

# **STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO GAINSBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL – establishment of Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for pupils with Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) needs at Gainsborough Primary School from 2020**

**The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013**

## **1 School and LA details**

**School:** Gainsborough Primary School

**Address:** Berkshire Road, London, E9 5ND

**Local Authority:** London Borough of Hackney

## **2 Description of alteration**

Hackney Learning Trust proposes to establish specialist resourced provision (SRP) for pupils with Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) needs at Gainsborough Primary School from September 2020.

The new provision will be based at the current site with some building works. Depending on the timescales for obtaining consent for the building works, the SRP may open slightly later than proposed - in January 2021.

## **3 Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

If the proposal is agreed, it is planned to undertake the building works during 2020, delivering the facilities for the new SRP at Gainsborough Primary School for September 2020.

## **4 Evidence of demand**

In recent years the number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has increased significantly, approximately 36% over the last 5 years, with an average annual growth of 6.1%. One of the most common categories of need within this increasing group of pupils with EHCPs, are SEMH needs. Our projections indicate that we will continue to see more pupils with this need in the future due to an increasing number of assessments and subsequent requests for EHCPs.

Currently, children with SEMH needs are mostly provided for in mainstream schools with packages of support from New Regent's College (a pupil referral unit in Hackney). Given the increasing demand for specialist provision for pupils with SEMH needs, we are proposing to create a specialist resourced SEMH provision at Gainsborough Primary School from 2020. If agreed, this proposal will expand Hackney's current SEND provision, ensuring that suitable, high quality, local provision is available for all pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The provision will be the first in Hackney and over time, will provide advice, training and examples of good practice to other schools.

## **5 Objectives**

### **5.1 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision**

The SRP will be for children with a primary need of SEMH stated on their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The provision will enable the increasing number of pupils with SEMH needs to benefit from attending a mainstream school, whilst also receiving specialist input for SEMH relevant to the child's needs.

Pupils that are allocated a place at the SRP will benefit from an individualised nurture group-type programme with a regularly reviewed support package. Staff will deliver a differentiated curriculum and use materials and approaches which promote the best possible academic, social and emotional outcomes for pupils.

The allocation of places to the SRP will be decided by the Hackney Learning Trust's SEND service. There will be no priority to the SRP for existing Gainsborough Primary School pupils applying for a place at the SRP, as is the case for other children on roll at mainstream schools with autism resource bases.

### **5.2 School Organisation Principles**

Hackney Learning Trust has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for Hackney resident children. In recommending this proposal to establish an SRP at Gainsborough Primary School, Hackney Learning Trust should have regard to the borough's School Organisation Principles. The principles relevant to this proposal are outlined below.

- School changes**

Hackney Learning Trust will support viable expansions of popular and successful schools in line with Department for Education (DfE) policy wherever possible.

In planning for changes to school organisation such as expansion, amalgamation, federation and closure, Hackney Learning Trust will take into account the factors set out in Hackney Learning Trust's School Organisation Matrix, which includes the school's Ofsted rating.

- Quality and diversity**

Hackney Learning Trust will seek to ensure that sufficient attractive high-quality state-funded school provision is available within the borough to meet the needs of all children aged 5-16.

- School budgets/finances**

Hackney Learning Trust will consult with schools prior to the implementation of any changes to funding of maintained schools. The funding will be allocated in line with the Operational Guidance, School Funding Regulations and endorsed by Schools Forum.

- Education property**

Hackney Learning Trust will seek to ensure that school premises are well maintained, fit for purpose and meet all relevant national standards for space and health and safety.

## **6 Project costs and funding**

The budget for the capital works at Gainsborough Primary School to accommodate the SRP is £400,000 and will be funded through the SEN special provision capital fund. The cost is currently estimated at £300,000. Funding will be allocated as outlined in the Council's SEND Capital Plan of Intent. The SRP will not remove funding from the mainstream school, as it will be fully independently resourced.

## **7 Consultation**

To inform this proposal, Hackney Learning Trust ran an initial public consultation from 15 January to 11 February 2020. The initial consultation received eleven responses, all of which were in favour of the proposal. A copy of the consultation document can be viewed at <https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/consultations>.

## **8 Decision-making**

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is the Director of Education at Hackney Learning Trust, in the event that no objections are received. If objections are received, a decision on the proposal will be made by Hackney Council's Group Director for Children, Adults and Community Health. A decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of this representation period.

## **9 Objections and comments**

**Any person wishing to submit any comments either in support of, or objecting to, the proposal may do so by sending them to:**

Iris Carrington  
School Place Planning Officer  
Hackney Learning Trust  
London Borough of Hackney  
1 Reading Lane  
London  
E8 1GQ; or by emailing [iris.carrington@learningtrust.co.uk](mailto:iris.carrington@learningtrust.co.uk)

**Any objections or comments must be received before Thursday 9 April 2020.**