

Proposal to expand The Village School through inclusion of The Hope Centre



What is being proposed?

The Village School currently has official capacity for 277 pupils across three sites (the main site on Grove Park, the provision at Kingsbury High School, and provision at the College of North West London).

In 2018, The Village School established an additional 21 places located at The Hope Centre (known as Hope Village). This was a temporary expansion to ensure that Brent Council was able to provide sufficient places for local children. The proposal is to make these additional 21 places a longer term part of The Village School. This would mean that The Village School had capacity for 298 pupils located on four sites.

Why is this being proposed?

Demand for special school places in Brent is increasing. In recent years Manor, The Village and Woodfield have all expanded (adding 130 places), and a new all-age special school (The Avenue) is being established to provide 100 additional places for pupils with autism and complex needs. However, demand continues to exceed this increasing supply of places.

To provide additional places, in 2018 Brent Council refurbished The Hope Centre (434 Church Lane, London NW9 8BD) and asked The Village to provide 21 additional places at that site. Hope Village has accommodated pupils and the associated staff since September 2018. All 21 places have been filled.

To make The Hope Centre a longer term part of The Village School we are required to apply to the Department for Education to include the 21 places within the official capacity of The Village School. We are required to undertake consultation about the proposal before we can submit the application. This is a consultation about whether the temporary expansion provided at The Hope Centre should become a longer term part of The Village School.

Note: There is a separate consultation being undertaken about expanding Woodfield School to provide additional places in September 2019 and potentially further additional places in September 2020 or later. The two consultations are separate.

What are the implications?

If the proposal is approved then:

- The Village School expands from 277 places to 298 places;
- The Hope Centre becomes a longer term part of The Village School;
- The pupils at The Hope Centre would continue their education at The Village School until 16 or 18 as appropriate; and
- There are no implications for the other sites operated by The Village School.

Expansion would not change the timings of the school day or the school year. The school uniform would not change. There would be no change to the culture and ethos of the school.

If the proposal is not approved then the pupils based at The Hope Centre would continue their education at The Village School until 16 or 18 as appropriate, but as those pupils reach Year 7 and transfer to other sites within The Village School the number of Year 7 places available for pupils transferring from other schools would be reduced accordingly.

The school has no reason to believe that the proposal would not be approved by the DfE.

What is the timeframe? What happens next?

The pupils at The Hope Centre would continue to be educated at The Village School.

Responses to this consultation will be considered by the Board of Trustees and, assuming the Board wishes to proceed, the application would be submitted to the Department for Education before the summer holidays. We anticipate that they would make their decision during the autumn term. The legal paperwork would then be completed as swiftly as possible.

How to have your say

To have your say please:

- Email tex@compasslp.co.uk and provide your views; we are particularly interested in what you perceive to be the advantages of the proposals and any concerns that you have about the proposal; and / or
- Attend the meeting for parents at **5:30pm on Tuesday 11th June 2019** at Hope Village.

The consultation ends on Tuesday 2nd July 2019. Please have your say before then. All responses will be considered.