



**STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO NIGHTINGALE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SIMON MARKS JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL –
Creation of Additional Resource Provision for autism at Nightingale Primary School and Simon Marks Jewish Primary School**

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

1 School and LA details

School: Nightingale Primary School
Address: Tiger Way, London, E5 8NA
Local Authority: London Borough of Hackney

School: Simon Marks Jewish Primary School
Address: 75 Cazenove Road, London, N16 6PD
Local Authority: London Borough of Hackney

2 Description of alteration

The London Borough of Hackney proposes to establish Additional Resource Provision (ARP) for autism at Nightingale Primary School and Simon Marks Jewish Primary School from the end of 2023.

The ARP at Simon Marks Primary School will have 12 places.

The ARP at Nightingale Primary School will have at least 12 and up to 22 places (subject to the feasibility of space and final building plans).

The new provision will be based at the current sites with building works carried out as required.

3 Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

If the proposal is agreed, and dependent on the outcome of the feasibility studies, it is planned to undertake the building works during 2023, delivering the facilities for both new ARPs by the end of 2023. It should be noted that there is a significant increase in projected inflation for 2022 at 8 to 10 percent and this, together with pressure on the small and medium sized construction market, may create some challenges in achieving these projects within existing budgets and programmes. If the planned timescales are not achievable, the opening of the new provisions may need to be reviewed or postponed.

4 Evidence of demand

In recent years, the number of children and young people in Hackney with education, health and care (EHC) plans has increased, with a marked upward trend between 2009 and 2021. This increase in the number of EHC plans has also occurred across London.

The number of children and young people identified as autistic has accounted for a significant proportion of the increase in EHC plans in Hackney. From 2019-20 there was an increase of 15%, and in 2020 the highest number of autistic children and young people attending Hackney maintained schools with a primary need of autism was recorded (586) which was 38% of all EHC plans. Our projections indicate that we will continue to see more autistic children in the future due to an increasing number of statutory assessments being requested following a diagnosis of autism. Many of these assessments will result in an EHC plan.

Autistic children of primary school age with an EHC plan are mostly provided for in mainstream Hackney schools which have specialist autism provision (Additional Resource Provision). There are four provisions of this type in Hackney, each providing 10 places. Due to the increasing number of autistic children, we are proposing to create a further two new ARPs, at Nightingale Primary School and Simon Marks Jewish Primary School, by the end of 2023.

If this proposal is agreed, Hackney will have two additional local, high-quality provisions for autistic children.

5 Objectives

5.1 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision

The ARPs will admit autistic children with an education, health and care (EHC) plan. The provision will enable the increasing number of children identified as autistic to benefit from attending a mainstream school, whilst also receiving specialist input for autism relevant to their needs.

Children attending the ARP will benefit from an individualised specialist curriculum designed to meet the needs of autistic children. Staff in the provisions will deliver a differentiated curriculum and use materials and teaching approaches which promote the best possible academic, social and emotional outcomes for children.

Children will be admitted to the ARPs by the London Borough of Hackney's Education, Health and Care Panel.

5.2 School Organisation Principles

The London Borough of Hackney has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for Hackney resident children. It also has a statutory duty to keep under review its educational provision, training provision and social care provision made in its area for children and young people who have special educational needs or a disability. In recommending this proposal to set up ARPs at Nightingale Primary

School and Simon Marks Jewish Primary School, the London Borough of Hackney has had regard to Hackney Education's School Organisation Principles. Hackney Education is the name given to the education directorate of the London Borough of Hackney. The principles relevant to this proposal are outlined below.

- **School changes**

Hackney Education 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, Hackney Education will take into account the factors set out in Hackney Education's School Organisation Matrix.

- **Quality and diversity**

Hackney Education 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. The new ARPs will form part of Hackney's existing offer of well established ARPs for autism, in addition to two special schools which also cater for children on the autism spectrum. This proposal will therefore broaden the local offer for parents by providing additional in-borough, specialist provision and forms part of the wider implementation plan for additional SEND places.

- **School budgets/finances**

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

- **Education property**

Hackney Education 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 projected costs for a 12-place ARP at Simon Marks Primary School will be £182,400. The projected cost for a 12-place ARP at Nightingale Primary School will be £103,200. The cost of these additional places will be funded from the High Needs Provision Capital Allocations Grant. The ARPs will not remove funding from the mainstream schools, as they will be fully and independently resourced. The creation of the two new provisions is expected, over time, to reduce the reliance on costly out-of-borough and independent provision and transport costs, as the number of places available within Hackney is increased and Hackney children are educated in-borough.

7 Consultation

To inform this proposal, the London Borough of Hackney ran an initial public consultation from 20 June to 17 July 2022. The initial consultation received four responses regarding the ARP at Nightingale Primary School, three of which were in favour of the proposal. One respondent was unsure of the proposal. The proposal for the ARP at Simon Marks Jewish Primary School received ten responses, of which eight were in favour. Two respondents disagreed with the proposal. All responses, including those expressing doubts and opposition to the proposal were considered by the London Borough of Hackney. The decision was to progress the proposal further. A copy of the consultation document can be viewed at <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/consultations>.

8 Decision-making

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is the Director of Education at the London Borough of Hackney, in the event that no objections are received. If objections are received, a decision on the proposal will be made by the London Borough of Hackney'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:

Hackney Education
School Place Planning
London Borough of Hackney
1 Reading Lane
London
E8 1GQ;

or by email to: schoolplaceplanning@hackney.gov.uk.

**Any objections or comments must be received before
Thursday 3 November 2022.**