a specialist resource provision at Barnes Primary would enable 14 children with Social Communication Needs including Autism and Moderate Learning Difficulties to be educated locally, at an outstanding primary school within their home community, rather than at an out-borough educational provision.

The school has sufficient space to accommodate the proposed SRP and is popular and successful:

- For September 2018 entry, the school received 296 applications for its 60 Reception places, including 100 first preferences.
- In June 2008, [Ofsted rated Barnes Primary as 'outstanding'](#).
- In the summer Key Stage 2 results in recent years, [the school's performance in Reading, Writing and Mathematics](#) has been significantly higher than the average within Richmond Borough, which was ranked first among local authorities in England in 2018.

The revenue funding of the proposed SRP would enable the school to appoint a teacher-in-charge (as well as other specialist 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.

¹ [SEND Review](#), p.31

How would the proposal be funded?

The Council would fund the costs of design and build, by using some of its Department for Education [Special Capital Provision Fund](#) allocation.

The revenue costs, i.e. per-pupil funding, would be met from the Dedicated Schools' Grant High Needs Block.

What previous consultation has taken place on the proposal?

Achieving for Children, on behalf of the Council, held consultation meetings on the proposal (and on a proposal to expand the school which was subsequently withdrawn) on 17 January 2018 and subsequently undertook consultation on a statutory proposal which was subsequently withdrawn. The proposal is unchanged except in regard to the effective date of implementation.

How can representations on the proposals be made?

Please email 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 26 April 2019 and ending on Friday 24 May 2019.

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

At its meeting on 25 July 2019, the Council's Education and Children's Services

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