

STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO THE GARDEN SCHOOL – school expansion and establishment of post 16 provision at The Garden School from 2021

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

1 School and LA details

School: The Garden School

Address: Wordsworth Road, London, N16 8BZ

Local Authority: London Borough of Hackney

2 Description of alteration

Hackney Learning Trust proposes to expand Key Stage 4 provision at The Garden School and establish post 16 provision at the school from September 2021.

Both the expanded Key Stage 4 and the new post 16 provision will be based on a new site on Ickburgh Road, E5 8AD.

3 Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The building work is planned to be tendered at the end of 2020 with construction work commencing in early 2021. We aim to deliver the facilities for the new provision in September 2021, subject to planning permission and the construction programme.

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%. Two of the most common categories of need within this increasing group of pupils with EHCPs are Autism and Severe Learning Difficulties. Our projections indicate that we will continue to see more pupils with these needs in the future due to an increasing number of assessments and subsequent requests for EHCPs.

The requests for post 16 places year-on-year have grown due to the raised age of participation, extension of the offer of education under the SEND reforms, and also the higher expectations for young people's outcomes. Given the increasing demand for specialist provision for pupils with Autism and Severe Learning Difficulties, we are therefore proposing to expand The Garden School and to establish specialist post 16 provision for pupils with Autism and Severe Learning Difficulties from September 2021. This proposal will expand Hackney's current SEND provision; ensuring that suitable, high quality, local provision is available for all pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This provision will be the first specialist post 16 provision for pupils with Autism and Severe Learning Difficulties in Hackney.

5 Objectives

5.1 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision

The new provision will enable more of the increasing number of pupils with Autism and Severe Learning Difficulties stated on their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to benefit from attending a specialist school for Key Stage 4 and post 16.

The post 16 curriculum will be based on transitions from school to adulthood, with particular focus on accessing community and independent living skills, practical life skills, functional day to day skills and a focus on leisure, recreation and sport opportunities. Learners will also benefit from increased links to and direct engagement with the world of work.

5.2 School Organisation Principles

Hackney Learning Trust has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for Hackney resident children. In recommending this proposal to expand Key Stage and establish new post 16 provision at The Garden School, Hackney Learning Trust should have regard to the borough's School Organisation Principles. The principles relevant to this proposal are outlined below.

- **School changes**

Hackney Learning Trust 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 Learning Trust will take into account the factors set out in Hackney Learning Trust's School Organisation Matrix, which includes the school's Ofsted rating.

- **Quality and diversity**

Hackney Learning Trust 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**

Hackney Learning Trust 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 endorsed by Schools Forum.

- **Education property**

Hackney Learning Trust 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 budget for the expansion of The Garden School is funded by up to £1.8 million from the SEN special provision capital fund plus £500,000 from the school's revenue budget. The cost is currently estimated at £2.1 million. Funding will be allocated as outlined in the Council's SEND Capital Plan of Intent.

7 Consultation

To inform this proposal, Hackney Learning Trust ran an initial public consultation from 7 February 2020 to 5 March 2020. The initial consultation received 51 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/consultations>.

8 Decision-making

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is the Director of Education at Hackney Learning Trust, 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

To allow us to deal with the disruption caused by Coronavirus / COVID-19 please communicate with us by E-mail only and not by post. Any person wishing to submit any objections to the proposal may do so by sending them via E-mail to:

Iris Carrington
School Place Planning Officer
Hackney Learning Trust
London Borough of Hackney
E-mail: iris.carrington@learningtrust.co.uk

Any objections must be received before Thursday 21 May 2020.

Publication date: 23 April 2020