



## **PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO SCHOOLS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS**

**This proposal is published in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. Specifically, Regulation 5 with Schedule 2 which prescribe the alterations capable of being published by a local authority to maintained schools, and ; Regulation 6 (1) – (3) with Schedules 1 and 3 which provides for the information to be provided in relation to published proposals and prescribe the manner of their publication, determination and implementation, are relevant.**

Guidance indicates that a statutory proposal for making significant changes to schools must contain sufficient information for interested parties to make a decision on whether to support the proposed change. A proposal should be accessible to all interested parties and therefore use “plain English”.

### **School and LA details**

School details are:  
Culvers House Primary School  
Orchard Avenue  
Mitcham  
Surrey  
CR4 4JH

Category: Community

Contact details for the Local Authority as proposer are:  
Pupil Based Commissioning Team  
Stonecourt Annexe  
North Street  
Carshalton  
SM5 2HU  
Email: [Primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:Primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk)

### **Description of Alteration**

The closure of a SEN Opportunity Base which caters for up to 12 pupils with physical difficulties.

### **Evidence of Demand for Additional Places**

The proposal involves the closure of a SEN Unit. The reason behind this is to do with the increasing ability of mainstream primary schools to cater for the SEN needs of such pupils who, accordingly, are attending their local primary school rather than being enrolled at a school with specially designated provision.

### **School Capacity and details of the current number of pupils admitted to the School in each relevant year**

The current Net Capacity, which assesses the physical space in the School, is 400 places. This will remain the same following the closure of the SEN Base. The six children currently

attending the SEN Unit are fully integrated into the life and work of the School and are not educated separately.

The current planned number of children who can be admitted to the School is 420 with a PAN of 60 at YR. The proposal would affect the pupil number on roll marginally, if at all. The current number of pupils on roll as a January 2014 is:

YEAR	NOR
YR	60
Y1	55
Y2	60
Y3	55
Y4	46
Y5	58
Y6	33
TOTAL YR TO Y6	367

The School's PAN will be unchanged. If the School recruits up to its PAN in future, the projected numbers of pupils on roll (NOR) will be:

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
YR	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Y1	55	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Y2	60	55	60	60	60	60	60	60
Y3	55	60	55	60	60	60	60	60
Y4	46	55	60	55	60	60	60	60
Y5	58	46	55	60	55	60	60	60
Y6	33	58	46	55	60	55	60	60
TOTAL NOR	367	394	396	410	415	415	420	420

**Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)**

Developments in recent years have led to a situation where it is no longer necessary to send primary aged children who have physical disabilities to a school with a specialist SEN Base. Instead it is now often possible to admit these children into their local mainstream primary school and to fully integrate them with their peers.

**Special Educational Needs**

***Where proposals are to establish or alter provision for special educational needs:***

N/A

***Where proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs:***

The proposal is to close the SEN Opportunity Base with effect from September 2014.

***For any proposals relating to provision for special educational needs a description of the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals:***

Culvers House Primary School has places for 12 pupils with physical disabilities in the Opportunity Base. Currently there are six pupils with statements of special educational needs who are supported in the Base. In the last two years there have been no admissions into the Base. The School is well adapted to accommodate the needs of pupils with physical difficulties, operates on an inclusive ethos and has been using the resource of the Base to provide individual support in mainstream classes, with withdrawal for therapy. The accommodation at Culvers House Primary is accessible to most pupils with physical disabilities and the closure of the SEN Base will not adversely affect them.

However, other primary schools also have accessible accommodation for children with physical disabilities and these needs are now being met by schools near to the child's home in accordance with parental preference. There is no longer a requirement for specialist provision for primary aged children whose prime need is physical disability.

The staff from the Base will continue to be available to the pupils who will remain on the roll of Culvers House Primary and there will continue to be access to both education and other professionals, including as required external support and/or outreach services.

Widespread consultation has been undertaken in respect of this proposal. While the proposal appears to reduce the level of SEN provision, developments in practice now enable a wide range of primary schools to offer the facilities necessary to support young children with physical difficulties and enable an appropriate curriculum to be offered.

The existing transport arrangements for pupils continuing to attend Culvers House SEN Base will continue and therefore there will be no disadvantage to these children. For those children who, in future, will attend their local primary school, transport will be provided as necessary, but shorter journeys are likely to be required.

There are currently six children attending the Culvers House Base. Those children would be able to continue their attendance at the school and funding for their additional support would transfer to the SEN Integration Fund (ie individual funding) rather than coming from the overall funding to support the Base. Future referrals for children who have Statements for SEN arising from physical disabilities would lead to placement at schools near to their home if that is in accordance with parental preference. Otherwise, there are suitable alternatives in schools within Sutton which should be well placed to meet the needs of children with physical disabilities.

Accordingly, as far as the funding and provision available to support its current children, the transition should have no impact whatsoever but rather reflect the current practice and organisation of the School and its approach to supporting pupils with SEN.

In this context, maintaining this unnecessary provision is an unreasonable use of public expenditure which does not represent value for money.

### **Possible effects on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area**

The whole of Sutton has experienced a considerable increase in demand in recent years which has led to the significant expansion of primary capacity. This overall demand has been mirrored in the demand for places to cater for children with SEN, however, in the case of physical disabilities, viable alternatives to offering provision through specialist bases are now available. Therefore it is not expected that the closure of the SEN Base at Culvers House Primary will have any adverse impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area.

### **Consultation**

Consultation on possible changes to SEN provision at three schools – Culvers House Primary, Avenue Primary and Sherwood Park Special – took place over a six week period between 6 January and 14 February 2014. Consultation documents were distributed widely and were available for downloading from the Sutton website. Three public meetings were held at the schools involved and the matter was reported to the relevant local area committee.

### **Specific Consultees**

The following persons/bodies were consulted:  
Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors of primary schools proposed for expansion.

Extended Services, Community and other of the primary schools proposed for expansion.  
Parents/Carers, Staff, Chairs of Governors of all other nursery and primary schools in Sutton  
Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all secondary schools in Sutton  
Headteachers of all special schools in Sutton  
Headteachers/Teachers in Charge of Pupil Referral Units in Sutton  
Children's Centres  
Principal of SCOLA  
Principal of Orchard Hill College  
Principal of Carshalton College of Further Education  
All elected members (councillors) of the London Borough of Sutton  
Chairs of all Sutton Local Committees  
Directors of Children's Services of neighbouring Local Authorities (Merton, Croydon, Richmond, Kingston and Surrey)  
MPs and MEPs  
Local Dioceses – Church of England and Roman Catholic  
Chair of the Sutton Schools Forum  
Chair of the Sutton Admissions Forum  
Chair of the Sutton Primary Headteachers Group  
Chair of the Sutton Secondary Headteachers Group  
All Strategic Directors (London Borough of Sutton)  
All Executive Heads of Service (London Borough of Sutton)  
Secretaries of relevant Trades Unions and Teachers Professional Associations  
Sutton Racial Equality Council  
Chair of Early Outcomes and Extended Services Partnership  
Chair of Sutton Voluntary Sector Forum (Children and Families)  
Chief Executive, Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust  
Metropolitan Police – Area Commander, Sutton  
Early Years and PVI settings  
GPs  
Young Advisers Faith and Belief Forum

### **Summary of the views of persons consulted**

For the closure of the SEN Base at Culvers House Primary, there were 4 responses in the form of response forms, e-mails and other communications. 1 (25%) expressed support; 2 (50) expressed opposition, and; 1 (25%) was not sure.

The proposed closure of the SEN Base was also reported to the appropriate Local Area Committee. The Governing Body of the School are supportive of the proposal.

Meetings have been held with the parents of the children currently attending the SEN Base who will be directly affected by the proposal to close the Base. Parents understand the rationale behind the closure of the Base and appear to be satisfied with the future provision and support for their children that can be offered at the School. The future funding and resourcing available for these children has also been explained and appears to be acceptable to parents.

### **Details of how to view consultation documents and minutes of meetings**

Consultation documents and the minutes of meetings can be obtained from:

Pupil Based Commissioning Team

Stonecourt Annexe

North Street

Carshalton

SM5 2HU

Email: [Primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:Primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk)

**Project costs and an indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved**

There are no capital funding implications arising from this proposal.

**Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

The proposals for the closure of the SEN Opportunity Base at the school are published by the Local Authority with the full support of the School's Governing Body. The Local Authority will continue to provide appropriate levels of resources to support the SENs of the pupils who will remain on the roll of the School and will support appropriately children who in future are placed at their local primary schools.

**Additional Site**

N/A

**Explanation of the procedures for responses: support, objections and comments**

Within four weeks from the date of the publication of these proposals (Tuesday 22 April 2014), any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the London Borough of Sutton.

The Statutory Proposal/Notice was published on the London Borough of Sutton's Website ([www.sutton.gov.uk](http://www.sutton.gov.uk)) on 22 April 2014 and valid representations must be received at the relevant offices of the Local Authority by the close of business on Monday 19 May 2014.

Any representations should be sent to:  
The Pupil Based Commissioning Team  
Stonecourt Annex,  
North Street,  
Carshalton SM5 2HU.  
Email: [primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk)