



BEN JONSON AND BOWDEN HOUSE CONSULTATION

*Feedback from Statutory
Notices Publication*

Jan 8th – Feb 8th 2021

THE
STATUTORY
NOTICES
COVER THE
FOLLOWING
PRESCRIBED
ALTERATIONS

- A proposal for a “prescribed alteration” for Bowden House School to extend its age range to 5-19 and to increase its capacity by 12 pupils at the Ben Jonson site. (Change in number of pupils in a Special School of more than 10% and Change of Age Range)
- In addition, “prescribed alterations” are being considered to allow:
 - the Bowden House provision at the Ben Jonson School site to be day provision, not residential. The secondary provision will remain predominantly residential;
 - and that the Bowden House primary provision will be co-educational. The secondary provision (at Seaford) will remain boys only.
 - Proposal for a “prescribed alteration” to Ben Jonson School to establish an up to 12 place Special Educational Needs provision from September 2021

STATUTORY NOTICES REGARDING THE PROPOSALS

These were sent to parents and staff at Ben Jonson, Bowden House and Cherry Trees Schools.

They were included in the Headteacher's Bulletin for Schools and published in the East London Advertiser.

They were posted outside the 3 entrances to Ben Jonson School

They were sent to stakeholders including the Diocese, East London Mosque and Neighbouring Boroughs.

6 zoom meetings were held (2 for parents, 2 for staff and 2 open meetings).

36 people attended (some attended more than 1 meeting)

WHO ATTENDED ZOOM MEETINGS?

	Staff	Parents	Governors	Total
Bowden House	6 (inc 3 govs)	1 (also gov)	3	10
Ben Jonson	24 (inc 3 govs)	4	2	30
Cherry Trees	6 (inc 1 gov)			6

2 representations were received, both from governors – 1 from Ben Jonson, 1 from Bowden House. Both were fully in support of the proposals.

SUMMARY FEEDBACK FROM BOWDEN HOUSE

Staff	Feel schools share same ethos	Confident standards wont slip	Funding is manageable for now but Review after 2 and 3 years will be essential.	Bowden Seaford children will also benefit as experience opportunities reading with younger children etc	BJ children will benefit more widely possible trips to Bowden
Govs	Exciting, innovative project	Delighted to see two inclusion committed school coming together for the community	More confident now about funding	Good to have a base in Tower Hamlets	
Parent	Good to see school being recognised as experts	Will the schools work well together	Sounds like really good provision, pity there couldn't be a link to mainstream in East Sussex		



SUMMARY FEEDBACK FROM BEN JONSON



Staff	Still some work to do to ensure the buildings support the provision well	Want to make sure the balance of numbers is right so that children continue to be well integrated	Will there be more children in the older years?	What support will children get to move to Ben Jonson, and preparation for teachers to meet their needs?	What are the benefits for BJ children?
Govs	Really positive for whole Tower Hamlets community	Good to see the two schools coming together to address gaps in SEMH provision	Pleased LA have funded generously	Proud we are developing world class provision	
Parent	Positive for Ben Jonson	What help will there be for teachers and children?	How will it work having 2 schools?		

SUMMARY FEEDBACK FROM CHERRY TREES



Staff	Will children be supported with transition?	Will there be specialist provision?	Will the buildings be fit for purpose?	Will there be job opportunities for Cherry Trees staff?	What will be different from Cherry Trees?
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WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS

(2)

- Strongly in support of the proposal which will clearly really meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable children in Tower Hamlets
- Both schools are in an excellent position to work together in partnership to provide a truly outstanding integrated provision for children with SEMH needs.
- Inclusive approach , pleased that parents at Bowden House Seaford, and Ben Jonson primary have been re-assured that this will bring benefits for everyone, and that the quality of their current provision will be protected and enhanced.
- Now that specialist provision for girls with SEMH needs has been addressed at primary level I would be interested to hear what is planned for secondary age girls as it would not be appropriate for Bowden House to have girls at the Seaford site.
- Impressed with the development of the proposal including care taken to ensure it is sufficiently funded.
- Looking forward to continuing to be involved in this development

GOVERNORS' CONSIDERATION OF REPRESENTATIONS

- The Provision's Steering Group considered the feedback from the Statutory Notices in a meeting on the evening of February 8th.
- Bowden House Governing Body considered the responses on February 9th.
- Ben Jonson Governing Body considered the responses on February 11th.

All 3 meetings recognised the very positive response to the Statutory Notices and recommend that the Local Authority agree the prescribed alterations.

These changes will enable significant progress to be made to implement the Local Authority SEND Strategy.