

## **Formal consultation on the expansion of Northway Special School**

### **Introduction to the Consultation**

The Council's SEND Strategy (2021 – 2024) sets out ambitious and realistic objectives to ensure Barnet's provision is the first choice for children and young people with high needs and their families.

A priority of the SEND Strategy is the need to ensure that there is sufficient high-quality provision in Barnet for children with special educational needs who need access to specialist educational provision. The local authority is also committed to ensuring that children and young people with SEND benefit from inclusion in their local community by ensuring that they can access the right provision as close to their home as possible, and thus reducing the need for them to have to travel long distances to access out of borough or independent provision due to a lack of suitable in-borough provision.

The SEND Strategy also recognises that children with complex learning needs are increasing in numbers and will require specialist intervention supported in specialist provision, including special schools.

Following an informal consultation on the expansion of Northway Special School which took place from 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the Council is now formally consulting on this proposal. Feedback from the informal consultation suggested that both School staff and Parent/Carers received the proposal positively and no objections were received. A number of operational issues were raised by the school staff and these were responded to by the Northway Headteacher and/or would be part of the imminent internal staff consultation. Parent/Carer feedback was positive, with parent interest in the development of the Key Stage 3 curriculum.

### **Background Information**

Barnet has a range of specialist provision, including six special schools and 14 Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs). Many of the ARPs are for children and young people who have a diagnosis of Autism with associated learning and behavioural needs. In addition, two of the ARPs are for children and young people with severe hearing impairment and one is for primary aged children with complex physical needs.

The special schools in Barnet support children and young people with a range of needs as outlined below. Children and young people attending special schools tend to have the most significant levels of need in comparison to their peers in ARPs and mainstream schools, and they also often have multiple needs in relation to learning, social and medical needs.

Barnet special schools:

School	Age range	Needs met by the school
Oakleigh special school	2 – 11 years	Severe Learning Difficulties/Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties/Autism Spectrum Disorder
Mapledown special school	11 – 19 years	Severe Learning Difficulties/Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties/Autism Spectrum Disorder
Northway special school	4 – 11 years	Moderate Learning Difficulties/Complex Needs, including Autism Spectrum Disorder
Oak Lodge special school	11 – 19 years	Moderate Learning Difficulties/Complex Needs, including Autism Spectrum Disorder
Kisharon special school	4 – 19 years	Severe Learning Difficulties/Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties/Autism Spectrum Disorder
Oak Hill special school	10 – 19 years	Social, emotional and mental health needs

In Barnet, we have an increasing number of children and young with special educational needs who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Autism continues to be the area of greatest need, then speech, language and communication needs, then social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH), with moderate learning difficulties being the fourth area of need. The majority (57% of 5 to 18-year-olds) have their needs met in mainstream schools, but the demand for specialist placements is rising, with the increased numbers of children and young people identified with SEND needing specialist provision.

The table below shows the number of additional Special school places that are needed over the next two years, and the proposed expansion of special school places in Barnet.

Type of provision	Proposed extra provision	2022	2023	2024	Total
Primary Special School places	Expand Oakleigh by 8 places in 2022 and 5 in 2023. New special school annex with 13 extra places in 2022 and a further 10 in 2023. Expand Kisharon by 7 places in 2024. Windmill opens and provides 12 places in 2024.	21	15	19	55
Type of provision	Proposed extra provision	2022	2023	2024	Total
Secondary Special School places	Expand Oak Lodge by 7 places in 2022 and 5 in 2023. New special school annex with 26 extra places in 2022 and a further 22 in 2023. Expand Kisharon by 10 places in 2023 and 12 places in 2024. Windmill opens and provides 20 places in 2024. 5 more places to find in 2024	33	37	37	107

## The Proposal

The significant rise in the number of children and young people with an EHCP that require a place at a Special School has prompted the need to expand Northway special school through the creation of an annex on the Grasvenor Infant School site. This will enable Northway special school to be an all through school for children aged from 5 to 18 years with complex special educational needs, including learning difficulties, Autism and associated social, emotional and mental health needs. If the proposals are agreed, 44 places would be available on the Grasvenor site from September 2022, rising to 72 places in subsequent years.

Reception and Key Stage 1 provision will be based at annex on the Grasvenor site, with the older pupils based on the current Northway school site.

## **Admissions and numbers**

Admissions to Northway special school will continue to be through the Barnet SEN Panel process.

The expansion, if agreed, will provide an additional 72 places at Northway special school, bringing the total number of places at the school to approximately 200 pupils over the next few years.

## **Staffing**

The Northway expansion will be staffed in the same manner as it is now, the secondary provision will be based on a primary model. Classes will have a lead teacher and the appropriate amount of Teaching Assistants to support the needs of pupils in each class.

There will be a mixture of current and new staff across both sites (Northway and Grasvenor) and all staff will have detailed, relevant and appropriate induction and training. All staff will be supported by the Senior Leadership team of Northway school.

The staffing structure is currently under review and a separate consultation will be undertaken in the near future.

## **Funding**

The additional places at Northway special school will be funded as current special school places are funded in accordance with the Place Led Funding approach. Northway special school will receive place funding and top-up funding which is based on the needs of each child who attends the school.

## **What happens next**

There will be further opportunities for parent carers of children attending Northway special school, staff at the school and other stakeholders to express their views and comment on the formal proposals to expand the provision at Northway special school and make it an all through school for children and young people aged 5 – 18 years. The timeline for the formal consultation is given below.

Formal consultation meetings for parent carers and staff at the school have been arranged and the link to the virtual meetings have been circulated by the school. The meetings will be attended by Local Authority officers and the Head teacher of Northway special school.

## Consultation timeline

The following table gives an outline for the timeline for formal consultation on the proposals.

Date	Action
23.05.2022	Launch of the formal consultation
Week beginning 06.06.2022	Consultation meetings for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Parent carers of children attending Northway school;</li><li>- Northway school staff;</li><li>- Other stakeholders</li></ul>
24.06.2022	Formal consultation closes

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the Council intends to make a final decision on the proposal in early July.