



PHOENIX ARCH SCHOOL

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CONSULTATION REGARDING REDESIGNATION OF THE SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2020

Introduction / History

Phoenix Arch School, Drury Way, NW10 0NQ is a special school located in the south of the London Borough of Brent. It provides school places for primary age pupils between 4 -11.

The school was initially designated as a school for pupils with Social Emotional Behaviour Difficulties [SEBD] but falling numbers and a demand for ASD places meant that in 2012 the borough led on a re-designation of the school. This resulted in the school being re-designated to specialise for pupils with high functioning Autism and pupils with Social, Education, Mental Health needs [SEMH]. We maintained SEMH status for the transition period to enable our existing cohort to be accommodated within our community.

Demand for places for ASD pupils was high and our last cohort of SEMH pupils left in September 2016. The school developed the site further to provide sensory and therapy rooms to support pupils with ASD. This enabled us to offer 53 planned places for pupils with high functioning ASD.

The school offers the national curriculum to pupils who are able to access the national curriculum with specialist support. Pupils are unable to access education in a main stream environment because of the challenges it poses for pupils with Autism. As a result many of our pupils achieve age related expectations by the time they leave us in year six.

Proposal

The governors are seeking to preserve the character of the school and remove SEMH from our designation. This would mean we would be designated as an ASD provision only. The admission criteria would be amended to remove SEMH from our criteria. We are seeking this change to ensure our designation reflects the character of our school.

Who will be affected ?

Staff, pupils and families will not be affected. The local borough does have a small number of pupils who have SEMH as their primary need but makes alternative arrangements for these pupils. The school has not admitted any pupils with SEMH since 2016 and we would be unable to meet their needs as there is no suitable cohort or peer group.

Demand for places for pupils with ASD is high and we are unable to meet demand.

When will the proposed changes take place?

Statutory guidance states we must follow the consultation period. It is the council that then makes the decision in this matter. The changes will be made once the consultation has ended, the council has made a decision and any appeal time has ended.

Cost

There is no additional cost.

What changes need to happen?

We are seeking the removal of the designation SEMH only.

The school will maintain the character and continue to offer provision for pupils with ASD.

We would like to hear from you

The school is currently consulting with all interested parties including parents, carers and staff at the school, all schools in Brent, and local authorities of pupils attending the school.

The school would welcome your views on the proposed changes to maintain the character of the school. If you have any comments you would like to make on our proposed changes you can write to:

Email : phoenixarchconsultation@gmail.com

Survey monkey : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QHXMSJL>

Attend the on line meeting via Zoom on Friday 9th October 2020 at 10:00. Please email using the address above for the log in details

All written comments must be received by Friday 23 October 2020 at 4pm.

This document is available on our website: <http://www.phoenixarchschool.co.uk/>

Procedures for recognition

The governors are following statutory guidance from:

- Making significant changes [Prescribed Changes] in Maintained Schools 2018 [page 20, 28,29]

Consultees

Parents, carers, staff and governors at Phoenix Arch School.

All maintained schools and Academies in the London Borough of Brent

Westminster Diocesan Education Services

London Diocesan Board for Schools

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Harrow

Hertfordshire County Council

London Borough of Westminster

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Any Trade Union which represents staff at Phoenix Arch School.

24 September 2020