



Department
for Education

London Borough of Newham Special Free School

**Seeking proposals to establish a
Special Free School**

Newham

February 2019

SECTION ONE: OVERVIEW

1. Summary

The Department for Education (DfE) is working collaboratively with selected Local Authorities to establish new schools that fit within the local authorities' strategies for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those requiring alternative provision. This opportunity is intended to identify and meet untapped demand for special and alternative provision free schools as a supplement to LAs' existing resources. If a strong proposal is received by a trust that both the Local Authority and the Secretary of State wish to take forward, DfE will provide capital funding and start-up grants subject to value for money assessments.

This document sets out the key information regarding the school that Newham will be establishing alongside DfE. Trusts should use the information within this document, alongside the engagement events, to determine whether they would like to apply to open the school, and to base their application on.

2. Key dates

24 July 2018	Special and AP free schools wave is launched – the guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools is published.
11 March 2019	Announcement of successful LA bids. Competitions in successful areas subsequently open.
14 May 2019	Engagement Event for proposers. To be held 1pm 14 May 2019 at Stratford Library with opportunity to visit site. Please contact Manjit Bains manjit.bains@newham.gov.uk
12 noon 30 September 2019	Deadline for proposers to submit applications in successful areas.
tbc	Newham LA and DfE to evaluate submitted applications and interview trusts
tbc	Approved applications announced.

3. Contact details and further information

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss your application, please contact:

Name: Peter Gibb
Job title: Head of Access and Infrastructure – Education and Skills
Email: Peter.Gibb@newham.gov.uk
Tel: 020 3373 3144

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss the site, please contact:

Name: Zoe Power
Job title: Head of Projects & Programmes
Email: Zoe.Power@oneSource.co.uk
Tel: 020 3373 7263

Please find below the contact details of the Regional Schools Commissioner:

RSC: Sue Baldwin CB
RSC's office: East of England and North-East London
Email: rsc.eastnelondon@education.gov.uk

4. Newham Context and Planning

Please include here details of why the local authority is running this competition and requires this school. Should this be a joint bid, please explain how the local authorities will work together and how other local authorities are involved in commissioning places

In Newham, most children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) have their needs met in mainstream provision. Newham has a strong legacy and commitment towards inclusion and this will continue. Currently there are two special schools in Newham and 25 specialist resourced provisions within mainstream settings. Around 90% of high needs funded pupils with autism attend mainstream schools, including resourced provision. Newham currently only has one special school for learners with ASD, the John F Kennedy Special School, offering approximately 40 places. The high levels of need for some children and young people require even more support and expertise than there is currently available for within the borough.

A new school is necessary to meet the growing demand for autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) specialist places. Newham is seeing an increase in demand for ASD provision, and has had difficulty in finding suitable placements especially for the Year 6 to Year 7 transfer. Currently there is insufficient provision for pupils with ASD needs within the borough. Temporary arrangements are being made for additional ASD places at the John F Kennedy School (JFK) on a separate annexe to ensure sufficient provision is available. There is a need for specialist school provision together with further provision within mainstream settings.

The high levels of inclusion that Newham is well known for will be maintained. For September 2018, 34 additional places within resourced provision were created increasing to 105 places in the next two to three years. Of these 79 places are those for children and young people with ASD. Further specialist provision in this area for those with highest levels of complex ASD needs is required.

The new school will be a centre of excellence supporting the needs of all schools in Newham. The opportunity to work in partnership with mainstream, resourced provision and special schools alike would make this new school a beacon for good practice and expertise across Newham. The school will play a role in driving up standards for SEND across Newham, with a greater concentration of specialist staff than is possible in other provision.

SECTION TWO: THE SCHOOL

The tables below list key details of the school proposed. Your application must be for a school that has these key characteristics. Please note you only need to complete the relevant table depending on the type of school.

Type of school	Special
Area of SEN provided for (please detail designation alongside additional information known about the cohort's needs and abilities)	Autistic Spectrum Disorder/Condition
Which local authorities are committed to commissioning places?	Newham
How many places have been commissioned and by which local authority?	105 by Newham
Per-pupil revenue funding the local authority would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain and detail the rates per pupil, including estimates for how many of the cohort will be in each band)	Place led funding of £10,000 per pupil will be available. Top-up funding per place in the region of £22k and additional costs based on the additional needs of the pupil. The amounts will be subject to review by Schools Forum.
Age range	5 to 19
Gender (Boys/Girls/Co-educational)	Co-educational
Total number of proposed full time equivalent places (once school is at full capacity – this should include 16-19 places but not nursery)	105
Type of placements offered (e.g. full time, short term, part time)	Full time
Number of nursery places, if applicable	0
Number of 16-19 places, if applicable	18 places to be delivered through integration in mainstream schools and post-16 providers.

Any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)

Newham is a highly inclusive local authority with around 90% of high needs funded pupils being in mainstream schools or resourced provision. 13 mainstream schools have ASD resource provisions currently offering 196 places and in 2017/18 there were some 854 funded pupils on roll within resourced provision and mainstream settings.

To ensure inclusivity in mainstream settings, it is important the new school has a vision to provide outreach support, reintegration and training to support learners by way of specialist provision with behaviour strategies, regular assessments, speech and language therapies, transition and support to ensure each learner's needs are met. This inclusive approach to a special school would include pupils from mainstream schools and resourced provision attending for short periods of time for specialist support and being reintegrated to mainstream settings. As a centre of excellence the new school will lead on delivering expertise and sharing knowledge with existing schools and providers to ensure best practise for learners with ASD.

Within the competition process we are seeking examples of how a comprehensive outreach programme, reintegration and training models can be implemented by the new school. It is anticipated that additional funding from the high needs block can be made available to support this.

Type of school	Alternative Provision
Purpose(s) of placement (e.g. reintegration/long term provision) and needs of children (please include local context and needs of pupils within expected cohort)	N/A
How many places have been commissioned by the local authority(ies) and how many by other commissioning models? (Please provide a full breakdown of places)	N/A
Per-pupil revenue funding the local authority/other commissioners would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain and detail the rates per pupil, including estimates for how many of the cohort will be in each band)	N/A
Age range	N/A
Gender (Boys/Girls/Co-educational)	N/A
Total number of proposed full time equivalent places (once school is at full capacity this should include 16-19 places but not include nursery)	N/A
Type of placements offered (e.g. full time, short term, part time)	N/A
Number of nursery places, if applicable	N/A
Number of 16-19 places, if applicable (please detail should the funding differ for 16-19 places)	N/A
Any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)	N/A

The table below details the number of places that the local authority proposes for each year group at the point of opening until the school is full. (This may be subject to review based on changing needs within Newham).

	Year of opening	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
Nursery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reception	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Key stage 1 (Y1-2)	3	4	6	6	6	6	6
Key stage 2 (Y3-6)	10	13	14	17	17	17	17
Key stage 3 (Y7-9)	17	21	28	36	36	36	36
Key stage 4 (Y10-11)	9	15	22	26	26	26	26
16-19: commissioner referred	6	8	12	16	18	18	18
Totals	46	63	84	103	105	105	105

SECTION THREE: RATIONALE AND CONTEXT FOR THE SCHOOL

This section describes the rationale and the context in which the new school will operate.

3A. Please include a brief description of the existing provision in your area, future expected growth in pupil numbers and how you expect places to be filled.

In Newham, most children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) have their needs met in mainstream provision and Newham has a strong legacy and commitment towards inclusion. Around 90% of high needs funded pupils with autism attend mainstream schools, including resourced provision. The high levels of need of a small number of children and young people require even more support and expertise than can be offered in mainstream and resourced provision. The existing provision at JFK School is already at capacity with more pupils having to attend out of borough (OOB) provision due to the lack of suitable places.

The increases in the school aged population are well documented rising by around 21% from 2010 to 2018. Over the same period, the increase in high needs funded pupils has risen by 88% and analysis shows that the highest rise will be in ASD funded pupils increasing by 278%. Out of Borough (OOB) ASD places have increased by 54 pupils. The next highest increase was SEMH that increased by 11 pupils.

The current high number of primary ASD pupils will transfer into the secondary sector in a similar way as also seen in the mainstream sector. Without any further increases in primary numbers and a year 6 to year 7 transfer rate of 100%, this would see the numbers on roll in schools increase by around 53% over the next 10 years.

The proportion of ASD funded pupils show a reasonably consistent split of with 90% of pupils in mainstream schools including resourced provision; and 10% of pupils attending out of borough settings and the JFK special school. The trend data for funded ASD pupils suggests an increase of around 830 pupils to 2025, with pupils attending out of borough settings and borough special school places. The forecasted growth in demand requires a range of additional specialist provision, of which a special school would be part, alongside additional resource provision within mainstream schools.

A new school would be a centre of excellence supporting the needs of all schools in Newham. The opportunity to work in partnership with mainstream, resourced provision and special schools alike would make this new school a beacon for good practice and expertise across Newham. The new school would play a role in driving up standards for SEND across Newham, with a greater concentration of specialist staff than is possible in other provision.

The SEND panel meet six times a year with providers to review potential admissions for special needs placements. Pupils with an Education and Healthcare Plan or those being referred for the purposes of being assessed for an EHC plan will be offered places at the new special school. Admissions will be in accordance with specified criteria of the primary need of the learner often being an ASD difficulty.

3B Please also include details as to how these proposed new arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special educational needs, and the outcomes for pupils, across the local authority and how you expect trusts to support this.

The new school would provide an outstanding education achieving the best outcomes for children and young people through a person-centred approach and personalised pathways. The aim would be to provide education and life enriching experiences to support students to be independent children and adults who to participate in society to make their own unique and meaningful contributions.

The school would offer:

- each learner a personalised programme that is focused on their individual learning needs;
- a curriculum that builds on strengths and areas of interest to develop skills through exciting and meaningful learning experiences;
- tailored programmes of social and communication skills through a variety of learning experiences both in school and within the wider community;
- a flexible approach to meeting the changing needs of the learner, may include time in mainstream settings to access shared curricula or full mainstream re-integration for learners that are able to do so;
- a focus on life-skills ensuring learners are able to transition to young adults to access the full range of opportunities available to lead fulfilling lives.

Key outcomes learners would be specified within each personalised programme to include:

- positive behaviour by building skills in communication, self-esteem and confidence;
- practical skills in reading, writing and numeracy;
- community cohesion and social interaction through engagement in local provision and building connections with others;
- life skills for looking after one-self for healthy body and mind;
- developing employment skills

Outcomes would be assessed by a series of processes including learner appraisal and reviews, satisfaction surveys and feedback mechanisms.

The school would be a champion, a leader and a beacon for inclusion across the borough ensuring that opportunities for individual children and young people are an integral part of the school and the wider community. A key component of the new school would be the facility to promote outreach support and additional assessment opportunities to support learners in mainstream provision, by sharing aspirations and outcomes amongst multiple-agencies, professionals, schools, learners and their families.

The school would bring together combined expertise from Education, Health and Social care and would provide a best practice pedagogy models to ASD provision in the area. By drawing on recognised methods of support and the latest research to be forward thinking, cost effective and being responsive to need.

SECTION FOUR: THE PROPOSED LOCATION AND SITE

This section describes the provisional site.

Full address and full postcode	Paul Street Stratford London E15 4QB
Size of site	Approx. 2,980 m ²
Further details on site (for example, current use/your reasons for choosing it/further developments (e.g. housing) planned for area)	Currently vacant with no buildings.