



**London Borough of Sutton**

**The possible closure of the  
SEN Opportunity Base at Culvers House 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 CLOSURE OF THE SEN OPPORTUNITY BASE AT CULVERS HOUSE 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 closure of the Opportunity Base at Culvers House 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](http://www.sutton.gov.uk). The consultation page has a direct link from the home page. Alternatively, please e-mail to [senproposal@sutton.gov.uk](mailto: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 close the SEN Opportunity Base at Culvers House 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 closure of the SEN Opportunity Base.
Friday 14 February 2014	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> stage consultation on possible closure of the 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 close the SEN 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 closure of the SEN Opportunity Base.

## 3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Publication of this document marks the beginning of the consultation process to close the SEN Opportunity Base at Culvers House 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](http://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

6 February 2014. Culvers House Primary School

7.00pm at the School

### At the Local Area Committee

16 January 2014. St Helier, The Wrythe and Wandle Valley Local Committee  
Riverside Community Centre

7.30pm at

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](mailto:senproposal@sutton.gov.uk)
- Complete the response form on Sutton's website [www.sutton.gov.uk](http://www.sutton.gov.uk). Search on Consultation – SEN Proposals Culvers House Primary
- Fax your response to Sutton Council on 020 8770 6564.

#### **5. BACKGROUND**

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

Discussions have taken place with the School to consider changing the designation of the Base and a visit was made to the Amy Johnson Primary School Base with a view to replicating that model of provision for pupils with learning difficulties. However, it was concluded that the accommodation at Culvers House does not suit that model and the capital cost of adding to the accommodation is prohibitive.

From initial discussions, whilst indicating their support for the recommendation to close the Base, the Governors of Culvers House Primary School have requested that the school's accessibility for children with physical disabilities and its facilities for supporting children with medical needs should be borne in mind when considering mainstream placements for such children.

## **6. THE PROPOSAL**

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

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.

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). 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.

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

## **Specific Consultees**

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

Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors of Culvers House 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 Advisers Faith and Belief Forum.

**Response Form: Culvers House Primary – Closure of SEN Opportunity Base**

<b>Do you support the proposal to close the SEN Opportunity Base?</b>			
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NOT SURE</b>

**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](mailto:senproposal@sutton.gov.uk)
- By completing the response form on-line on Sutton's website [www.sutton.gov.uk](http://www.sutton.gov.uk). Search on Consultation – SEN Proposals Culvers House 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 দলিলাটির 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 તરજૂમાની જરૂર હોય તો, કૃપા કરી જોઈતી ભાષાના બોક્ષમાં 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 दस्तावेज़ 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 ٹیک 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 .....

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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**