



THE GARDEN

The Garden School consultation on a proposal to expand the school and establish post 16 provision for pupils with Autism and Severe Learning Difficulties from September 2021

Consultation: 7 February – 5 March 2020

Consultation on a proposal to expand The Garden School and to establish specialist post 16 provision for pupils with Autism and Severe Learning difficulties (SLD).

What is this proposal about?

Hackney Learning Trust wants to know your views on a proposal to make changes to The Garden School in Hackney. The proposed changes will involve:

- expanding the school to create 21 new places for post 16 pupils (Key Stage 5), with Autism and Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD). If the proposal is agreed, these pupils will be educated on a new site on Ickburgh Road E5 8AD.
- providing an additional 29 places, for pupils aged 14-16 years (Key Stage 4). These additional places will be filled on a staggered basis. If the proposal is agreed, Key Stage 4 pupils will re-locate from the current site at Wordsworth Road N16 8BZ, to Ickburgh Road E5 8AD.

The increasing rate of Autism

Over recent years, Hackney has seen an increase in the number of pupils and young people with Autism as evidenced by census data and a significant increase in Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) with a primary need of Autism. We have also seen requests for post 16 places grow each year due to the raised age of participation following Special Educational Needs reforms in 2014. This rise in the number of pupils/learners with Autism has created a gap in the number of local specialist post 16 places for pupils with Autism.

This proposal seeks views from interested parents/carers and stakeholders on a proposal to develop specialist post 16 provision at The Garden School, and to increase the overall number of key stage 4 places, from September 2021. This proposal will expand Hackney's current SEND provision; ensuring that suitable, high quality, local provision is available for all pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The Garden School

The Garden School is the only dedicated special school in Hackney for pupils aged 4-16 with Autism and Severe Learning Difficulties. The school has an excellent track record as an Autism-specific provider able to offer a highly focussed environment tailored to meet the needs of pupils/learners with Autism. An Ofsted inspection in 2018 rated the school as outstanding, commenting that *'All staff are committed to providing a very high-quality education which fully meets the needs of the pupils who attend'*¹. The school currently provides 150 places.

Expansion of the school to include post 16 places

In Hackney, Autism is by far the most prevalent need identified for pupils/learners aged 9 to age 20 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Although the borough provides a range of post 16 provision offers via various courses that focus on academic achievement, independence skills and preparation for adulthood, there is no dedicated and comprehensive setting for this age group of learners in Hackney.

This proposal aims to identify appropriate pathways for post 16 learners with Autism into employment and supported employment, enhancing the local offer for learners with higher levels of need which will provide alternative and potentially more suitable post 16 study options and work-related learning opportunities.

The Garden School has been identified as an appropriate setting to expand due to the skill and experience acquired over many years in successfully educating pupils/learners with Autism and SLD. The new post 16 provision will act as a hub of expertise across Hackney with an Assistant Headteacher overseeing the academic, social, and personal progress of learners.

¹ Ofsted Short Inspection report 2018 <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/2751177>

The post 16 curriculum

The curriculum will be based on 'transitions' from school to adulthood, with particular focus on accessing community and independent living skills, practical life skills, functional day to day skills and a focus on leisure, recreation and sport opportunities. Learners will also benefit from increased links to and direct engagement with the world of work. The aim of creating a post 16 element at The Garden School is to further equip young people with the skills to better manage their progress into adulthood and prospects beyond school.

Admissions

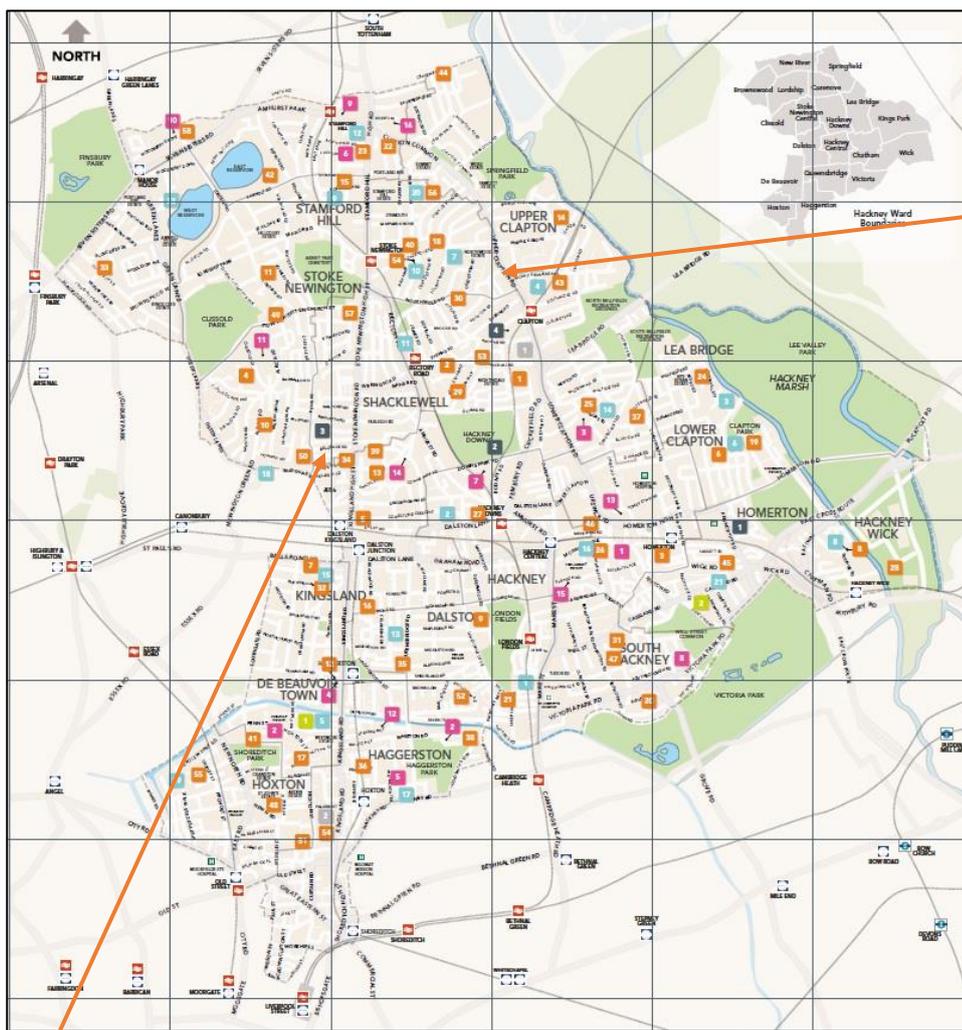
Admission to The Garden School will remain unchanged - the school must be named on a pupil's/learner's Education and Health Care Plan in accordance with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

Learners on roll at the end of KS4 wishing to transfer to the Post 16 provision will participate in an annual review and where appropriate, remain on roll. Post 16 places are expected to be filled year on year as learners reach year 11 and beyond.

Location

The proposed site for Key stage 4 and post 16 learners is the former Ickburgh School site on Ickburgh Road, E5 8AD.

If agreed, The Garden School will expand from 150 to 200 places and operate on two sites; the current site on Wordsworth Road, N16 and Ickburgh Road, E5 8AD.



Ickburgh Road, E5 8AD proposed split site location).

Location of The Garden School, Wordsworth Road N16 8BZ

Next steps and proposed timetable for the proposal

This stage of the consultation starts on 7 February and will close on 5 March 2020.

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

- Friday, 7th February 2020, 5:00 – 6:30pm
- Thursday, 13th February 2020, 9:15 – 10.15am
- Friday, 14th February 2020, 5:00 – 6:30pm

A drop-in session for staff will be held on Friday, 7th February 2020, 4:00 – 5:00pm.

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

All responses will be considered after the end of the consultation period.

The statutory timeline for the proposal is outlined below:

Activity	Date
Pre-statutory consultation period	7 February – 5 March 2020
Drop-in sessions for parents/community at The Garden School, Wordsworth Road N16 8BZ	Friday, 7 th February 2020, 5:00–6:30pm Thursday, 13th February 2020, 9:15–10.15am Friday, 14th February 2020, 5:00–6:30pm
Staff drop-in session at The Garden School	Friday, 7 th February 2020, 4:00–5:00pm
<i>3 April 2020: 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	23 April 2020
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	12 June 2020
Statutory Stage 4 Implementation	By September 2021

The above timetable is subject to change.

Your opinion

This is your opportunity to let us know what you think about the proposal to expand The Garden School and provide new post 16 provision, 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 schoolplaceplanning@learningtrust.co.uk

This response form is being sent electronically to:

Parents/carers of pupils at The Garden School
The Garden School Governors and Staff
All Hackney Schools
Hackney Councillors and MPs
Neighbouring LAs
Trade Unions
Church Dioceses
Interlink network for the Jewish Community
CAHMS
SEND Organisations