



HARROW LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHALLENGE FOR ALL. ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL



Partnership Learning

Consultation on the proposed establishment
of a Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
Unit for young people with Communication &
Interaction Needs

Consultation on the proposed establishment of a Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) unit at Harrow Lodge Primary School for pupils with Communication & Interaction (C&I) needs

Introduction

The corporate plan for Havering 'The Havering you want to be part of', includes the priority to offer inclusive services that raise aspiration and meet the needs of our growing population of children, families, and young adults, including those in our care.

Havering's Draft SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy emphasises the local authority's vision to ensure children, young people, and families have access to the same level of high-quality support and education, wherever they live in Havering. That children and young people with SEND can access the help and support they need to thrive and achieve within their local communities, that they can go to local education provision that meets their needs, access services and play an active role in the community close to where they live.

While there are a number of schools operating a Communication & Interaction SEND unit, additional primary C&I SEND units are required in order to meet the growing number of primary school aged pupils with C&I needs.

A new Communication & Interaction SEND unit at Harrow Lodge Primary School will help meet key objectives from both the corporate and education visions for Havering.

Background

Havering's Children and Young People Education Place Planning Plan states that a key planning guideline for SEND and Alternative Provision is for Havering to deliver additional SEND places by implementing new schools and new SEND units.

Our SEND projections show that we expect the number of primary school pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to increase.

We expect the number of children and young people with C&I to increase from 1438 in 2023/24 to 2073 in 2027/28.

Rationale for the Harrow Lodge Primary SEND Unit

The Council's SEND projections show that they expect the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to increase over the next five years as shown in the table below:

Academic year	Cognition and Learning	Communication and Interaction	SEMH	Physical and/or Sensory	Totals
2023/2024	603	1438	464	246	2751
2024/2025	668	1611	517	274	3070
2025/2026	722	1770	561	298	3351
2026/2027	781	1938	610	323	3652
2027/2028	842	2073	662	344	3921

There are currently five primary SEND Units totalling 77 places, catering to the need of C&I. Given the increasing numbers of C&I pupils there is a need for additional primary SEND units to support these children within a mainstream school setting whilst receiving support from a specialist unit so that they can receive the best educational offer possible.

The proposal

Harrow Lodge Primary School is proposing to establish a SEND Unit for 12 pupils with C&I needs to be implemented in September 2026, if approved.

Harrow Lodge Primary School is an outstanding primary school with 450 places in years R to Year 6 including a bulge class in Yr 4. The school caters for children with an age range of 4-11 years and is considered by the Local Authority as the most appropriate location for a SEND unit to be sited.

The SEND unit at Harrow Lodge Primary School will meet the needs of pupils with an EHCP with C&I needs which are not severe enough to require a place at a special school but who will require spending significant proportions of their time in the SEND unit. The proposed SEND unit will enable these pupils to have their additional needs met while accessing education at a primary school through a flexible approach tailored and adapted to their needs.

The establishment of a SEND unit at Harrow Lodge will build on the good education already being delivered at this school and will further enhance the education offer the school provides to the community. Partnership Learning operate several schools with SEND units catering to a variety of needs, including a 180 place Special School located within Barking & Dagenham. We are confident that this relationship will grow to support a wider range of young people with Communication and Interaction needs.

The new facility will enable young people with C&I needs to have their needs met through a flexible approach, tailored and adapted to the needs of each individual pupil. It will be for pupils who will require specialist support to enable them the access a mainstream primary

curriculum. It is proposed that the children will split their time between the mainstream school and having bespoke support within the Unit. The SEND Unit will be staffed by a team of support staff with knowledge and experience of working with young people with C&I, led by qualified teaching staff with recognised additional qualifications. The purpose of the unit will be to support these children to achieve their academic potential, attending a mainstream primary school whilst receiving specialist support from the SEND Unit.

What will be the impact of the new facility on other pupils in the school?

It is not envisaged that the new unit will impact negatively on other pupils in the school. The impact is expected to have a positive effect in that having pupils with C&I in the school will provide opportunities for other pupils to see these pupils as valuable members of the school community and society as a whole. Opportunities can be provided for pupils to understand, learn and contribute to the support for pupils who have C&I needs. Exposure and having greater awareness will enhance the pupils understanding and can be transferred to all areas of their lives.

Admission and Pupil Numbers

Admissions to the SEND unit will follow a different procedure from that operating for the rest of the school. Admissions into the SEND unit will be through the Havering SEND EHC panel process. This will not impact on pupils who are in the mainstream setting at the school.

Pupils attending the SEND unit would be in addition to the mainstream Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 60. There would be 12 planned places in the SEND unit increasing the total number of places from 450 pupils to 462.

Funding

SEND units in Havering will be normally funded in accordance with a Place Led Funding approach that complies with the Government's SEND Funding Reforms which came into effect in April 2018.

For each place in the SEND unit, Harrow Lodge Primary will receive £22,194. This is made up of £10,000 'place funding' and £12,194 (2024/25 rate) 'top-up funding'.

Building works

The build proposal is for a stand-alone, single storey unit but in proximity to the mainstream setting so that the children can access the facilities of the school. The unit will comprise of 2 large group rooms, 2 activity rooms (a sensory/soft play room and a speech therapy room), toilets and a communal area should children choose to remain in the unit for lunch, break times and/or for collective teaching / playing (Heart Space). All teaching spaces have their own store. In the circulation area there is a retreat/sheltered space created in a niche. Staff will have a room and dedicated toilets. Pupil toilets, accessible toilet and accessible shower/toilet are provided.

The external areas will be landscaped to cater for the needs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) children, who will be provided with external spaces to play in a peaceful and green atmosphere. Canopies will shelter the playground and the SEND Unit entrance. The Heart Space will be linked with a path to the sensory garden and additional paths will be created to access the new SEND Unit facilities from the outside and the inside of the School building.

What happens next?

The consultation is an opportunity for interested parties and stakeholders to express views and ask questions on the principle of establishing the SEND Unit for children with C&I needs at Harrow Lodge Primary during the consultation period.

The consultation period starts on **Friday 10 January 2025** and will close on **Friday 07 February 2025**.

Harrow Lodge Primary is part of Partnership Learning Academy Trust, so will have to follow the process for making significant changes to an academy; as the local authority is not the decision maker for academy organisational changes. The final decision as to whether this proposal is approved for implementation will be made by the Department for Education.

The process for making significant changes to academies can be viewed in more detail here:

[Making significant changes to an academy: October 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Key Milestones	Date
Consultation Period	10/01/2025 – 07/02/2025
Parent/Stakeholder Consultation meeting	27/01/2025
Submission of application form to the DfE	April 2025
Decision	Summer 2025
Implementation	September 2026

Have your say...

You can state whether you support this proposal or not by completing the consultation questionnaire via the following link:

<https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/education/harrow-lodge-primary-school>

A Parents' consultation meeting on the proposal will be held at the School on **Monday 27th January 2025 at 6:00 pm**

If you have any other questions regarding this proposal, please email:

searle@harrowlodgeprimary.com

This consultation document is being sent electronically to all parents/carers, governors, school teachers and support staff who work at Harrow Lodge Primary School and the governing board & trustees of Partnership Learning Academy Trust.

Electronic copies are also being sent to all Havering primary, secondary and special schools, Havering Council, ward members, MPs, Church Dioceses, all Early Years and Childcare providers, community groups, unions and other stakeholders.

The document will also be available on Havering and Harrow Lodge Primary School's websites throughout the consultation period.