

Local authority commissioned Special free schools

**Seeking proposals to establish a
Special free school**

London Borough of Hounslow

July 2018

Overview

Local authorities play a key role in placing pupils with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, so it is important that they help shape the range of provision in their area. Previously, proposals to establish special free schools have only been taken forward in consultation with local authorities. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently provided a further opportunity for local authorities themselves to identify where a new special free school would benefit their area, inform their Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), and seek proposals for the new school they want. This opportunity is intended to identify and meet untapped demand for special free schools as a supplement to LA's existing resources. If a strong proposal is received that both the local authority and the Secretary of State wish to take forward the (DfE) will provide capital funding and start-up grants subject to value for money assessments.

Information for proposer groups

Proposed timeline

The competition will launch on 09/07/2018 and will run for 4 months, closing at midday on 09/11/2018.

Contact details and further information

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss your application, please contact:

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Or

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RSC Contact: Linda Slim

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Events

**There will be an open event to discuss the proposed new school:
A new SEMH Special School in Hounslow - A briefing for proposer groups**

Date: 18th September 2018

Time: 10-12

Location: Hounslow Professional Development Centre
St John's Road, Isleworth TW7 6RU

Section 1 - THE SCHOOL

This section lists key details of the school proposed. Your application must be for a school that has these key characteristics.

Which local authorities are committed to commissioning places?	Hounslow (Lead) Ealing Richmond
How many places have been commissioned and by which local authority?	Ealing - 10 places Richmond – unable to confirm precise numbers at this stage.
Type of SEN	Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)
Per-place funding you expected to be paid	£10k per place plus top-up per place of £17k
Age range	11-19
Boys/Girls/Co-educational	Co-educational
Total number of places	48 places 11-16 yrs 16 places 16-19 yrs
Early years provision?	None
16-19 provision?	Yes
Community use/shared facilities	Hounslow encourages all free school providers to consider opportunities for shared facilities and community use in developing their provision.
Number of residential places	None

The London Borough of Hounslow has dedicated specialist primary school provision for students with EHC plans whose primary special educational needs are SEMH. The LA currently depends on places commissioned through Woodbridge Park Education Service (WPES) for secondary age students with EHC plans whose primary needs is SEMH. WPES has an excellent offer of alternative educational provision for students in the borough who require this type of provision, but has limited opportunities for those students with EHC plans who would benefit from a SEMH school environment. This makes managing the support for different cohorts challenging. Where the level of need is greater and this approach would not be in the interests of a student we also access appropriate specialist provision out of the borough within the sub-region. Of the 194 pupils placed in independent specialist provision in 2017-18, 31 students have SEMH as their primary need.

The table below details the number of places that the local authority proposes for each year group at the point of opening until the school is full.

The table assumes a start date of Sept 2020 with 48 places in 6 classes in KS3 and KS4 and 16 (3 classes) across KS5. Admission numbers are approximate due to the unpredictability of the cohorts and the need to consider mixed age/ability classes. However, it is expected that in the first year of operation students will be admitted in Years 7-9 and Year 12. Hounslow will require approximately 30 of the pre-16 placements each year. Post-16 requirements are less predictable at this stage.

	No. of students in first year of opening	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Year 7				8	10	8	10	8
Year 8				8	10	10	10	10
Year 9				8	8	10	10	10
Year 10					8	8	10	10
Year 11						8	8	10
Year 12				8	8	8	8	8
Year 13					8	8	8	8
Totals				32	52	60	64	64

Section 2 - THE PROPOSED LOCATION AND SITE

This section describes the provisional site.

Address: HANWORTH ROAD, HOUNSLOW, TW3 3UA

Size of site: 1.1ha

Current including planning designation: Vacant brownfield site in EFA ownership following negotiations with TFL after Local Plan designation. Allocated for Education / Residential mixed use (see below – Local Plan detail).

Estimated date the site would be available for works to commence: Immediately

Tenure upon which the site will be made available (if agreed): Site in EFA ownership.

The site is larger than required for the school and a mixed use development is expected through LocatED, the EFA property company.

Hounslow Local Plan Volume 2 page 295, Sept 2015

http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/local_plan

SITE ALLOCATIONS

47 HOUNSLOW - VACANT SITE, HANWORTH ROAD

KEY INFORMATION

District: Hounslow

Site Reference: 47

Address: Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3UA

Source: London SHLAA 2013 and Sequential Assessment of Potential School Sites Update 2014

PTAL: 5

Site Area (ha): 1.1

Existing use: Vacant

ALLOCATION AND JUSTIFICATION

Allocation: Mixed Use

Proposed use: Residential and education

Justification: The mixed use allocation is based on a floorspace ratio of 75:25 education to residential use. This site has been identified through the London SHLAA 2013 as it has a potential housing capacity during the plan period. This site has also been identified through the council's Sequential Assessment of Potential School Sites Update 2014 as an appropriate location for the provision of new school places in Central Hounslow.

Phasing: 2015-20

Land ownership: Public

Context and constraints: No planning constraints identified.



This section describes the rationale and the context in which the new school will operate.

How the school will fit into the broader spectrum of SEN provision in the region (including neighbouring LAs if appropriate)

In Hounslow, we are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for our children and young people (CYP) who have special educational needs and or disabilities (SEND). Our vision for children and young people who have SEND is that like their peers they can participate and contribute to the local community. We believe in the importance of developing provision locally so that children and young people can be educated alongside their peers and the SEMH free school will be congruent to this vision.

The SEMH free school will form part of a continuum of provision that already exists for CYP who have SEMH. This includes WPES that has a range of provision from 4-19 years, including short term intervention and outreach support and the Cedars Primary Special SEMH school.

Over the last year the LA has also reviewed expenditure and demand on the High Needs Block of the DSG which has resulted in further review of wider SEND provision in the borough, particularly in the area of ASD where there is also increased demand. The LA is consulting with mainstream schools who have designated ASD SEN centres to increase spaces and possibly redesignate other centres to accommodate students who have ASD identified as the primary area of need.

The current Hounslow LA school expansion programme covers the period 2016-2020. On completion it will have provided 440 additional SEN places in special schools and SEN centres in mainstream schools.

- **Oaklands** aged 5-19 years (plus 19-25 from September 2018): severe learning difficulties including profound and multiple LD, possibly with ASD
- **Marjory Kinnon** 5-16 years: moderate learning difficulties with additional needs, complex needs / ASD
- **The Rise Free School** (Autism Schools Trust) 5-16 years: high-functioning ASD, opened Sept 2014 in Feltham, co-located with Springwest Academy. Serves West London and fringe sub-region with specific ASD profile. (Hounslow currently commissions 20 places).
- **Ambitious College** (Autism Schools Trust) 16-25 years: co-located at West Thames College. Opened in Sept 2016.

In addition the borough has well established links with West Thames College who provide a range of supported learning options.

Ealing has provision for a similar blend of needs although these schools seldom have available places to offer Hounslow pupils: Bellevue (moderate to severe learning difficulties); John Chilton (physical and/or medical disabilities); Springhallow (autistic spectrum/communication disorders), St Ann's (severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties).

Likewise, Richmond has provision for a similar blend of needs with very few available places to offer Hounslow pupils: Clarendon (complex needs as well as moderate learning difficulties); Strathmore (severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties and ASD).

Hounslow is also a key participant in the West London Alliance.

How it would help meet pressures on special educational provision

There is currently no in borough secondary school provision for CYP who have an EHC plan where SEMH is identified as the primary area of need. Currently, the LA commissions 30 places from WPES for some students with EHC plans but demand has risen over the last two years with 35-39 places being needed. We also have to seek alternative out of borough placements which has implications on home to school travel assistance.

Where young people and families have access to a high quality local school with the supporting agencies better able to work in partnership, we know this can improve the overall support of the family unit as well as the individual pupil.

The potential impact on inclusion, including (where applicable) types of expert support you would expect the school to provide to mainstream schools in the area

The SEMH free school will form part of the pathway of provision for CYP who have SEMH. The free school should play an important role in contributing to workforce development and also work closely with the primary SEMH school and the inclusions services hosted by WPES. We would expect the school to provide outreach and training support to mainstream schools where the young people can remain in a mainstream setting with the right support and staffing. This will over time increase the skills and knowledge of the mainstream sector enabling more students to access those schools.

The SEMH school should provide a curriculum that prepares CYP for adulthood by helping them to develop the necessary skills to become active citizens and contribute to the local community. Thus promoting inclusion.

Hounslow LA has well established arrangements to promote partnership between all types of schools in the borough. The school-led improvement system is developing strongly in Hounslow. The Hounslow Education Partnership (HEP) ensures high quality support and challenge that has delivered some of the strongest improvements nationally in Ofsted outcomes (2015-16). School to school support is central to this model.

The plan to develop a new Special Free School for SEMH (secondary) has the support of HEP and the Schools Forum.

Parental demand

The Corporate Plan (2014-19) pledges to invest in local school provision and to provide a better choice of schools. Therefore more provision locally will provide parents with more local options. There is no in borough provision for secondary age students when they are due to transfer from the primary SEMH school which is a cause for concern for many parents as students cannot remain locally for their secondary school education.

Local authority admissions criteria/process

Where a student's special educational needs are such that they are likely to need specialist provision not normally available in a mainstream school, then consideration may be given to a special school placement. The SEMH free school provider will consider applications for pupils whose primary need is SEMH and whose needs require specialist schooling. Each application will be considered based on the following indicators:

- The pupil's main presenting special educational need is SEMH
- Demonstrable exceptional needs characterised by a mental state which is predominately affected by developmental trauma
- Frequent and intense disengagement with learning despite numerous interventions
- Social interaction difficulties leading to social isolation
- Social and emotional assessment of less than 40%
- Impulsive and unpredictable behaviour which put the pupil, staff and peers at risk
- Extreme over reactions to everyday problems
- Unmet emotional needs leading to an attraction to peers deviant behaviour, or a disproportionate influence on peers' behaviour

All pupils accessing provision at the school must have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan naming the school, or be referred for the purposes of being assessed for an EHC plan in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 34). Applications will be made by the relevant Local Authority to the school provider to consider and respond within 15 days of the referral.

An estimate of how the school will be funded

The school will be funded at a rate of £10,000 per place plus top-up from the HNB of the DSG according to the number of places agreed by the local authority, taking into account the places likely to be used by other authorities.

Section 4 – VIABILITY OF THE NEW SPECIAL SCHOOL**Section 4 – VIABILITY OF THE NEW SPECIAL SCHOOL**

Where the pupils will come from – what is the balance of demographic growth (eg new housing developments) vs changing patterns of need (eg which are the schools the pupils would attend if this school did not go ahead)?

The impact on numbers and proportion of students with SEN at mainstream schools

Demographically, Hounslow growth in pupil numbers is 5th highest in London. At primary level we have added over 5000 additional places since 2011. This growth is now moving into the secondary phase, which will be supported by additional provision from 5 new mainstream free schools. Hounslow is also working to meet significant housing targets and has two new approved Housing Zones. The central Hounslow Housing Zone is expected to generate 920 housing units and the Feltham Housing Zone is expected to generate 3000. Any permanent changes to pupil capacity including SEN will need to reflect the impact of the new Housing Zones. Hounslow, like the rest of London, has experienced a very rapid increase in demand for SEN provision far exceeding growth in other regions. In common with our neighbouring boroughs demand has outstripped supply. Between January 2011 and 2016, the number of pupils educated in dedicated SEN places in London rose 23%, over twice the growth rate in the rest of England.

There has been an increase in children and young people (CYP) with special educational needs and/or disabilities across all phases of education. This is reflected in the overall increase of CYP with statements or Education, Health and Care plans from **1,397** pupils in January 2016 to **1,920** in January 2018¹. The number of CYP in statements and EHC plans is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Number of CYP with a statement/ EHC plan 2014-2018 (SEN2 census 2018)

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All EHCPs	1395	1505	1656	1826	1920

In 2018 there were 188 CYP with EHCPs for SEMH, of which 40 were based in special schools (32 primary, 8 secondary) and 30 based in the PRU. 31 were based in independent schools and 20 in other LA schools.

Of the 31 CYP in independent schools, 16 were based at Insights Independent College and the remainder across 12 different schools.

(SEN2 return Jan 2018)

The number of young people displaying mental health needs is increasing and has become a particular cause for concern.

The waiting list for CAMHS is currently 172 (38 waiting for Tier 2 and 134 waiting for Tier 3). In 2015 there were 31 hospital admissions and 15 young people admitted to tier 4 units. Our PRU special unit for mainstream students with mental health needs has expanded by 100% in 5 years to offer 40 places. This provision will be expanded to 60 places in 2018 with the addition of 6th form places.

For pupils placed out of borough there are difficulties for families accessing all the services they require. Our local model of wraparound services and professionals (CAHMS, social care, local family and voluntary services) empowers families to engage with services via the school.

How the school would be financially sustainable within budgetary constraints in the long term, including (if applicable) how it would help deliver wider value for money (for example in reducing transport costs).

With no additional High Needs funding being anticipated, any growth in current demand will result in an additional cost pressure to the DSG. Over the last 6 months Hounslow has brought its high needs expenditure under control - by increasing provision in borough through new free school provision, the Council will be able to gain greater efficiencies.

Section 5 – PUPIL DATA - TRENDS IN SPECIALIST PROVISION FOR ALL CHILDREN WITH EHC PLANS

	No. of Settings	Please indicate the no. of pupils with an EHC plan living in your local authority who are placed within these settings		
		2012	2016 (as at Sep 2016)	2020
Resourced provision and units inside LA	6	52	65	115
Resourced provision and units outside LA	6	11	6	11
Special schools (either maintained or academies) inside LA	3	153	159	203
Special schools (either maintained or academies) outside LA	17	63	96	123
Independent / non-maintained special schools inside LA	0	0	0	0
Independent / non-maintained special schools outside LA	31	92	134	173
Mainstream schools inside LA	18	45	213	271
Mainstream schools outside LA	32	52	69	118
General FE colleges (if relevant) inside LA	1	0	45	57
General FE colleges (if relevant) outside LA	11	0	43	74
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) inside LA	0	0	0	0
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) outside LA	1	0	1	2