

Consultation on the proposed establishment of a Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Unit at Suttons Primary School

Parents Consultation meeting held via zoom on 29 March 2022 at 4pm

1. Attendance

2 Parents from Suttons Primary School attended the meeting
4 Local Authority Officers and 3 School staff members were also in attendance

2. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the chair for the meeting, Mr David Unwin-Bailey (Head teacher of Suttons Primary School) who welcomed all and introduced Local Authority officers and school staff members.

The chair handed the meeting over to Local Authority officers for a presentation on the proposal.

3. Local Authority Presentation

The presentation consisted of details of the proposal, drawings of the build proposal and the next steps in the statutory process.

4. Questions, responses and comments

The following represents the questions and comments received from parents and responses given by the Local Authority/School during the meeting.

Questions	Local Authority's / Schools response
<i>A little concerned there are not more specialist provisions for SEMH in the Local Authority and this is not the bridge between specialist and mainstream, this will become the specialist provision for children with those needs.</i>	If this was a special provision and not the bridge between mainstream and special schools then it would not be a successful ARP. There are some children that are able to be supported in mainstream, some that need a more supportive environment which would be an ARP and then there will still be children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) whose needs can only be met in a special school setting. This ARP will not become a mini special school, it will be for children that fall between those two levels of provision. In Havering we do not have a special provision for children with SEMH as yet. Our new special free school is in the process of being developed and has

	<p>now got to the stage where it has planning permission. It is a special free school for children with more complex needs associated with SEMH and ASD. At the moment children with SEMH needs are either in mainstream schools having a degree of difficulty or are needing to go to an out of borough specialist provision. The increase in numbers that we are forecasting means that is not sustainable to keep that offer static which is why we need to increase the offer in Havering with special school provision and ARP provisions for children with SEMH. We will continue to look at other ARP provisions at other schools that would like to develop provision for SEMH.</p>
<p><i>Is the new special free school going to open at the same time?</i></p>	<p>Expecting the new special free school to open in September 2023, the same time as the proposed ARP at Suttons.</p>
<p><i>Will the special free school include Primary and Secondary?</i></p>	<p>Yes, it is an all through school.</p>
<p><i>Concerned the children will be the top tier children with those needs and that the funding suggested will not be enough.</i></p> <p><i>Children in the ARP will need £72,000 from the notional budget. Is the funding going to be given to the school additionally, if it is not and it is worked into the schools block calculator then that will take away from the existing pupils already?</i></p> <p><i>Is it the same percentages to work this out as the 12 children will need the extra money? It is not adding in 12 typically admitted children, they are 12 children that you know will require additional funding.</i></p>	<p>The funding that is currently given to our ARP provisions have recently been reviewed and uplifted. From April the 1st of this year there has been an increase, it has gone up by just over £4,000 per place for an ARP. Our primary level ARP funding is £20,726, which is more than previously. £10,726 is the additional top up.</p> <p>That is not the case. The way the funding works, the number of children in the school will increase by 12 so the funding formula gives the funding for the increase number including the 12 as part of the notional funding. You do not get 12 additional children and use the same element.</p> <p>The LA will follow up on this.</p>

How separate is it? Is it far from the main building? If the funding is not guaranteed, how many adults will it take to get the children from the ARP into the mainstream? If it is a distance then it will need a high level of adult support. Concerned it will become a separate school and therefore why would the children then be in an ARP and not in a specialist provision, if it is that separate?

Surely you will have to take them all over for lunch?

When first going to the site to see how far the ARP will be, had a look and thought it was not that far. As long as we can work a way to make sure that the cross over will be at times when it is quiet. We are not talking about all 12 children going over at once regularly, it is about how the groups in the ARP will work.

The children will not necessarily go over for lunch. If they are able to go over to the mainstream for lunch, they are in the right mind set and it is what right for them, then that will be managed. It is about how the staff will work with and manage those 12 children. The age range will be broad so it may be the group is broken into smaller compatible groups working within the ARP, a smaller group go over for lunch whilst the others remain in the ARP and have their lunch delivered to them. It is very important that this is trial led as these can be children with potentially complex needs and need to be supported in a way that keeps them safe but are able to progress. It will be down to the school to manage the unit in that environment.

It does depend on the children and what is right for them. There is provision in the plans to have lunch in the heart space in the ARP, equally could bring the children over for lunch. The school is going to continue with the split lunches which reduces the number of pupils in the hall at one time. That will give more opportunities for the children to come over for lunch. There are other facilities in the school that can be used and planned into the children's schedules based on their needs.

The ARP will not need to look like a traditional school building as this can be a trigger for some of the children and the design of the outdoor space is important. Looking at SEMH ARPs to visit to get the design right, particularly in terms of furnishing it. It is important to get this right for the children. There are concerns about the drive and gate and this has been voiced to the DfE and Local Authority.

<i>Are Sanders being consulted? It impacts their driveway.</i>	Technically Suttons Primary School own the driveway. Sanders have shared access to use it. All the schools in the borough are being consulted.
<i>Does it have an impact on staff parking?</i>	Yes it does. Need to look at transport. Currently using the space as an over flow car park that gets around an extra 10 cars a day. When the DfE designed the building it was only designed for one space per teacher. A lot of staff live locally and walk in when they can. Parking is an issue not just for parents but for staff too, it is something we need to factor in.
Comments received from parents in the meeting	
<i>It is a needed provision and reassuring that there is a more specialist provision coming into the LA, it could be a nice and supportive for a small number of children that need it.</i>	

5. **Closure of the meeting**

The chair thanked everyone for their feedback and comments.

The meeting was closed at 16:57 pm