

Appendix 3 - George Green's School – Governing Body Response to Proposed Re-designation of George Green's Specialist Resource Provision following Statutory Notice.

October 2022

- 1.1 During the academic year 2021-2022, the Principal and Governors of George Green's School, in discussion with the LA, began exploring the possibility of requesting a redesignation of the school's specialist resource from Complex Needs/Physical Disabilities to Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) – and also increasing the number of places from 15 to 20.
- 1.2 Having reached unanimous agreement to proceed with the proposed requests, the school then carried out a 6-week Stage One consultation process, seeking feedback from all relevant stakeholders on both key proposals, as follows:
 - To change the designation of the existing George Green's specialist resource from Complex Needs to Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).
 - To increase the total number of places from 15 to 20.
- 1.3 At the same time, the school went out to formal consultation on a separate proposal not to include a hydro pool in the design for the new George Green's building.
- 1.4 At the Stage One phase, both matters – redesignation and hydro pool - were consulted on simultaneously. However, the redesignation of the resource provision requires prescribed alterations which must be agreed by the Mayor and having sought advice it was clear that the decision on whether or not the hydro pool was retained within the school building plans was a matter for the George Green's School Trust. Going forward it was decided that these proposals would be addressed separately.
- 1.5 Full details of all responses received in connection with all parts of the Stage 1 consultation process can be found in appendix C.
- 1.6 However, in summary, only 9 responses were received, of which only one expressed any reservations about the proposal to redesignate. The other 8 responses received were all supportive of the proposal to redesignate.
- 1.7 At the conclusion of the Stage One consultation process, a quorate meeting of the Full GB met to discuss outcomes and agree next steps.
- 1.8 Following discussion, those present unanimously agreed to proceed with the proposals to (a) redesignate from Complex Needs/Physical Disabilities to Autistic Spectrum Condition and (b) increase the total number of places from 15 to 20.
- 1.9 The proposals then went to 4 weeks of Stage 2 formal consultation – statutory notice - commencing 2nd September and concluding 30th September. In line with best practice, details were widely publicised and arrangements put in place whereby any interested party might express an opinion.
- 1.10 However, by the end of the consultation period, no responses of any kind had been received.
- 1.11 A quorate meeting of the Full GB nevertheless met on 5th October to consider the Stage 2 consultation outcomes. Having done so, they unanimously agreed to continue with the proposed redesignation of the resource from Complex Needs/Physical Disabilities and the increase of places from 15 to 20.
- 1.12 The agenda and minutes for the meeting of the Full Governing Body on 5th October can be found at Appendix B.
- 1.13 The report presented to the Full Governing Body on 5th October can be found at Appendix A.

Appendix A

George Green's School

Governing Body Meeting

Wednesday 5th October 2022

Proposed Redesignation of the George Green's Specialist Resource Provision

1 Action Required

Governors are asked to consider the outcomes of the Stage 2 Consultation Process and agree whether or not to proceed with the following :

- (a) To change the designation of the existing George Green's specialist resource from Complex Needs to Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).
- (b) To increase the total number of places from 15 to 20.

2 Principal's Recommendation

The Principal's recommendation is that both elements of the proposal should be agreed, for the following reasons :

- The Stage 2 consultation process having run for the necessary four-week period – 2nd-30th September – no responses of any kind have been received.
- Nor did anyone express an interest in attending the online Teams consultation meeting on 14th September, that was to have been led by the Principal.
- The school therefore has nothing new to report on the matter beyond what previously emerged from the six-week Stage 1 consultation carried out during the summer term.

3 Outcomes of the Stage 1 Consultation

- It should be noted that a quorate meeting of the Full GB has already agree both the proposals set out in Paragraph 1 above, taking account of the returns to the Stage 1 consultation.
- It should also be noted that, as advised by the LA, the Stage 1 consultation additionally included proposals in relation to the proposed discontinuation of the hydro-pool – proposals which, it has now been agreed with the LA, should be dealt with separately.
- With reference to the outcomes of the Stage 1 Consultation, at the conclusion of the required 6 weeks, it was reported to governors that only 9 responses had been received – of which 8 were in favour of changing the designated specialism, with only one against.
- The one respondent indicating disapproval of the proposal to change the designation of the resource, responded as follows :
'Why should it only be students with autism? This is not fair cos this is not being a rights respecting school. Basically you don't want any other children cos you can't be bothered to facilitate for them. You're getting rid of all wheelchair users from now on and only autistic children can come. What the point?'
- As explained at the time, the view of the school was and remains that this respondent has wholly misunderstood the school's intentions. Amending the designation from Complex Needs/Physical Disabilities will not in itself prevent any student who is a wheelchair user from enrolling at the school. The school is already exceptionally well-equipped to take

wheelchair users and already caters for a number of students who are wheelchair users and are enrolled in mainstream classes.

Appendix B

MINUTES George Greens School

Extraordinary Full Governing Body Meeting Wednesday 5 October 2022, 17:00-17.30 Held virtually

The quorum for this meeting was **9**.

MEMBERSHIP

Name	Role	Re-election/ appointment due date	Attendance
Mr. Tim Aldrich (TA)	Chair, Co-opted Governor	04/02/2026	yes
Ms. Christine Kershaw (CK)	Vice Chair, Co-opted Governor	24/05/2023	yes
Mr. Jon Ryder (JR)	Principal	Ex Officio	yes
Mr. Tonye Altraide (TAI)	Co-opted Governor	15/05/2026	yes
Mr. Hugh Fraser (HF)	Co-opted Governor	15/04/2023	apologies
Mr. Ranjith Kanipayur (RKA)	Co-opted Governor	06/07/2025	yes
Mr. Jon Waghorne (JW)	Co-opted Governor	24-02-2024	apologies
<i>vacancy</i>	Co-opted Governor		
Ms. Laura Bugden (LB)	Foundation Governor	06/07/2025	apologies
Mr. Les Chapman (LC)	Foundation Governor	24/05/2024	yes
Mr. William Everard CBE (WE)	Foundation Governor	01/09/2025	yes
Mr. Robert Kyriakides (RK)	Foundation Governor	26/11/2024	
Mr. William Roberts (WR)	Foundation Governor	09/01/2023	yes (arrived after vote had taken place)
Mr. James Kilmartin (JK)	LA Governor	09/10/2023	
Ms. Polly Jones (PJ)	Parent Governor	02/12/2024	yes
Ms. Julie Lechley (JL)	Parent Governor	02/12/2024	yes
Ms. Alif Nahrin (AN)	Parent Governor	02/12/2024	yes
<i>vacancy</i>	Parent Governor		
<i>vacancy</i>	Parent Governor		
Ms. Shahina Aktar	Staff Governor	05/10/2025	apologies

ASSOCIATE/OBSERVING

Name	Role	Attendance
Jan Woodhead	Observer	yes
Mr. Aidan McQuaid (AM)	Deputy Headteacher	yes
Kate Garcia	Assistant Head teacher	yes
Mr. Simon Bravery	Clerk	yes

No.	Time	Agenda Item	Presenter	Item Purpose
Part 1: Non-confidential business				
1.	17:00	Welcomes and introductions The chair welcomed those present and declared the meeting quorate	Chair	
2.		Receive and consider apologies from governors not in attendance Apologies were received from Ms Aktar, Ms Budgen, Mr Waghorne and Mr Fraser and were accepted.	Chair	To Receive/For Consent To Agree
3.		Members are invited to make verbal declarations of interest on the items listed in this evening's agenda. There were no declarations of interest	Chair	For declarations
4	17:02	Minutes of the previous meeting To agree previous minutes (06/7/22)/02/22) Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.	All	To Amend/To Agree
5	17:03	Matters arising from the minutes not included in the agenda Chair's Action (if any) There were no matters arising.	Chair	To Note
6	17:05	Redesignation of George Green School 1)To change the designation to Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) 2) to increase the number of places 3) to close the hydro pool TA stated that Jan Woodhead had written a report. This had been circulated and the Governors confirmed that they had read it. The Governors voted unanimously:- 1. to redesignate the integrated specialist provision (ISP) of the School to autistic spectrum condition. 2. to increase numbers from 15 to 20.	Chair	For vote
7	17:20	AOB/Urgent business (if any) There was no further business	JR	To Note/Discuss
Part 2: Confidential business To decide whether any earlier business should be recorded as confidential To decide whether any staff or non-governors present should remain for confidential business				
8.	17.25	Any other confidential business There was no confidential business.		

Close of meeting: 17:07

Appendix C

George Green's School

Governing Body Meeting

Wednesday 22nd June 2022

Proposed Redesignation of the George Green's Specialist Resource Provision

1 Action Required

Governors are asked to consider the attached summary of responses to the Stage 1 Consultation Process and agree whether or not to proceed with the following :

- (c) To change the designation of the existing George Green's specialist resource from Complex Needs to Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).
- (d) To increase the total number of places from 15 to 20.
- (e) To close the existing hydro pool facility as part of the rebuilding of George Green's School.

It is suggested that (a) and (b) might reasonably be considered together, however with (c) being considered separately.

2 Principal's Recommendation

The Principal's recommendation is that all elements of the proposal should be agreed, for the following reasons :

- Following a period of 6 weeks formal consultation, only 9 responses have been received.
- 8 of these are in favour of changing the designated specialism, with only one against.
- Only 4 respondents offer any comment either way in response to the proposal to not include a hydro pool in the design of the new building – and only 2 of these are specifically opposed to the non-inclusion of a hydro pool.
- The LA remains very firmly in favour of the school changing its designation and increasing the number of places from 15 to 20.
- The LA fully supports the school's view that it will make significantly better educational and financial sense to exclude replacement of the hydro pool from the final design for the new building.

3 Commentary on specific objections raised through consultation

Q1 Do you agree with the proposal to change the designation of the George Green's resource base from Complex Needs to Autism Spectrum Condition?

Respondent 6 of 9: *Why should it only be students with autism? This is not fair cos this is not being a rights respecting school. Basically you don't want any other children cos you can't be bothered to facilitate for them. You're getting rid of all wheelchair users from now on and only autistic children can come. What the point?*

This response misunderstands the school's intentions. Amending the designation will not in itself prevent any student who is a wheelchair user from enrolling at the school. The school already has students who are wheelchair students enrolled in mainstream classes.

Respondent 1 of 9: *My only concern is if a child within the autism spectrum has a sensory overload for example. They can be very vocal and physical. This can be very disturbing to the other students around and therefore be extremely distracting, taking affect on their learning. I mean I hope that the support that is needed for the child with autism, and the way the child expresses within the classroom, does not distract the whole of the lesson for everyone or out more pressure on the teacher.*

It should be noted that this respondent answered yes to Q1 but has added this comment as a side concern. The school will continue its existing practice of looking to integrate students enrolled within the specialist resource provision as much as possible into mainstream lessons, supported as appropriate by eg TAs – however, at the same time, retaining the option of resource students sometimes being taught in smaller groups, where clearly in the best interests of both themselves and the peers.

Q5 Do you agree with the proposal to NOT include a hydro pool in George Green's new school building?

Against:

Respondent 6 of 9: *My child uses the hydro pool not for leisure but cos she can't do PE. Again you're not thinking this through properly.*

On an individual basis, the school completely sympathises with this parent's position. However, it continues to think that it has to spend its money carefully and, wherever possible, to the benefit of the majority of its students.

Respondent 9 of 9: *Mainly because we have been using the pool for as long as I can remember. Our children with EHCPs really benefit. In addition, we are a small school with very limited resources on site and rely heavily on this pool to meet the needs of our pupils. In addition, I disagree that GG pupils will not need the Hydro pool if it becomes an autism specialist school.*

Water therapy is very useful and a great way to regulate children's emotions. It also provides a good sensory input for children with autism. I think it can be used.

Similarly, the comments of this respondent on behalf of students currently attending a nearby primary school. It is entirely understandable that the staff, students and parents of that school would prefer the hydro pool facility to continue. However, it remains the case that its continuance would directly benefit only a tiny handful of actual George Green's students.

In favour:

Respondent 7 of 9: *It's not financial viable. Not enough students use it.*

Respondent 8 of 9: *With the cut backs schools are facing from the government each year, the school has got to make sure their budget is being used resourcefully. 10,000 is a lot of money the school has to use from their budget because the hydro-pool is running at a loss. This money could be used more on resources, staff and equipment.*

The school strongly agrees with both the above comments. A hydro pool would be very nice to have if unlimited funds available. However, given that is not the situation, the school continues to feel that the expenditure currently incurred by the running of a hydro pool could be deployed far more effectively elsewhere – as could the space that will otherwise be occupied by the pool within the finite boundaries of the new building.