



**Proposal for prescribed alterations to Hackbridge Primary School Hackbridge Road,
Wallington, SM6 7AX
Full Proposal – January 2019**

1. The Proposals

It is proposed to expand Hackbridge Primary School by an additional 36 full-time nursery places and to change the age range of the school to 2 to 11 years. The additional nursery places will be provided at the site of the current Spencer Nursery School, Spencer Road Mitcham Junction, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 4JP.

This proposal is linked to proposals by the London Borough of Sutton to discontinue Spencer Nursery School.

2. Details of the school and Local Authority

2.1 School: Hackbridge Primary School, Hackbridge Road, Wallington, SM6 7AX, URN:102969; This is a community school.

2.2 Local authority: London Borough of Sutton, People Directorate, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, SM1 1EA

3. Date of implementation

The proposals are planned to be implemented on 31 March 2020. The proposals will be considered for approval by Sutton People Committee on 14 March 2019.

4. Objections and Comments

Any person may object to or make comments on this proposal by sending them to Laura Byrnes, London Borough of Sutton, People Directorate, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, SM1 1EA or by emailing laura.byrnes@sutton.gov.uk by 14 February 2019.

5. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

Hackbridge Primary School is a popular four form entry community school, with an attached nursery for 3 and 4-year-olds, term time only, located in Hackbridge. Hackbridge Primary School is a 'Good' school as judged by Ofsted in July 2018.

Spencer Nursery School federated with Hackbridge Primary School in November 2016. A federation is where a number of maintained schools come together (in this case two) under

one governing body and share leadership arrangements. Spencer Nursery School currently provides for 36 full time places of children aged 2 to 5.

Hackbridge Primary School have indicated their desire to become an academy. A consultation on this proposal took place in January 2018 and an academy order has been issued. Maintained nursery schools cannot become academy schools and it would not be possible therefore for Spencer Nursery School to join an academy trust with Hackbridge Primary School. Sutton Borough Council and the leadership and governance of Hackbridge Primary School and Spencer Nursery wish the existing partnership arrangements to continue when Hackbridge Primary School becomes an academy. The proposals, together with the proposal to discontinue Spencer Nursery are necessary to enable joint management and governance of Spencer Nursery to continue.

A 'de-federation' would significantly impact upon Spencer Nursery's viability as a stand-alone provision. In addition, the uncertain financial future of Maintained Nursery funding places Spencer Nursery in a precarious position.

The introduction of a new National Funding Formula for Early Years provision from April 2017, placed a number of new requirements on how the LB Sutton must allocate funding to early years providers in the Borough, including Nursery Schools. One of the new requirements is to implement a local universal base rate for all types of providers by 2019/20 at the latest. A universal base rate would represent a significant reduction in the basic 'cost per pupil' maintained nursery schools receive (maintained nursery schools tend to have higher staffing costs related to the regulations they operate under). The Department for Education (DfE) whilst introducing the new funding formula, acknowledged the cost per pupil would result in a reduction in maintained nursery schools' budgets, therefore, they made a commitment to provide additional funding for maintained nursery schools for the duration of this Parliament (expected to be 2020) however the Government has not committed to funding them beyond this point. It is highly likely that if this funding is not provided Spencer Nursery School in its current form would need to close.

Expanding Hackbridge Primary School and extending the age range alongside closing Spencer Nursery School will ensure that childcare provision for local families will continue in its current form.

The London Borough of Sutton is proposing to extend the age range of Hackbridge Primary School from 3-11 to 2-11 and expand the early years provision to provide early years education and childcare for 2-5-year-olds at the existing Spencer Nursery site to replace the current provision made by Spencer Nursery School which the London Borough of Sutton is proposing to discontinue as a separate school.

The local authority consulted on the proposal to extend the age range of Hackbridge Primary School and the proposal to close Spencer Nursery School between 1st October 2018 and 2 November 2018. A public meeting was also held on 17th October at Spencer Nursery School.

6. Objectives

The federation between Hackbridge Primary School and Spencer Nursery School means that there is one governing body across the two schools and there are shared leadership arrangements as well as a range of other aspects including ethos, pedagogy and teaching and learning approaches.

The objective of the proposal is to ensure long-term sufficient childcare places in 'Good' or 'Outstanding' provision in the Hackbridge area for local families that minimises the impact on existing families and staff at Spencer Nursery and allows Hackbridge Primary School to pursue the Academy route as well as maximise the opportunities to share expertise across the federation.

The proposals do not include any substantive changes to the way that childcare is delivered to parents and there is no intention to change the existing delivery at Spencer Nursery. Spencer Nursery will continue to deliver flexible childcare for privately funded and free entitlement funded places over 50 weeks of the year between 8 am and 6 pm daily under the management of Hackbridge.

The local authority expects that keeping the partnership between the two schools will have a number of significant benefits:

- Both schools can continue to work together to provide a sustainable and high quality 0-5 years childcare and education offer for the local area which is currently well utilised by families.
- Children attending Spencer Nursery can continue to benefit from enhanced transition arrangements where parents chose Hackbridge Primary School when their child transitions to Reception, where the leadership is the same.
- Early Years staff across both settings are provided with focused continual professional development and career development opportunities within the age range, ensuring high-quality practice across the 0-5 age range.
- The financial cost of the required leadership can be shared across the settings, which is especially beneficial to Spencer Nursery as the smaller of the settings.
- Administration procedures can also be further aligned between the two settings if Spencer Nursery was to become part of Hackbridge Primary School, thereby streamlining additional costs and enabling Spencer Nursery to remain competitive as an affordable childcare provider.
- The strong links between the two schools will enhance the teaching and learning for all early years children that attend and provide opportunities to share expertise and resource.
- Families experience no change to their existing childcare arrangements so that children do not experience any disruption to their care or cause children to be unsettled.

7. Project Costs

There are no capital costs associated with these proposals. The additional places at Hackbridge Primary School will be provided in the existing Spencer Nursery Accommodation.

Signed: Kieran Holliday, Head of Pupil Based Commissioning, London Borough of Sutton,
Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1EA.
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