

Hermitage School Statutory Notice

Introduction

On Tuesday 23rd March 2021 Hermitage Governing Body, with Tower Hamlets Local Authority support, approved the recommendation to publish a **Statutory Notice** on the proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Hermitage School. This recommendation was agreed by Tower Hamlets Council at a Cabinet Meeting on April 28th 2021.

Proposal for a prescribed alteration to Hermitage School to establish an up to 12 place Specialist Resourced Provision - Autism Spectrum Condition (SRP-ASC) from September 2021.

Notice is given in accordance with Section 15 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 Tower Hamlets local authority will decide whether to establish a 12 place Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) provision at Hermitage Primary School.

This will be established following the implementation of the Tower Hamlets SEND Strategy and Tower Hamlets Primary School Specialist Resourced Provision Autism Spectrum Condition (SRP-ASC) Specification.

Contact details

Name and address of school publishing the proposal, with Local Authority support:

Hermitage School, Vaughan Way, London, E1W 2PT

Name, address and category of school making prescribed alteration:

Hermitage is a 4-11 Primary School. Address above

Implementation

Date on which it is proposed to establish the SRP - ASC provision and increase the School's PAN:

September 1st 2021

Reason for Establishing SRP - ASC

The governing body of Hermitage School, in partnership with Tower Hamlets Local Authority, has expressed an interest and been accepted, to develop proposals to address the Tower Hamlets Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy and Primary SRP-ASC specification. To achieve this a prescribed alteration is necessary for Hermitage Primary School to establish an up to 12 place Primary ASC provision.

The council's education policy is to move towards integrated specialist provision, where appropriate and matched to pupils needs. The Local Authority SEND review made clear that the following aspects of current primary provision needed alteration

- There is currently no specialist ASC "high functioning" primary provision in Tower Hamlets
- Research suggests that some children may have been mis-diagnosed and mis-placed in Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) provision because there was no suitable ASC provision.
- It is essential that children with ASC needs are able to access mainstream provision alongside specialist support to ensure their academic achievement is in line with their potential.

Hermitage School have worked with the Local Authority to develop a proposal that would address these issues providing improved, inclusive support for children with autistic spectrum conditions in Tower Hamlets.

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

The numbers for whom provision is currently made at the school:

Hermitage is a co-educational mainstream Primary School for pupils aged four to eleven Hermitage School provides for children from four years old. The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 45 for each year group. As at January 21, the school had 290 pupils on roll. From September 2021 it is predicted to have 277 pupils, plus Reception children and up to 12 children joining the SRP-ASC, potentially 334 pupils in total. The current PAN would only accommodate 315 children, if the school had even year groups of 45.

Displaced Pupils

This proposal forms part of a newly commissioned provision, and therefore no pupils will be displaced. Hermitage School is expected to provide education for some children displaced from Shapla School.

Impact on the Community

The proposal would improve provision for the Tower Hamlets community in line with the Tower Hamlets SEND Strategy. Therefore, it is not anticipated that there will be any adverse impact on the community, rather that the Tower Hamlets community will benefit from enhanced provision.

Rural Primary Schools

Not applicable

Balance of Denominational Provision

The neighbouring Church of England Schools (St Peter's London Docks and St Paul's Wellclose Square) are both full. The creation of an SRP-ASC provision will not impact on the balance of denominational provision in Tower Hamlets.

Nursery Provision

Not applicable

Sixth Form Provision

Not applicable

Special Educational Needs Provision

As at the January 2021 census there were XX pupils on roll at Hermitage who have an Educational Health and Care Plan. Hermitage Schools has fully accessible buildings. The provision would address the SEND Strategy and increase the level of suitable provision for children in Tower Hamlets with SEND needs. Up to 12 pupils with EHCPs identifying ASC needs could be placed at the school.

Travel

Any child living more than 3 miles from the school would have access to Local Authority Travel support and EHCPs naming the provision would give due consideration to travel needs.

Finances

If the changes are made, the Local Authority would commission provision through a Service Level Agreement. Funding would be to Hermitage School.

Procedure for Making Representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this statutory notice, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by:

Email: [school email](#) cc school.organisation@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Post: **Hermitage Primary School**, Vaughan Way, London, E1W 2PT

Or School Organisation and Place Planning Manager
Pupil Services and School Sufficiency
Tower Hamlets Children's Services
Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, E14 5BG

Hermitage parents and school staff will also be given the opportunity to attend virtual meetings during the Statutory Notice period.

Closing date for responses is 5pm, Wednesday 9th June

We will not be able to consider any responses received after this date. A report considering all responses received during the representation period will be published on the Council's website in late February 2021, as part of papers to Cabinet. The report will also be available on the School's website.

The website addresses are

<https://www.hermitage.towerhamlets.sch.uk>

<https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/>