

Harrow Council

Proposals for prescribed alterations for a school

School and Local Authority details

Community School: Pinner Wood School,
Latimer Gardens,
Pinner,
HA5 3RA

Local Authority: Harrow Council
PO Box 1358
Harrow
HA3 3QN

Proposal

Harrow Council proposes to establish a new special educational need provision by creating an additional 12 places at the school. These places are in addition to the published admission number of 90 places per year group and 630 in total. Total pupil numbers at the school would increase from the current 630 pupil places to 642 pupil places. There would be a resource provided at the school to meet the special educational needs of the additional pupils.

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 (ARMS) settings, and special schools. Some pupils also attend schools outside of Harrow. Harrow is experiencing a growing and changing population and there is increasing pressure on the current provision for primary pupils with special educational needs. A shortfall of local provision increases the costs of placements at provision outside the borough.

The total number of children and young people with a special educational need statement or Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Harrow has increased by 837 or 74% between January 2012 (1,137) 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 484 to 669 (38% 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 moderate learning difficulties and/or autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), Harrow Council is proposing to establish specialist provision at Pinner Wood School for pupils who have moderate learning difficulties (MLD) and/or autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). The development of the provision is part of a long-term strategy to increase special school provision in Harrow. This is in accordance with the Strategic Priority 1 in the SEND Strategy to increase provision in Harrow to meet growing need.

The aim of the provision is to develop a clear ethos throughout the whole school that promotes inclusion, high expectations and a commitment to improve outcomes for pupils with moderate learning difficulties.

The provision will offer inclusive education and social opportunities, alongside access to specialist intervention from teaching staff and in class support. There will be 12 places at the provision and 4-6 staff.

The ARMS provision is required from September 2023. The provision will offer inclusive education and social opportunities, alongside access to specialist intervention from teaching staff and in-class support. There will be 12 places within the new provision and an additional 4-6 staff.

Pupils attending the resourced provision will have an Education Health and Care Plan (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.

The provision will require additional and suitable accommodation to create an appropriate teaching and learning environment. An area within the school has been identified and a scope of works outlined. These include refurbishment works to an existing part of the school to develop new teaching rooms, group rooms and a sensory room. The required building works will be funded from the Special Provision Capital Fund provided by the government.

Pinner Wood School will receive additional funding for the unit.

Consultation

A pre-consultation was undertaken on the proposals with parents and stakeholders during 24 January to 11 February 2022 seeking the views of residents on proposals to establish a resourced provision at Pinner Wood School. The comments received were positive and demonstrated support for the provision. This is a further opportunity for interested parties to comment on these proposals.

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 for primary school aged pupils with moderate learning difficulties. To create the additional resourced provision will support the Local Authority meeting the demand for September 2023 and future demand locally. This is in support of Harrow Council's plans to deliver a permanent increase in the provision within Harrow. It is Strategic Priority 1 in the SEND Strategy to increase provision in Harrow to meet growing need.

Pinner Wood School is judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Local Authority's view is that by adding SEN places at Pinner Wood School in Harrow, it will increase the choice of options available to parents who have children with SEN.

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

The Local Authority are proposing to open three primary and 1 secondary additional resourced provisions in Harrow from September 2023. Pinner Wood School is one of these schools. By opening this provision, the Local Authority are supporting the school to meet the growing demands on the school with pupils with special educational needs.

The Local Authority has one primary special school provision for pupils with MLD in Harrow which is full and cannot admit further pupils. Alexandra School is a special school for pupils

aged 4-11 with moderate learning difficulties and pupils some with autism and this is the only special school in Harrow that meets this need for primary pupils. 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 the ARMS provision would 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

Works required to accommodate the ARMS provision have been agreed with the school and was determined by the needs of the pupils.

This work 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.

Capital works associated with the increased provision will be funded from the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation grant provided by the DfE to ensure there are sufficient good school places for those with SEND. LAs can use the funding to improve and expand special provision for children with EHCPs. The total funding available is £5.433m of which £5.285m budget was brought forward from 2021-22.

These additional borough places 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

It is proposed that specialist provision at Pinner Wood School for pupils who have moderate learning difficulties and/or autism will be established with effect from 1 September 2023.

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, Education Services, PO Box 1358, Harrow, HA3 3QN

or by emailing: SchoolReorganisation@harrow.gov.uk

Responses need to be **submitted by 12 noon on 31st March 2023.**