



The Royal Liberty School

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



SUCCESS FOR ALL
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Consultation on the proposed establishment of a Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Unit at The Royal Liberty School for young people with Communication & 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.

Havering’s SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2024 – 2028 emphasises the local authority’s vision to ensure children, young people, and families have access to the same level of high-quality support and education, wherever they live in Havering. That children and young people with SEND can access the help and support they need to thrive and achieve within their local communities, that they can go to local education provision that meets their needs, access services and play an active role in the community close to where they live.

While there are a number of schools operating a C&I SEND Unit, additional secondary C&I SEND Units are required in order to meet the growing number of secondary school aged pupils with C&I needs.

A new C&I SEND Unit at The Royal Liberty School 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 secondary school pupils with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is projected to increase.

The number of children and young people with C&I is projected to increase from 1438 in 2023/24 to 2073 in 2027/28.

Rationale for The Royal Liberty School 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 to increase over the next five years as shown in the table below:

Academic year	Cognition and Learning	Communication and Interaction	SEMH	Physical and/or Sensory	Totals
2023/2024	603	1438	464	246	2751
2024/2025	668	1611	517	274	3070
2025/2026	722	1770	561	298	3351
2026/2027	781	1938	610	323	3652
2027/2028	842	2073	662	344	3921

There are currently four secondary schools with SEND Units totalling 64 places, of which 52 places cater for pupils with C&I needs.

Given the increasing numbers of C&I pupils there is a need for additional primary and 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 Royal Liberty School is proposing to establish a SEND Unit for 18 pupils with C&I needs to be implemented in September 2025, if approved.

The Royal Liberty School is a Good secondary school with 750 places across Year 7 to Year 11. The school caters for children with an age range of 11-16 years and is considered by the Local Authority as the most appropriate location for a SEND Unit to be sited.

The SEND Unit at The Royal Liberty School will meet the needs of pupils with an EHC plan with C&I needs which are not severe enough to require a place at a special school but who will require spending significant proportions of their time in the SEND Unit. The proposed SEND Unit will enable these pupils to have their additional needs met while accessing education at a secondary school through a flexible approach tailored and adapted to their needs.

The establishment of a SEND Unit at The Royal Liberty School 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. Success For All Educational Trust already operates another secondary school with a SEND Unit catering for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. We are confident that this expertise will

enhance support to a wider range of young people with C&I needs at The Royal Liberty School.

The new facility will enable young people with C&I needs to have their needs met through a flexible approach, tailored and adapted to the needs of each individual pupil. It will be for pupils who will require specialist support to enable them to access a mainstream secondary curriculum. It is proposed that the children will split their time between the mainstream school and having bespoke support within the Unit.

The SEND Unit will be staffed by a team of support staff with knowledge and experience of working with young people with C&I, led by qualified teaching staff with recognised additional qualifications. The purpose of the unit will be to support these children to achieve their academic potential, attending a mainstream secondary school whilst receiving specialist support from the SEND Unit.

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 on 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 (PAN) of 150. There would be 18 planned places in the SEND Unit increasing the total number of places from 750 pupils to 768.

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, The Royal Liberty School will receive £22,194. This is made up of £10,000 'place funding' and £12,194 (2024/25 rate) 'top-up funding'.

Building works

The proposal is to build a standalone modular unit for up to 18 pupils with Communication & Interaction needs. The facility is expected to provide four or five small rooms, each around 20m². This allows for main teaching rooms, a breakout therapy room or a sensory style room.

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 C&I needs at The Royal Liberty School during the consultation period.

The consultation period starts on **Monday 10 February 2025** and will close on **Monday 03 March 2025**.

The Royal Liberty School is part of Success For All Educational 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 more detail here:

[Making significant changes to an academy: October 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/123456/making-significant-changes-to-an-academy-october-2024.pdf)

Key Milestones	Date
Consultation Period	10/02/2025 – 03/03/2025
Submission of application form to the DfE	March 2025
Decision	April 2025
Implementation	September 2025

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-royal-liberty-school>

If you have any other questions regarding this proposal, please email:
cjones@royalliberty.co.uk

This consultation document is being sent electronically to all parents/carers, governors, school teachers and support staff who work at The Royal Liberty School and the governing board & trustees of Success For All Educational 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 Royal Liberty School's websites throughout the consultation period.