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**Statutory Proposal to establish a new Social and Communication Additionally Resourced Provision at Redbridge Primary School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that the London Borough of Redbridge intends to make a prescribed alteration to Redbridge Primary School, College Gardens, Redbridge, Ilford, Essex, IG4 5HW, from 1 September 2023.

**Contact Details**

**Name and address of Local Authority publishing the proposal:**

London Borough of Redbridge, Lynton House, 255-259 High Road, Ilford IG1 1NN

**Name, address and category of school that is the subject of the proposal:**

Redbridge Primary School (Community), College Gardens, Redbridge, Ilford, Essex, IG4 5HW

**Contact details during statutory representation period:**

This is a four-week consultation, which begins on Monday 5 September 2022 and concludes at midday on Monday 3 October 2022. Any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending representations to:

SEND Commissioning, London Borough of Redbridge, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Lynton House, 255-259 High Road, Ilford IG1 1NN

Email: [send.commissioning@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:send.commissioning@redbridge.gov.uk)

Web: <https://engagement.redbridge.gov.uk/>

A public consultation event will be held at Caterham High School at 18:00 on Thursday 22 September 2022. All interested parties are welcome to attend this event, where presentations by London Borough of Redbridge staff will be followed by the opportunity to ask questions and/or provide direct feedback.

## **Description of alteration and evidence of demand**

The London Borough of Redbridge is proposing to establish a Social and Communication Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) at Redbridge Primary School for 28 pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), across Year R to Year 6 (4 places in each year group). Admission to this facility will be distinct from mainstream admission to the school. Consequently, in order to maintain the school's capacity at its current level, this proposal would also require an amendment to the school's Admissions Arrangements, to reduce the mainstream PAN from 120 to 116, as detailed in the final section of this document.

This proposal has been formed in response to a growing demand for such places in the local area. In line with regional and national trends, the London Borough of Redbridge has recently been experiencing substantial growth in demand for places in specialist education provision. As far back as 2015, Redbridge identified growth in the number of pupils presenting with different forms of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), which accelerated over the following years. For example, between 2018 and 2020, the total number of school-age pupils with registered SEND rose by 13.6%. This trend is projected to continue over the course of the current seven-year planning horizon, with this being particularly driven by a rapid increase in specific areas of identified need. Thus, by the 2027/28 academic year, there is forecast to be a 17.7% increase in the number of High Needs pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) registered as a primary need type and a corresponding increase of 25.7% for those registered with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). Naturally, such pupil growth has resulted in the need for additional provision to accommodate the shifting profile of need, which has only partially been achievable within the bounds of the existing infrastructure.

As a consequence of this rising demand, the London Borough of Redbridge undertook a High Needs Review, which recommended the creation of 140 new school places for pupils with SEND, over the period 2018-2023. This was underpinned by an aspiration to create a significant amount of these places in Additionally Resourced Provisions attached to mainstream schools. This element of the proposals, in particular, generated strong support from parents, when consultation on the Review's proposals was undertaken in July 2018. Parents welcomed the proposed increase in the range of options available, with an emphasis on access to a mainstream curriculum, in the context of appropriate specialist support.

The current proposal, therefore, forms part of a borough-wide expansion programme, aimed at providing sufficient SEND school places to meet the current and projected future levels of demand, delivered across both specialist and mainstream settings. If approved, this proposal would provide 28 specialist primary places within Redbridge, which would help to bridge the gap between the supply of and demand for school places.

### **Objectives:**

The proposed delivery of an ARP at Redbridge Primary School has the following objectives at its core:

1. To support the London Borough of Redbridge in delivering against its role in providing sufficient school places to meet local demand. These 28 additional Social and Communication places will meet the needs of a key SEND growth area that is not specifically catered for at present.
2. To broaden the Local Offer by providing more opportunity for children with SEND to attend a mainstream school with support, where appropriate. This will also augment the inclusivity agenda and, in enabling a more tailored offer to local pupils, potentially improve educational outcomes as well.
3. To promote parental preference, which (as set out above) clearly supports the expansion of SEND provision in mainstream settings.

## **Effect on other Educational Institutions**

As mentioned above, there is an increasing demand for Social and Communication SEND places within Redbridge. As this will be providing mainstream alternatives for SEND pupils, it is not anticipated that the provision will have a significant impact on other mainstream institutions within the local area. Rather, if implemented, it is expected that the proposed new provision would relieve some of the pressure on places currently faced by Hatton Special School, in a focused and needs-appropriate setting.

## **Project Costs**

The creation of the accommodation for the proposed ARP requires investment in building a dedicated resource base in the school's central courtyard, comprising two core classrooms, together with observation and breakout space. The remainder of the courtyard would be redeveloped into a sensory garden area. The anticipated cost of the associated capital project is £500,000. The project cost will be funded through the London Borough of Redbridge's Special Provision Capital Fund, which is a capital grant allocation provided by the DfE specifically to finance the expansion of SEND provision.

The investment of this capital will support long-term value for money, by providing a broader range of appropriately resourced, local SEND provision for the Borough's pupils, thereby reducing the need to unduly rely on more costly placements out-of-Borough and/or in the non-maintained or independent sector.

## **Implementation Plan**

The London Borough of Redbridge has complied with all applicable statutory requirements in connection with this proposal. At the conclusion of the notice period, if permission is granted by the Cabinet, the London Borough of Redbridge will implement the proposal.

If approved, the plan is to formally open the new facility in September 2023. In the first year four places will be offered in Year R. Thereafter, the provision will grow incrementally, year-on-year, with four additional places being offered in each subsequent Year R intake, with the total capacity of 28 places expected to be reached in September 2029. Admission will be by agreement with the Special Educational Needs Team of Redbridge Council. All children who are offered places will have, or be about to receive, an Education, Health and Care Plan.

As noted above, this proposal also requires an amendment to the school's Admissions Arrangements, to reduce the mainstream PAN from 120 to 116. If it is decided to proceed with this prescribed alteration, a separate consultation would be undertaken with respect to altering the school's admissions arrangements for the 2024/25 intake. This would form part of the standard annual admissions consultation, conducted from October 2022.

**Publication Date: 5 September 2022**