

Appendix 1

Statutory notice

LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

Expansion and Change of Age Range at Cricket Green Special School

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that the London Borough of Merton is proposing to lower the age range and increase the number of pupils at Cricket Green School, a maintained special school for pupils with additional complex and varied needs, Lower Green West, Mitcham, CR4 3AF from 1 September 2019.

The proposed change in age range would lower the age range at the school from 4-19 years old to 3-19 years old through the introduction of an 8 full time equivalent place nursery for children aged 3 and 4.

Cricket Green School presently has a capacity of 199 places aged 4-19 including 24 sixth form places and the proposal is to increase the capacity to 260, including nursery places. The current number on roll at the school is 183.

The London Borough of Merton will implement the proposals comprising of 8 FTE nursery, 70 primary age pupil places, 150 secondary age pupil places and 32 post-16 pupil places.

This notice is an extract of the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be viewed at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm>

Alternatively you can request a printed copy of the complete proposal from the address below or telephone 020 8545 3289.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, or make comment upon the proposals, by sending their representations to: Director of Children, Schools and Families (FAO: Tom Procter, Head of Contracts and School Organisation), London Borough of Merton, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, SM4 5DX or by emailing:

SchConsult@merton.gov.uk

A public meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Monday 12 March at Cricket Green School, Lower Green West, Mitcham, CR4 3AF.

Yvette Stanley
Director of Children, Schools and Families
London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre
London Road
Morden SM4 5DX

Date: 1 March 2018

Explanatory Notes

Cricket Green is a special school for children with additional complex and varied needs.

The London Borough of Merton aims to decide whether to approve the proposals in April 2018. If the Council fails to determine the proposals within two months of the end of the representation period it will pass all relevant material to the Schools Adjudicator who will determine the proposals .

Supplementary information

Description of alteration;

The proposal is to lower the age range of Cricket Green School from 4-19 years old to 3-19 years old and to increase the pupil capacity from 199 to 260 places, with the 260 places comprising of 8 FTE nursery, 70 primary age pupil places, 150 secondary age pupil places and 32 post-16 pupil places.

Evidence of demand

The council area has experienced a significant increase in the number of statements/EHCP (Education and Health Care Plans) over the past five years as illustrated by the table below.

Primary Need	Jan 2012 (Statements)		Jan 2017 (Statements and EHCPs)	
	No.	%	No.	%
ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder	221	24%	408	32%
MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty	180	19%	253	20%
SLCN - Speech, Language and Communications Needs	214	23%	252	20%
SEMH - Social, Emotional and Mental Health	100	11%	132	10%
SLD - Severe Learning Difficulty	90	10%	109	9%
PD - Physical Disability	33	4%	43	3%
VI - Visual Impairment	28	3%	19	2%
SPLD - Specific Learning Difficulty	32	3%	18	1%
HI - Hearing Impairment	17	2%	14	1%
PMLD - Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	5	1%	8	1%
OTH - Other Difficulty/Disability	8	1%	5	0%
No Primary Need recorded	0	0%	3	0%
Total	928	100%	1264	100%

There is also a significant increase in the secondary age population over the next five years, which is the age that more children are identified to attend Cricket Green.

The school is now full in most year groups and SEN case officers have not been able to place all children at the school that are suitable for Cricket Green School. In particular, demand for placements for 2018 has shown the need for year 7 places is not containable within two classes. There is also an identified need to assess nursery children with SEN early to ensure appropriate school pathways.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The overall objective is to provide sufficient good quality local school places for children with SEN. Cricket Green School is rated "Outstanding" by Ofsted and has received this judgement in three consecutive Ofsted inspections - in 2010, 2013 and 2017.

The school provides value for money in being considerably less expensive to provide education than non-maintained provision and so meets the objective to provide suitable, high quality places to meet the growing number of SEN children.

This will be enabled by a physical extension to the school through a new two storey building to the rear of the site and other changes to ensure the school is fit for purpose with the following objectives:

- Additional 61 places, mostly for secondary but also including providing an assessment nursery and ensuring one extra class in primary
- Replacing a life expired mobile unit currently housing 3 classrooms
- A design that externally links the flow of buildings, makes best use of external space, and allows children to move safely around the site.
- Sufficient ancillary space including enlarged hall and office space to reflect the school will have doubled in size from 130 to 260 pupils over the past 10 years

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The expansion of Cricket Green School is to meet a growing demand so will not reduce the intake of neighbouring schools. There is generally a high demand compared to supply of SEN places.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The total project cost of the capital project is circa £5 million and is being met by Merton Council, with some formulaic government capital grant support. As described above, long term value for money is being achieved as Cricket Green is less expensive to provide education than non-maintained provision, especially when transport costs are taken into account, and so the objective is to ensure suitable, high quality places are provided to meet the growing number of SEN children.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The official date for implementation of this proposal is September 2019, being the date that the main expansion building is programmed to be completed. However, the school is providing an extra class in April 2018 and further phases of the project will proceed in the autumn of 2019 and not be completed until spring 2020; the school will gradually expand to its new capacity as demand increases for sufficient extra classes.

A statement explaining the procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

Responses should be provided within four weeks of the publication date of this proposal so by Thursday 29 March 2018 by email to SchConsult@merton.gov.uk or by post to Director of Children, Schools and Families (FAO: Tom Procter, Head of Contracts and School Organisation), London Borough of Merton, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, SM4 5DX

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