



Consultation on a proposal to establish Autism Resourced Provision for pupils with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Queensbridge Primary School

Consultation: 9 September – 7 October 2019

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What is this proposal about?

Hackney Learning Trust wants to know your views on a proposal to establish an Autism Resource Provision for pupils with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Queensbridge Primary School.

Over the last 5 years, the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Hackney has increased significantly (by 36%), with an average annual growth of 6.1%.¹

The most common category of need within this increasing group of pupils are those defined as having an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), i.e. difficulty with social communication, flexible thinking and understanding and regulating emotions.

Overall, pupils with ASD make up 30% of all EHCPs in the borough and our projections indicate that we will continue to see more pupils with this need in the future due to an increasing number of requests for EHCPs and advancements in the diagnosis of ASD.

ASD Provision in Hackney

Hackney has one dedicated ASD special school – The Garden School which provides 150 places for pupils aged 4-16 years with ASD and severe learning difficulties. Three ARPs are located within mainstream primary schools (Shoreditch Park Primary School, Tyssen Primary School and Millfields Primary School), providing a total of 30 places.

Demand for places at schools with ARPs has been consistently high for several years. At Hackney Learning Trust's ARP allocations panel in February 2018, there were four times as many applications than available places. In September 2018, there were 20 applications for places but only 5 places available. For places in September 2019, there are currently 17 applications with only 9 places available.

Given the increasing demand for ARP places and the limited number of places currently available, there is a clear need to create more places within mainstream schools particularly as many parents of children with ASD, generally prefer their child attends a mainstream setting rather than a special school.

Our Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy seeks to ensure that there are suitable school places for all children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and that the provision available is of high quality. This proposal therefore seeks to create 10 additional ARP places for pupils with Autism at Queensbridge School from 2020.

Queensbridge School

Queensbridge is an outstanding 2 form entry (FE) community primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years. The school has places for 420 pupils and currently has 29 children with Education & Health Care Plans (EHCPs). The school has extensive experience of educating pupils with autism and currently has 17 pupils with diagnosis of an autistic spectrum disorder.

Pupils attending Queensbridge with a diagnosis of autism benefit from having access to a bespoke curriculum which addresses the core challenges of pupils with autism. The school has experienced and well trained staff with experience of specialist pedagogical and assessment strategies such as TEACCH, PECS and SCERTS (Social-Communication, Emotional Regulation, and Transactional Support). Queensbridge is therefore considered to be appropriate school for a new ARP.

The school will be able to draw upon the extensive experience of the 3 existing ARPs in the

¹ Source: MISA SEND Data Booklet 2018 based on the Schools Census returns data from DfE

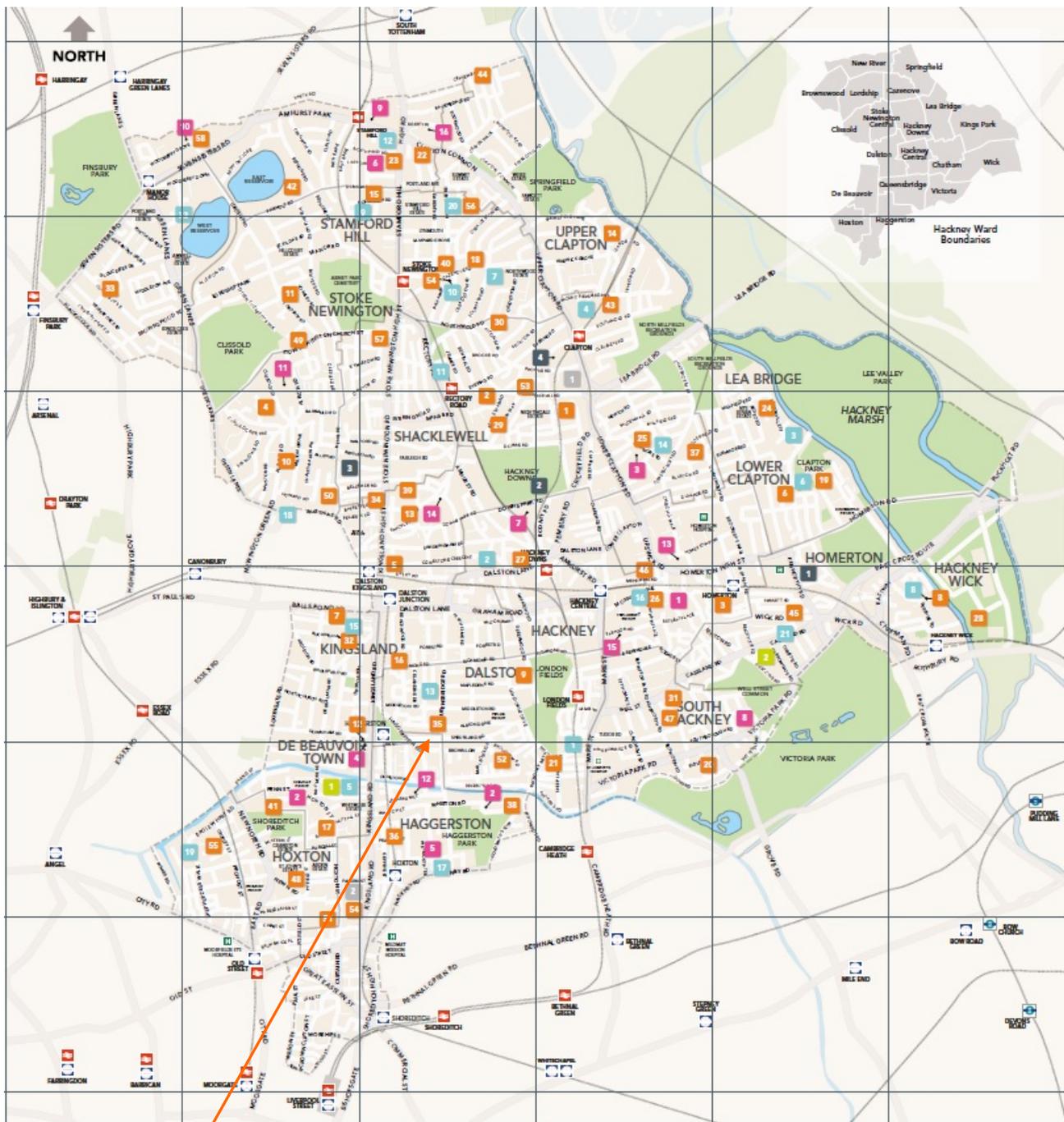
borough, and will, over time provide advice, training and examples of good practice to other schools with ASD pupils on roll.

Admission to the ARP

10 places (across Years 1 to 6), will be available for pupils with EHCPs with a diagnosis of ASD. Admission to the ARP will be made via Hackney Learning Trusts' well established ARP Forum. The ARP places will be included within the school's Published Admissions Number (PAN) in the same way that admissions of all pupils with EHCPs are included in the school's PAN.

Location

The ARP will be situated at Queensbridge Primary School (ground floor of the Annex), Queensbridge Rd, London E8 3ND.



Queensbridge Primary School

Next steps and proposed timetable for the proposal

This stage of the consultation starts on **Monday 9 September 2019** and will close on **Monday 7 October 2019**.

Drop-in sessions (an opportunity to speak individually to officers from Hackney Learning Trust), will be held at Queensbridge School at the following times:

- Monday 16 September at 5.30-7pm
- Monday 23 September 9:30-10.30

A drop-in session for staff will be held on 16 September 4:30- 5:30

Parents/carers and staff can arrive at any time within the hours advertised and speak individually to Hackney Learning Trust staff and complete response forms.

All responses will be considered after the end of the consultation period ends on **Monday 7 October 2019**.

The statutory timeline for the proposal is outlined below:

Activity	Date
Pre-statutory consultation period	Monday 9 September 2019 – Monday 7 October 2019.
Drop-in sessions for parents/community	Monday 16 September at 5.30-7pm Monday 23 September 9:30-10.30
Staff drop-in session	Monday 16 September 4:30- 5:30
<i>Late October 2019 - Hackney Learning Trust considers the responses to the consultation and decides whether or not to publish a statutory notice.</i>	
Statutory Stage 1 Publication of Statutory Notice	November 2019
Statutory Stage 2 Representation period	4 weeks following publication of the statutory notice
Statutory Stage 3 Hackney Learning Trust makes a decision on the proposal	January 2020
Statutory Stage 4 Implementation	By September 2020

The above timetable is subject to change.

Your opinion

This is your opportunity to let us know what you think about the proposal to create an ARP at Queensbridge School during the pre-statutory consultation period.

You can let us know your views by completing the response form online by visiting:

<https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/content/consultations>

If you have questions regarding this proposal, please email Samantha.george@learningtrust.co.uk

This response for is being sent electronically to:

Parents/carers of pupils at Queensbridge School

Queensbridge School Governors and Staff

All Hackney Schools

Hackney Councillors and MPs

Neighbouring LAs

Trade Unions

Church Dioceses

Interlink network for the Jewish Community

Primary Care Trust /CAHMS

SEND Organisations