

London Borough of Sutton

**The possible establishment of a
SEN Opportunity Base at Avenue Primary School from
September 2014**



CONSULTATION PAPER

The Council wants to hear your views on these important proposals. If you would like to receive this document in a different format or different language, please contact 020 8770 5000.

January 2014

CONSULTATION ON OPTIONS FOR THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEN OPPORTUNITY BASE AT AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM SEPTEMBER 2014

We wish to consult with a wide range of interested parties including parents, carers and professionals working in education and related sectors to find out their views on the proposals for the establishment of a SEN Opportunity Base at Avenue Primary School which are set out in this document. I am therefore pleased to let you have a copy of our consultation document. A response form for you to use is attached as an Appendix.

Should you require any further copies of this document, they can be downloaded from the Council's website: www.sutton.gov.uk. The consultation page has a direct link from the home page. Alternatively, please e-mail to senproposal@sutton.gov.uk with your request.

This consultation starts on Monday 6 January 2014 with the last date for responding to the consultation being Friday 14 February 2014.

There will be an open public meeting held at the school. Details are set out on page 3.

Your views are important to us and the Council wishes to hear from as many people as possible during this consultation. I look forward to receiving your response.

Tolis Vouyioukas
Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Learning Directorate

1. INTRODUCTION

This consultation document explains the Local Authority's proposals to establish a SEN Opportunity Base for children aged 4-7 with learning difficulties at Avenue Primary School from September 2014. Your views are important to us, so please take the opportunity to express your opinion on the proposals in this document.

2. TIMETABLE FOR CONSULTATION

| DAY/DATE | EVENT/KEY POINT |
|---|--|
| Monday 6 January 2014 | Start of public consultation on possible establishment of SEN opportunity base. |
| Friday 14 February 2014 | End of 1 st stage consultation on possible establishment of SEN Opportunity Base. |
| Thursday 13 March 2014 | Children, Family and Education Committee – To consider consultation responses and authorise the publication of Statutory Proposals proposing to establish an SEN Opportunity Base. |
| Thursday 24 April to Thursday 5 June 2014 | Publication of Statutory Proposals with a Representation Period of 6 weeks during which comments or objections can be made. |
| Thursday xx July 2014 (TBC) | Children, Family and Education Committee – Final decision (determination) of Statutory Proposals.... |
| September 2014 | Formal establishment of the SEN Opportunity Base. |

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Publication of this document marks the beginning of the consultation process to establish a SEN Opportunity Base at Avenue Primary School. This document will be made widely available and circulated to all schools and to other statutory consultees. It will also be available via the Council's website www.sutton.gov.uk

The public consultation period will end at 5pm on Friday 14 February 2014. If you wish to express any views or comments on the proposals, please let us have your response by no later than the above time and date. All views and responses will be carefully considered before any further decisions on the proposals are made.

There will be a public consultation meeting arranged to look at the possible closure of the SEN Opportunity Base. The meeting will be open to all parents, along with members of the public who are interested in finding out more about the proposals.

At the School

3 February 2014 - Avenue Primary School 7.00pm pm at the School

At the Local Area Committee

9 January 2014 - Sutton, South Cheam and Belmont Local Committee 7.30pm at Overton Grange School

Following the end of this period of public consultation, a report will be submitted to the Council's Children, Family and Education Committee (CFEC) at its meeting on 13 March 2014 which will detail responses received and any issues raised during the consultation period. The CFEC will consider these responses before deciding whether to take the proposals forward through the publication of Statutory Proposals which are formal, legal documents which set out the exact details of the change that is being proposed. Following the publication of the Statutory Proposals, there will be a six week Representation Period during which comments and objections can be made on the proposals

Views expressed in the Representation Period will be considered before a final decision is made. This final decision is likely to be taken during the summer 2014 term.

If a final decision cannot be made at that time, then the proposals will be referred to a third party, the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, which will decide them. There is also some scope for certain interested parties, for example, the governing body of the school to which the proposal relates, to appeal to the Schools Adjudicator following the determination of the Statutory Notice if they disagree with the decision.

4. EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS

You can respond to this consultation in the following ways:

- Complete the attached response form and return it via post to Pupil Based Commissioning (Stonecourt), London Borough of Sutton, FREEPOST CN2117, Stonecourt, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton SM1 1BR.
- Email Sutton Council at: senproposal@sutton.gov.uk
- Complete the response form on Sutton's website www.sutton.gov.uk. Search on Consultation – SEN Proposals Avenue Primary.
- Fax your response to Sutton Council on 020 8770 6564.

5. BACKGROUND

There is a pressing need for additional provision for children with learning difficulties in the Borough. The Base at Amy Johnson Primary School is usually full and in the past year, the Authority has had to search for alternative provision for children due to there being no vacancies.

Projecting forward the demographic increase for children with SEN indicates an immediate need for further places for children with learning difficulties at Key Stage 1. Providing a learning base at Avenue Primary School, located to the west of the Borough, would meet this need and improve the balance of provision within the Borough, i.e. the need for places in Central Sutton and to the west of the Borough. Having bases in both Wallington and Belmont would also result in more efficient use of home to school transport where that is required.

The Authority has already invested substantially in new provision for pupils with special educational needs, opening new facilities at Thomas Wall Nursery, Green Wrythe Primary School, Bandon Hill

Primary School, and, in the secondary phase at Glenthorne High School, Stanley Park High School and Carew Manor School, now Carew Academy.

Avenue Primary School has been rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and is a 'teaching school' demonstrating best practice. The School has been identified as a suitable location to provide for children whose prime need is moderate learning difficulties.

The capital cost of changes to accommodate the new opportunity base at the Avenue Primary School site will be around £200k. An application was made to the DfE for grant funding to complete this work and the bid has been successful. The opportunity base can be integrated into the larger project to enlarge the school from 3FE to 4FE and there is every reason to believe that accommodation for the new opportunity base will be available for September 2014.

Emerging from discussions to date, the Governors of Avenue Primary School have indicated their full support for the establishment of a SEN Opportunity Base at the School with effect from September 2014.

6. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is to open an SEN Opportunity Base for up to 12 children at Key Stage 1 with learning difficulties with effect from September 2014.

Analysis of local data indicates the need for additional provision for children with learning difficulties at Key Stage 1. There is already a local special academy, Carew Academy (previously Carew Manor School), which provides for children and young people with moderate learning difficulties from Year 3, but which does not have classes for Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 pupils. This school will provide the transition route for the majority of pupils when they leave the proposed Opportunity Base at Avenue Primary School, although it is hoped and expected that, with the benefit of specialist early intervention, some pupils will be able to move on to mainstream classes at Key Stage 2 provision near to their homes.

The Base at Avenue School will have a high staffing ratio with a specialist teacher. The pupils will be taught in their own class, following a modified curriculum, and will benefit from opportunities for social inclusion with other pupils of their age at the school. There will also be support from a visiting speech and language therapist. The Opportunity Base will have the benefit of new, purpose built accommodation. The capital grant for this accommodation has already been confirmed. Revenue costs will be met through the School's delegated budget.

Taking the opportunity to develop this new provision is a positive response to requests from parents for more specialist provision to be made in the west of the Borough and will reduce the travel time for children living in Belmont, Sutton, Cheam and Worcester Park, who may otherwise have needed to attend school in specialist provision in Wallington or out of Borough.

The Local Authority has a duty under the Education Act 1996 to secure special educational provision for pupils with special educational needs and to keep that provision under review. When proposing any reorganization of SEN provision, Local Authorities are required to apply the 'SEN Improvement Test', i.e. to demonstrate that the proposed alternative arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special educational needs.

Specific Consultees

Copies of this consultation document and the summary have been made available to the following:

Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors of Avenue Primary School.
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 Advisors Faith and Belief Forum.

Response Form: Avenue Primary – Establishment of a SEN Opportunity Base

| | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Do you support the proposal to establish a SEN Opportunity Base? | | | |
| | YES | NO | NOT SURE |
| | | | |

Please use the space provided below to add any comments or views on the proposal.

For monitoring purposes, please could you provide the following details:-

Capacity in which responding:

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Parent/Carer | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Pupil | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Headteacher | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Member of School Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

School or organisation you represent, if any:

I am: Male Female

My ethnic origin is:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| White (British or Irish) | <input type="checkbox"/> | White British | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black (Caribbean) | <input type="checkbox"/> | White (other) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black (Other) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Black (African) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> | Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pakastani | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mixed (White & Black Caribbean) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian (Other) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mixed (White & Asian) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mixed (White & Black African) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please state) | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

My post code is:

Please complete the attached response form and return it:

- By post to Primary Consultation, Pupil Based Commissioning CYPLD, London Borough of Sutton, FREEPOST CN2117, Stonecourt, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, SM1 1BR
- By e-mail to Sutton Council at: senproposal@sutton.gov.uk
- By completing the response form on-line on Sutton's website www.sutton.gov.uk. Search on Consultation – SEN Proposals Avenue Primary.
- By fax to Sutton Council on 020 8770 6564

The last date for responding to the consultation is Friday 14 February 2014

Thank you for taking the time to complete the response

If you, or someone you know, need a translation of any part of this document please tick the box for the language required and complete the form below. Telephone 020 8770 5000 for more information.

Nëse ju ose dikush që njihni ka nevojë për një përkthim të ndonjë pjese të këtij dokumenti, ju lutemi shënoni me v kutinë për gjuhën e kërkuar dhe plotësoni formularin e mëposhtëm. Për më tepër informacion telefononi numrin 020 8770 5000.

Albanian

إذا كنت أنت، أو شخص آخر تعرفه، بحاجة إلى ترجمة لأي جزء من هذه الوثيقة، فيرجى وضع إشارة في الخانة الخاصة باللغة المطلوبة وإكمال الاستمارة أدناه. ومن أجل الحصول على المزيد من المعلومات يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف رقم 020 8770 5000.

Arabic

যদি আপনার, অথবা আপনার পরিচিত কোন লোকের, এই দলিলটির কোন অংশের অনুবাদের দরকার হয়, তাহলে যে ভাষায় অনুবাদের দরকার সেই ভাষার পাশের খালি ঘরে টিক চিহ্ন দিন এবং নিচের ফর্মটি পূরণ করুন। এই ব্যাপারে আরো তথ্য বা খবরাখবরের জন্য 020 8770 5000 নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

Bengali

જો તમને, અથવા તમે જાણતા હોય તેવી કોઈ વ્યક્તિને આ દસ્તાવેજના કોઈ પણ ભાગના તરજુમાની જરૂર હોય તો, કૃપા કરી જોઈતી ભાષાના ઓકસમાં નિશાની કરી અને નીચેનું ફોર્મ પૂરું કરો. વધારે માહિતી માટે 020 8770 5000 ઉપર ફોન કરો.

Gujarati

यदि आपको, या किसी और को जिसे आप जानते हैं, इस दस्तावेज के किसी भाग का अनुवाद चाहिए तो कृपया वांछित भाषा के बक्स में सही का निशान लगाकर नीचे दिए हुए फार्म को भर दें। अधिक जानकारी के लिए 020 8770 5000 पर टैलीफोन करें।

Hindi

如果你或你認識的人需要將此文件之任何部份翻譯，請在所需的語言上打✓，並填妥下列表格。要索取更多資料請致電020 8770 5000。

Chinese

اگر آپ کو، یا آپ کے کسی جاننے والے کو اس دستاویز کے کسی حصہ کے ترجمے کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ مہربانی مطلوبہ زبان کے خانے میں ٹک کا نشان لگائیں اور نیچے دیا گیا فارم مکمل کریں۔ مزید معلومات کے لئے فون نمبر 020 8770 5000 پر رابطہ کریں۔

Urdu

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Name

Address

Telephone no.....

Please return this form to:
SEN Proposal Consultation CYPLS
London Borough of Sutton
FREEPOST CN2117
Civic Offices St Nicholas Way
Sutton SM1 1BR