

HARROW COUNCIL

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS FOR A SCHOOL

School and Local Authority details

Community School:

Kingsley High School
Whittlesea Road
Harrow Weald
Harrow
HA3 6ND

Weald Rise Primary School
Robin Hood Drive
Harrow Weald
HA3 7DH

Local Authority:

Harrow Council
Civic Centre
PO Box 22
Station Road
Harrow
HA1 2XY

Proposal

Kingsley High School is an Outstanding Special School and popular with families. It provides 102 places for pupils aged 11 to 19 years of age, Year 7 to Year 13. Harrow Council proposes to open a temporary satellite provision at Weald Rise Primary School using the vacant capacity at the school. Four classes at Weald Rise Primary will be remodelled to create a self-contained provision increasing the capacity of Kingsley High School to cater for an additional 24 students. This additional capacity will increase the number of places at Kingsley High School to 126.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

Like many London boroughs, Harrow is experiencing an increase in demand for special school places. In Harrow there is provision for pupils with special educational needs in a range of settings including mainstream schools, additionally resourced mainstream school settings, and special schools. Some pupils attend schools outside of Harrow. Harrow is experiencing a growing and changing population and there is increasing pressure on the current provision for pupils with severe and complex special educational needs. A shortfall of local provision increases the costs of placements at provisions outside the borough.

The total number of children and young people with a special educational need Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Harrow has increased by 638 or 48% between January 2016 (1,336) and January 2022 (1,974). In addition, the number of children with a statement or EHC Plan placed in a special school (Harrow maintained, academy/free school, non-maintained, or independent special schools) has increased from 562 to 670, representing a 19% increase over

the same period. This represents continued pressure and demand for more special school places.

To meet the increase in demand for provision for pupils with severe and complex needs, Harrow Council is proposing to temporarily increase the number of pupils at Kingsley High School for pupils who have severe and complex learning difficulties and/or autism by opening a satellite provision at Weald Rise Primary School. The plan is that this provision will be required for no more than three years while other projects are implemented to increase the overall capacity of specialist provision in Harrow.

The provision will offer inclusive education and social opportunities, alongside access to specialist intervention from teaching staff and in class support. There will be 24 places at the provision and Kingsley High School will be funded to staff the additional provision.

Pupils attending the Kingsley satellite provision at Weald Rise Primary School will have an EHCP and receive the special educational support they require from appropriately qualified staff. Any additional services from partner agencies, where required, as specified on their EHC plan will also be provided.

In order to increase the capacity for Kingsley High School, the Council is proposing to create additional provision by making use of vacant classrooms at Weald Rise Primary School. Weald Rise Primary School has the capacity to cater for 840 pupils. The school is currently operating at a lower capacity (420 places) due to the overall demand for primary school places falling across London.

Consultation

Local Authority officers have been working with the governing bodies of both schools on this proposal. During this notice period meetings have been planned to take place at both schools with officers to explain the proposal and answer any questions.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The objective of the proposals is to provide sufficient school places in Harrow pupils with severe learning difficulties and/or complex needs. This temporary satellite provision will meet demand for places for September 2022. It is Strategic Priority 1 in the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy to increase provision in Harrow to meet growing need and this contributes to this priority.

Kingsley High School is judged to be outstanding by Ofsted. By temporarily increasing the number places, it will increase the options available to parents who have children with SEN to send their child to a local provision within the community.

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

Weald Rise Primary School has the capacity to cater for 840 pupils. The school is currently operating at a lower capacity (420 places) due to the overall demand for primary school places falling across London. Weald Rise Primary School has experience operating with another school on its site as Hujjat Primary School occupied a small area of the school for a term in 2020. The satellite provision planned to open at Weald Rise Primary School will be self-contained. Staffing and resources will be supplied and managed by Kingsley High School.

Kingsley High School is the only secondary special school for pupils with severe learning difficulties (SLD) and/or complex needs in Harrow. There is a pressure on places and for pupils

in secondary school phase which is why we are proposing to open a temporary satellite provision at Weald Rise Primary School.

Woodlands School is a special school for pupils aged 4-11 with severe and complex needs some with autism and this is the only special school in Harrow that meets this need for primary pupils. Belmont Primary School has 12 places for pupils who have severe and complex learning difficulties and/or autism. Both of these provisions will be full in September 2022.

Places in schools in other local authorities are limited and difficult to secure, particularly in the climate of increased demand. There is a growing need for additional places. Therefore, the opening of this temporary satellite provision will help relieve pressure and help provide choice for school places for pupils with these needs in the area.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved

Plans required to accommodate the provision will be agreed with both schools. A feasibility study has been carried out at Weald Rise Primary School and 4 classes have been identified for the provision to provide three classes and office and staffroom space for the pupils and staff. Minor works will need to be carried out during the summer.

This will be funded from SEND DfE capital funding for provision for pupils with EHC Plans. The special provision fund allocations are to support local authorities to make capital investments in provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Local authorities can invest in new places and improvements to facilities for pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP) in mainstream and special schools, nurseries, colleges and other provision. The total funding available is £5.433m. The estimated cost of this provision is £389,000. These costings are prior to procurement of a contractor.

These additional places in Harrow will secure improved use of resources and avoid additional out borough transport costs and enable pupils to attend a school in Harrow.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The details for the opening and operation of the expansion are being finalised. In the event of delays to the delivery of the required capital programme, interim arrangements will be made to ensure that pupils have access to suitable education from the beginning of September. The aim is that satellite provision at Weald Rise for pupils who have severe learning difficulties and/or complex needs will open from 1 September 2022.

A statement explaining the procedure for responses: support; objections and comments.

Have your say, if you want to tell us about whether you support the proposal or have comments, or you may have reasons to object. Your representations can be made in writing to:

Patrick O'Dwyer, Director of Education, Harrow Council, Civic Centre, PO Box 22, Station Road, HA1 2XY

or by emailing: SchoolReorganisation@harrow.gov.uk

Responses need to be **submitted by noon on 4 July 2022.**