



THE
BRITTONS
ACADEMY

Consultation on the proposed establishment
of a Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
Unit for young people with Communication &
Interaction needs

Consultation on the proposed establishment of a Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Unit at The Brittons Academy for young people with Communication and Interaction (C&I) needs.

Introduction

The corporate plan for Havering 'The Havering you want to be part of', includes the priority to offer inclusive services that raise aspiration and meet the needs of our growing population of children, families, and young adults, including those in our care.

The Havering Strategic Education Vision 2021 – 2025 emphasises all children and young people thrive and achieve through accessing high-quality education provision and are supported to live safe and healthy lives.

Havering's SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2024 – 2028 highlights Havering is committed to its partnership with families to improve outcomes for all children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). Havering will maintain strong outcomes for Havering children and young people with SEND and will continue to grow the number of specialist units attached to mainstream schools in line with the growing demand for SEND places.

While there are a number of schools operating a Communication & Interaction SEND Unit, additional secondary Communication & Interaction SEND Units are required to meet the growing number of secondary school aged pupils with these needs.

A new Communication & Interaction SEND Unit at The Brittons Academy will help meet key objectives from both the corporate and education visions for Havering.

Background

Havering's Children and Young People Education Place Planning Plan states that a key planning guideline for SEND and Alternative Provision is for Havering to deliver additional SEND places by implementing new schools and new SEND Units.

Havering's SEND projections show that the number of pupils with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is projected to increase.

The number of pupils with Communication and Interaction is projected to increase from 1872 in 2024/25 to 3305 in 2028/29.

Rationale for The Brittons Academy SEND Unit

The Council's SEND projections show that they expect the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in the borough to increase over the next five years as shown in the table below:

Academic year	Cognition and Learning	Communication and Interaction	SEMH	Sensory and/or Physical	Total
2024/25	615	1872	605	261	3353
2025/26	646	2165	718	295	3823
2026/27	692	2534	864	342	4432
2027/28	735	2914	1009	392	5050
2028/29	783	3305	1199	443	5730

There are currently four secondary schools with SEND units and 1 secondary school with a Specially Resourced Provision totalling 82 places, of which 70 places cater for pupils with Communication and Interaction needs.

Given the increasing numbers of Communication & Interaction pupils, there is a need for additional secondary SEND Units to support these children within a mainstream school setting.

The creation of this local specialist provision should reduce the need to place secondary pupils outside of Havering, therefore reducing the cost of out borough placements.

The Proposal

The Brittons Academy is proposing to establish a SEND Unit for 24 pupils with Communication and Interaction needs to be implemented in September 2026, if approved.

The Brittons Academy is a Good secondary school with a capacity of 1150 Year 7 to Year 11. The school caters for children with an age range of 11-16 and is considered by the Local Authority as the most appropriate location for a SEND Unit to be sited.

At Brittons, our core moral purpose is to transform the life chances of each and every learner. We believe in every child's ability to excel and we will support, challenge and motivate each and every one of our students to become 'Brittons' Best'.

The care and provision we offer our learners is underpinned by a fundamental belief in offering 'excellence in all that we do'. We are committed to securing excellent outcomes for every learner, every day. We consistently expect the very best from our students enabling them to grow, over time, into the best possible version of themselves, achieving great success from the widest range of starting points.

From the first day of Year 7, through to the last day of Year 11, we pledge to engage students in a curriculum which will equip them with:

- The academic knowledge they need to make progress in every subject, every lesson, every day;
- The social and cultural knowledge, understanding and appreciation to empower them as active participants in life; as opposed to bystanders;
- The personal employability skills needed to gain meaningful, enjoyable and satisfying employment, therefore sustaining the quality of life they desire;
- The academic qualifications they need to ensure the widest range of post-16 choices and opportunities remain open at the end of Year 11.

The SEND Unit at The Brittons Academy will meet the needs of pupils with an EHC Plan with Communication and Interaction needs. These pupils will benefit from the additional support and alternative learning opportunities made available to them while spending the majority of their time in school within the SEND Unit, benefitting from the opportunities that being part of a mainstream school within the pupils' local community offers.

The establishment of a SEND Unit at The Brittons Academy will build on the good education already being delivered at this school and will further enhance the education offer the school provides to the community.

What will be the impact of the new facility on other pupils in the school?

It is not envisaged that the new unit will impact negatively on other pupils in the school. The additional specialist places if established, would further enhance the educational offer the academy is able to provide in the most inclusive environment possible, while meeting needs of its community. It will create a further opportunity to continue with the progress the school is making with SEND pupils, strengthen the existing approach used in identifying pupils' needs and more training for staff working with pupils with learning needs.

Admission and Pupil Numbers

Admissions to the SEND Unit will follow a different procedure from that operating for the rest of the school. Admissions into the SEND Unit will be through the Havering SEND EHC panel process. This will not impact pupils who are in the mainstream setting at the school.

Pupils attending the SEND Unit would be in addition to the mainstream Planned Admission Number. There would be 24 planned places in the SEND Unit.

Funding

SEND Units in Havering will be normally funded in accordance with a Place Led Funding approach that complies with the Government's SEND Funding Reforms which came into effect in April 2018.

For each place in the SEND Unit at The Brittons Academy will receive £30,000 (funding rate for financial year 2025/26). This is made up of basic entitlement funding from the main formula and top up from the LA's DfE high needs block.

Building works

The SEND Unit will be located within the existing buildings, using spare capacity to rationalise existing facilities and create an inspiring unit within the heart of the school. It will be formed of a variety of sized teaching spaces, its own dedicated entrance and its ground floor position will enable access for all.

What happens next?

The consultation is an opportunity for interested parties and stakeholders to express views and ask questions on the principle of establishing the SEND Unit for children with Communication and Interaction needs at The Brittons Academy during the consultation period.

The consultation period starts on **Monday 23 February 2026** and will close on **Monday 23 March 2026**.

The Brittons Academy is part of Empower Learning Academy Trust, so will have to follow the process for making significant changes to an academy; as the Local Authority is not the decision maker for academy organisational changes. The final decision as to whether this proposal is approved for implementation will be made by the Department for Education.

The process for making significant changes to academies can be viewed in detail here:

[Making significant changes to an academy: February 2026 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/consultations/significant-changes-to-academies)

Key Milestones	Date
Consultation Period	23/02/2026 – 23/03/2026
Submission of significant changes to an academy: Tier 1 application form to the DfE	April 2026
Decision	June 2026
Implementation	September 2026

Have your say...

You can state whether you support this proposal or not by completing the consultation questionnaire via the following link:

<https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/education/the-brittons-academy>

If you have any other questions regarding this proposal, please email:
tba-consultation@elatschools.co.uk

This consultation document is being sent electronically to all parents/carers, governors, school teachers and support staff who work at The Brittons Academy and the governing body & trustees of Empower Learning Academy Trust

Electronic copies are also being sent to all Havering primary, secondary and special schools, Havering Council, ward members, MPs, Church Dioceses, all Early Years and Childcare providers, community groups, unions and other stakeholders.

The document will also be available on Havering and The Brittons Academy websites throughout the consultation period.