



Consultation: Proposed Expansion of Riverside School

- 📁 **Organisation and Management**
 - ⇒ Administration and Management
 - ⇒ School Organisation

Audience: See overleaf

Action required: The audience is invited to respond to this consultation.

Timing: The deadline for responses is Friday 20 July 2012.

Also sent to: See overleaf

Type: Consultation

Description: Bromley Council is consulting on its proposal to expand Riverside School by one form of entry at the St Paul's Cray site, admitting 8 additional children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder to Year 7 each year.

Relates to: N/A

Date Issued: 11 June 2012

Contact: Kevin Gerred, Partnerships and Planning Officer, Education and Care Services
Tel: 020 8313 4088 (Customer Services Centre)
Email: riverside.consultation@bromley.gov.uk

For reader's use:

Audience: Head Teachers of Bromley Maintained Schools/Academies, Kingswood and Phoenix
Michael Wheeler, Principal, Bromley Adult Education College
Principal, Bromley College of Further and Higher Education
All Chairs of Governors of Bromley Maintained Schools/Academies
All Independent Schools
All Bromley Council Chief Officers
All Council Members and Co-opted Members of the Council
Principal, Bromley Youth Music Trust
Neighbouring Authorities: (Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley, Southwark, Lambeth, Croydon, Surrey, Kent, Sutton)
Children and Young People Partnership Board Members
Chair, Bromley Schools' Forum
Chair, Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership Executive, Parklands Nursery
Chair of Pre-School Learning Alliance
Chair of Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum
Chief Executive, Community Links
Chief Operating Officer, Bromley Primary Care Trust
Chief Executive, Bromley Mytime
RC and Anglican Diocesan Bodies
Metropolitan Police Borough Commander (Bromley)
Bromley Fire Station
Bromley Health Care (Janet Ettridge)
NHS Bromley – Business Support Unit (Angela Bahn)
NHS Bromley – Public Health (Nada Lemic)
NHS Bromley – Public Health (Jenny Selway)
NHS Bromley – Partnerships (Yee Cho)
Bromley MENCAP
Burgess Autistic Trust
Dyslexia Association of Bromley
Attention Deficit Hyper-Activity Disorder Support Group
Bromley Cerebral Palsy Group for Children
Bromley Association of People with Disabilities (BATH)
Carers Bromley
Bromley Parent Partnership Service
Bromley Family Link
Family Link
Advocacy for All
Bromley Welcare
Bromley MIND Day Centre (Beckenham)
Bromley MIND, Head Office
Ethnic Communities Project
Bromley Parent Voice

Note: A separate letter has been sent to the Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors of Riverside School (St Paul's Cray and Beckenham Sites)

Also sent to: Secretaries of Staff Associations
Councillor Stephen Wells, Executive Member for the Education Portfolio
Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, Children's Champion
Councillor Robert Evans, Executive Member for the Care Services Portfolio
Councillor Stephen Carr, Leader of the Council
Doug Patterson, Chief Executive
Kay Weiss, Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) (ECS)
Bob Garnett, Interim Assistant Director (Education) (ECS)
ECS Management Forum
Anne Watts, Assistant Director (Strategic and Business Support Services) (ECS)
Lorna Blackwood, Assistant Director (Commissioning) (ECS)
David Bradshaw, Interim Head of ECS Finance (ECS)
Angela Huggett, Human Resources Manager (CEX)
Customer Services, Bromley Council (cscteamleaders@bromley.gov.uk)
Gill Drury (ECS)
Val Haskey (ECS)
Tony Harty, Special Educational Needs Operations Manager (ECS)
Christine Predeth, Principal Assessment, Review and Placement Officer (ECS)
Maya Vadgama, SEN Transport Manager (ECS)
Susie Clark (CEX)



Consultation: Proposed Expansion of Riverside School

This circular outlines the case for the expansion of Riverside School and how you can respond to the consultation. **The deadline for responses is Friday, 20 July 2012.**

Our Proposal

To expand Riverside School by one form of entry at the St Paul's Cray site, admitting 8 additional children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder to Year 7 each year.

Our Reasons

Why we Need this Additional Provision?

There is an increasing need for additional, in-borough provision for secondary aged pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We believe that as many of our children with special educational needs as possible should be educated within our special needs provision in Bromley and too many children with autism are currently placed outside the borough.

The number of children now diagnosed with ASD is growing, resulting in a projected shortfall of specialist ASD places by 2021 of 120 11-16 year olds and 36 post 16 places. If no action to increase maintained in-Borough provision is taken, these additional 156 places would need to be commissioned from the independent sector at a higher unit cost. It is a statutory requirement to provide these places.

Currently there are 30 children of secondary age with ASD who are placed in non-maintained day settings at an average cost of £35k per annum compared to the cost of a day place at Riverside of £21k p.a. Some of the children with severe and profound ASD are in very expensive independent placements costing circa £200k p.a. The cost is a concern because it diverts money away from improving schools in Bromley. However, we are also very concerned about the long journeys some children have to get to school and the difficulty of monitoring the quality of this provision.

Why Riverside?

We do not think it is a sensible use of resources to set up a completely separate school for 52 children.

Riverside School already caters for a large number of children with autism and has developed a considerable level of expertise in this field. The proposed secondary provision would meet the needs of learners with severe and profound ASD who will access the lower P level curriculum offered there. This will be building on the success of the primary ASD unit at Riverside Beckenham and will offer an in-Borough maintained setting to continue those children's ASD specific offer into the secondary phase.

The Head Teacher and Governors have expressed an interest in working with us to develop this provision into a centre of excellence for autism which will also support other schools and units in the borough.

The Council has allocated £1.2 million of capital funding to provide the required additional accommodation at Riverside School.

Timescale

We propose to open the additional provision on the St Paul's Cray site from September 2013, admitting 8 year 7 pupils.

As an additional 8 children will require a specialist secondary ASD placement in the 2012/13 academic year a spare classroom has been identified at the Riverside Beckenham site from September 2012 to accommodate these pupils until there is a decision on the permanent expansion of the St Paul's Cray site. If the proposal is agreed, these pupils will transfer to the St Paul's Cray site for September 2013.

The number of places for post-16 pupils will also increase by 12 in order to accommodate some of the additional pupils within the school for their post-16 education. By 2018/19 the expansion of the school would be providing education for a total of 40 additional secondary age pupils (11-16 years old) and 12 post-16 pupils (17-19 years old); therefore expanding Riverside school by a total of 52 places, from 200 to 252.

How to Respond

We would welcome your views and comments on our proposal. The outcomes from consultation will be reported to the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on 11 September 2012 – this is a public meeting which starts at 7 pm. If approved, the increase in school places would be effective from September 2013.

You can respond to this consultation in the following ways:

- Complete the attached form (**Appendix 1**) and return to Bromley Council (quoting Freepost MB1140)



Appendix 1.doc

- Write directly to Kevin Gerred at Bromley Council, BR1 3UH (quoting Freepost MB1140)
- Email Bromley Council at: riverside.consultation@bromley.gov.uk

When responding please give your name and address and clarify in what capacity you are responding, e.g. Head Teacher – this will help with the analysis of responses.

While all responses will be acknowledged, it will not be possible for us to enter into correspondence with individual respondents. However, Bromley Council's website will be updated with information as the consultation progresses.

Views and comments received will be summarised in the consultation outcomes report to the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on 11 September 2012. This will be available to view on the Council's website a week before the meeting. Information provided in response to this consultation will be published in accordance with access to information regimes including the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We look forward to receiving your views and comments. The closing date for receipt of responses is **Friday, 20 July 2012.**

To help publicise this consultation, it would be very helpful if all schools could display the poster at **Appendix 2** on their Notice Boards. Special schools and schools with units are additionally asked to publicise the consultation in their Newsletters and/or school websites.



Appendix 2.doc