

Consultation on a proposed alteration to The Vineyard Primary School

1. What's being proposed?

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (“the Council”) is proposing to establish a specialist resource provision (SRP) at The Vineyard Primary School, Friars Stile Road, Richmond, TW10 6NE, for up to 14 children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) who have Social Communication Needs including both Autism and Mild to Moderate Learning Difficulties as their main presenting special educational needs. The first intake of pupils into the SRP would be admitted in September 2023.

An SRP enables a small number of children and young people with EHCPs, for whom accessing mainstream education full-time would be inappropriate due to their needs, to be taught in a mainstream school, so that they can:

- be educated and maximise their potential within an overall mainstream educational setting; and
- have their teaching and learning needs met appropriately through the support of specialist teachers and teaching assistants who identify effective strategies and interventions so that the children make the best possible progress.

The children concerned would spend the majority of their time in the SRP, with access to mainstream lessons where that would be appropriate for them.

The proposal is being made in accordance with [Department for Education guidance](#).

2. How would the proposal be implemented?

The proposed SRP would build up its pupil numbers over four school years:

School year	Infant years	Junior years	Total
2023/2024	2	2	4
2024/2025	4	4	8
2025/2026	6	6	12
2026/2027	6	8	14

The intention is that there would be no more than two children per year-group in the proposed SRP.

This model would enable the school to establish the SRP gradually, so that its anticipated excellent practice can be consolidated before it reaches capacity.

Places in the proposed SRP would be allocated by Achieving for Children’s SEND Panel, on behalf of the Council. Achieving for Children (“AfC”) provides children’s services for the Council (and for the Royal Boroughs of Kingston upon Thames and Windsor and Maidenhead). All 14 places would be reserved for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or, rarely, who are undergoing assessment for an EHCP.

The places would be supernumerary, i.e. *in addition to* the school’s permanent capacity of 630, so there would be no decrease in the number of places available at the school through the mainstream admission application routes.

3. What is the school’s current capacity and how would it change?

The current permanent capacity of the school is 630, i.e. 90 per year-group.

As at the October 2021 pupil census, the roll numbers in the seven year-groups at the school were as follows:

Year-group	Number
Reception	86
Year 1	89
Year 2	89
Year 3	82
Year 4	81
Year 5	79
Year 6	91
Total	579

4. Why is the establishment of a specialist resource provision being proposed?

In spring 2017, AfC undertook a thorough [review of provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#) within Richmond Borough and Kingston Borough. One of the review’s key findings,

which were published in May 2017, was that the number of local places for children with SEND should be increased:

More local places for children with SEND should be established so that families have more choice and so that more children and young people can be educated in their community. This should include more places in mainstream provision (maintained and academy schools), more specialist resource provisions based in mainstream schools, and more special school places.¹

Of the 1,320 Richmond Borough children and young people with EHCPs in September 2018, 371 (28%) had a main presenting need of Autism; as at 27 December 2021, the number of children and young people with EHCPs has increased to 1,648, of which 587 (36%) have a main presenting need of Autism.

The proposal to establish a specialist resource provision at The Vineyard Primary would enable 14 children with Social Communication Needs including Autism and Mild to Moderate Learning Difficulties to be educated locally, at an outstanding primary school within their home community, rather than at an out-borough educational provision.

The proposal would also contribute towards fulfilling a condition of the Council's 'Safety Valve' revenue funding agreement with the Department for Education: to "Expand specialist provision to avoid placements in more expensive Non-Maintained Special Schools and independent special schools."

The Vineyard has sufficient space to accommodate the proposed SRP and is popular and successful:

- For September 2021 entry, the school received 293 applications for its 90 Reception places, including 98 first preferences.
- In June 2013, Ofsted rated The Vineyard Primary as 'outstanding' – the report is available [here](#).
- In the summer Key Stage 2 results in recent years, the school's performance in Reading, Writing and Mathematics has been significantly higher than the average within Richmond Borough and within England – information is available [here](#).

The revenue funding of the proposed SRP would enable the school to appoint a teacher-in-charge (as well as other specialist staff) who would be expected to lead training and promote best practice in inclusion across the school and to undertake some outreach work to other local schools and settings as required.

¹ [SEND Review](#), p.31

5. How would the proposal be funded?

The Council would fund the capital costs of design and build of new, purpose-built accommodation, by using some of its Department for Education 'High Needs Capital' grant. Planning permission would be required for the new build.

The revenue costs, i.e. per-pupil funding, would be met from the Council's Dedicated Schools' Grant 'High Needs Block' allocation.

6. What previous consultation has taken place on the proposal?

The school wrote to parents/carers of current pupils on 17 January 2022 to notify them of the proposal and inviting initial thoughts and questions.

7. How can representations on the proposal be made?

Please email your representation to Matthew Paul, Associate Director, School Place Planning, at: matthew.paul@achievingforchildren.org.uk

8. How long is the representation period and when does it start and end?

In accordance with [Department for Education guidance](#), the representation period will last for four weeks, starting on Friday 11 February 2022 and finishing on Friday 11 March 2022.

9. When and how will a decision be made in respect of the proposal?

At its meeting on 4 April 2022, the Council's Education and Children's Services Committee, acting in its role as 'local decision maker', will consider the proposal and the representations made, and will decide whether or not to approve it. If the Committee were to approve the proposal, it would then be legally binding, subject to planning permission for the requisite building works.

Appendix: Notice of Statutory proposal published in *Richmond and Twickenham Times* and on www.richmond.gov.uk on 11 February 2002.



Consultation on proposed alterations to The Vineyard Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames intends to make prescribed alterations to The Vineyard Primary School, Friars Stile Road, Richmond, TW10 6NE, from 1 September 2023.

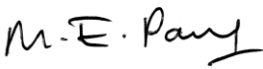
It is proposed that from the 2023/2024 school year a 'specialist resource provision' should be established at the school which would admit up to 14 children with Education and Health Care Plans who have Social Communication Needs including both Autism and Mild to Moderate Learning Difficulties as their main presenting special educational needs.

The current permanent capacity of the school is 630. The current number of pupils registered at the school (as at October 2021) is 597. The current admission number for all year-groups at the school is 90.

Children allocated places in the proposed specialist resource provision would be on the school's roll but would be supernumerary, i.e. they would be admitted *in addition to* the admission number of 90.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Matthew Paul, Associate Director, School Place Planning, matthew.paul@achievingforchildren.org.uk; or from www.richmond.gov.uk.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, no later than Friday 11th March 2022, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by emailing them to matthew.paul@achievingforchildren.org.uk.

Signed: 

Publication Date: 11 February 2022