
Consultation: Proposals on the future of the Hearing Support Resource Base at Overton Grange School

Overview

This consultation outlines options for potential changes to the Hearing Support Department (Unit) at Overton Grange School with effect from September 2018. There are three options under consideration. Whichever option is chosen, all young people currently attending the Unit will continue to receive their education, with support, at the school until their natural point of transfer

Overton Grange School is an academy that hosts a Hearing Support Department offering up to 14 places for pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs/Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The academy receives enhanced funding to provide specialist resources and teaching expertise for pupils placed in the unit.

The number of pupils placed at the unit has remained consistently low over the last few years and currently, only 3 of the 14 places are in use by Sutton young people. There may be a number of reasons for this such as advances in technology or a more flexible approach to providing support making it easier for young people to thrive in other schools. Currently, the majority of young people living in the borough of secondary age and with Hearing Impairments (HI) attend schools other than Overton Grange.

Nationally, many local authorities are changing the way they support children with hearing impairment. An increasing proportion has their needs met in their local mainstream school, which we welcome. However, a small number may benefit from more intensive support, such as is available at Overton Grange.

Locally, evidence shows there are a small number of parents of children with hearing impairment of primary age who seek places at the unit. Of the 3 HI students currently attending the Unit, one came from Rushy Meadow, the others from other mainstream schools. One of the two children leaving Rushy Meadow in August 2018 has expressed a preference for a place at Overton Grange, meaning that the numbers of pupils in the unit will rise to 4 children but well below the existing commissioned number and hence the number of places that are being funded.

Why we are consulting

London Borough of Sutton, in partnership with Overton Grange School, would like to know what parents in the area think about the proposal.

We welcome comments and questions from parents or other interested parties regarding future provision for children with HI across the borough.

- The Consultation period will open on 15th January 2018, and close on 12th February 2018.
- There will be a meeting for parents and other interested parties on Monday 29th January at 6.30pm at the School. You do not need to register your attendance

Ultimately decisions on where to place pupils with SEN are taken by the Local Authority. It is anticipated that Councillors at the London Borough of Sutton will consider the responses to the consultation and make a final decision on Wednesday 14th March 2018. Should members decide to either reduce the number of places or to cease funding the unit, changes will come into effect in September 2018.

Introduction

What is your name?

Name

What is your email address?

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Email

What is your organisation?

Organisation

What is your interest/role relating to this consultation?

Please select only one item

- Pupil Parent/Carer Member of staff/Governor Overton Grange School
 Other School Other

If other please specify

Please use the text box below to answer

Options

Of the three options being considered, which do you think should be adopted (please tick)?

Please select only one item

Option 1: To make no changes, and leave the number of places at 14

Option 2: To reduce the number of places, so that there is a better match between the number of places and the likely need

Option 3: To close the Unit to new admissions from September 2018, whilst making provision for all existing pupils

Why have you selected this option? Please give as much information as possible explaining your views.

Please use the text box below to answer

Are there any other issues you think we should take into account when reaching a decision, or anything else that you would like to bring to our attention?

Please use the text box below to answer