



Liverpool  
City Council

# Consultation

## PROPOSALS TO REVIEW THE ORGANISATION OF SPECIAL SCHOOL PROVISION

Children and Young People's Services – Nicola Walsh

16th March 2022



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# 1. Background

The City Council is consulting on a proposal to reorganise special school provision across the city. The proposal is to consult with regard to the relocation of the following schools:

- Bank View School to relocate to Parklands Speke
- Princes School to relocate to Redbridge School
- Redbridge School to move to Bank View School
- New Heights Key Stage 4 Site to relocate from Parklands to the vacant school premises on Naylorfield Drive.

Since 2019, there has been a 46% increase in the number of children and young people with education health and care plans (EHCPs). Liverpool now maintains over 4000 EHCPs. There are insufficient places to manage the increased demand and the population is growing. Radical changes are required to create a sustainable long-term plan with sufficient special school places.

Between 2018 -2020, SEND4Change undertook a review of the sufficiency of Liverpool Council exploring the scale of growth in numbers of specialist school places required by 2026, an analysis of pupil need, the types of specialist provision required and opportunities to develop new capacity (See attached SEND Sufficiency Assessment). In response to their recommendations further consultation was undertaken by Liverpool City Council seeking stakeholder views with regard to a number of recommendations. It has become increasingly clear that recommendations made by SEND4Change will not provide sufficient capacity within the system and more radical changes are required.

The moves of Bank View School, Princes School, Redbridge High School and New Heights School (Key Stage 4 Site) will enable a long-term plan to create additional school places. The Parklands site is currently not fully utilised to full capacity. Liverpool Council currently places children in the independent non-maintained special school sector at considerable expense due to the lack of suitable provision and places in the city in the maintained provision.

Over recent years due to trends in parental preference, increasing demand, ensuring best value and the quality of accommodation in Princes School, the following issues with the current organisation of schools have been identified and have prompted this consultation:

## **2. Reasons for the Proposals**

This section sets out how the proposed changes would address the issues and improve the offer to children and young people and their families in the city.

### **2.1. Parental Preference**

There has been an increasing trend for parents to express preferences for placement in special school. Due to the sufficiency of places many parents do not obtain their parental preference as a placement named in education, health and care plans (EHCPs).

The proposed model would enable the expansion of Princes School, Redbridge High School and Bank View School and would accommodate parental preference to place children and young people in the city.

### **2.2. Increasing Demand**

There has been a 46% increase in EHCPs since 2019. Liverpool now maintains over 4000 plans.

There are currently insufficient places to meet demand and the increase in education, health and care plans will result in an inability to place children and young people with special educational needs in the city unless capacity is added to the special school sector.

### **2.3. Ensuring Efficient Use of Resources**

The proposed relocation will help to reduce the long-term pressure on the High Needs funding. This is because pupil place costs of education children in borough

are substantially lower than placing children and young people in the independent sector. It is estimated that for 2021-2022 Liverpool will spend an estimated £10,000,000 on school places for pupils in the independent sector (excluding alternative provision). The cost of individual placements in the non-maintained independent special school sector can vary from between £25,000 to £100,000 per placement for individual children and young people. The placements are expensive, often outside of the city and do not always offer best value, with some placements costing up to £100,000 per pupil at the higher end.

## **2.4. Quality of Accommodation in Princes School:**

A relocation of Princes School into Redbridge School will ensure that children and young people are educated in a suitable modern school built for children and young people with severe learning disabilities.

## **3. Proposals**

### **The City Council is consulting on the following proposals.**

#### **3.1. Bank View School - Draft Proposal**

The move of Bank View School to Parklands would enable expansion and increased capacity. Bank View School currently provides an education offer for children and young people with a range of complex needs. It is proposed in moving to the Parklands Site,

The school has admitted an increased number of pupils since the school was rebuilt under the Liverpool School Investment Programme which is putting pressure on the accommodation.

This proposal would enable Bank View School to access a larger building and offer a better education offer to both the current and future pupils. It would also offer an opportunity to expand numbers and take more children and young people. This

would assist the local authority in offering places to pupils currently finding it difficult to access a place and meeting the growing demand for places.

In addition, it will provide a curriculum offer for more able pupils who have a diagnosis of Autism. Many children and young people with this profile are currently taught outside of the city.

A feasibility survey will be undertaken to show how the Parklands site can be adapted to meet the needs of the school, and the potential for an increased intake.

Consultation meetings have been arranged at the school. They will give you an opportunity to have the proposals explained and to hear why they are being made. The meetings are your opportunity, whether you are a parent, a member of staff, or a governor to express your views and any concerns, or to offer alternative ideas.

Officers will be present at the meetings to answer questions and an officer will take a note of the views expressed.

*Meetings at Bank View High School*

<b>Bank View High School, Long Lane Liverpool, L9 6AD</b> <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>
Parents Meeting at 1.00 pm
Staff Meeting at 3.30 pm
Governing Body Meeting 4.30 pm

### **3.2. Princes Primary School - Draft Proposal**

Princes Primary School will move to Redbridge High School site. Princes Primary School building is old and not fit for purpose whereas Redbridge High School is newer and is larger.

The school has admitted an increased number of pupils which is putting pressure on the already unsuitable accommodation.

The current site of Princes Primary school is very restricted for expansion which means that the school has to manage satellite sites. The pupils on these sites may not always be able to access the full therapy offer such as hydrotherapy.

This proposal would ensure that Princes Primary School can offer a better education experience to both the current and future pupils. It would also offer an opportunity to expand numbers and take more children and young people. This would assist the local authority in offering places to pupils currently finding it difficult to access a place and meeting the growing demand for places.

Both Princes School and Redbridge School cater for children and young people with severe learning disabilities.

A feasibility survey will be undertaken to show how the Redbridge site can be adapted to meet the needs of the school, and the potential for an increased intake.

Consultation meetings have been arranged at the school. They will give you an opportunity to have the proposals explained and to hear why they are being made. The meetings are your opportunity, whether you are a parent, a member of staff, or a governor to express your views and any concerns, or to offer alternative ideas.

Officers will be present at the meetings to answer questions and an officer will take a note of the views expressed.

*Meetings at Princes Primary School*

<b>Princes Primary School, Selbourne Street, Liverpool, L81YQ</b>
<b>Thursday 24th March 2022</b>
Governing Body Meeting at 10.00 am
Parent Meeting at 1.30 pm
Staff Meeting at 3.30 pm

### **3.3. Redbridge High School - Draft Proposal**

The school has admitted an increasing number of pupils which is putting pressure on the already unsuitable accommodation.

Redbridge High School is a secondary school and it is attached to the Bank View School Site. Redbridge High School currently already utilises some of the rooms in Bank View High School.

The Redbridge School section of the building currently caters for 140 pupils whilst the Bank View section of the building currently caters for 253 pupils. Whilst it is acknowledged that the SEND needs catered for requires different accommodation needs, this larger section will offer the opportunity for adaptations to meet these needs.

This proposal would ensure that Redbridge High School can continue to offer the best education experience to both the current and future pupils. It would also offer an opportunity to expand numbers and take more children and young people. This would assist the local authority in offering places to pupils currently finding it difficult to access a place and meeting the growing demand for places. Should Princes School move onto the Redbridge School site and Redbridge move to the Bank View School site the provision for children with severe learning difficulties would be co-located on one site and educate children and young people from Early Years to post 16.

A feasibility survey will be undertaken to show how the Bank View School site can be adapted to meet the needs of the school, and the potential for an increased intake.

Consultation meetings have been arranged at the school. They will give you an opportunity to have the proposals explained and to hear why they are being made. The meetings are your opportunity, whether you are a parent, a member of staff, or a governor to express your views and any concerns, or to offer alternative ideas.

Officers will be present at the meetings to answer questions and an officer will take a note of the views expressed.



*Meetings at RedbridgeHigh School*

<b>Redbridge High School, Long Lane Liverpool, L9 6AD</b>
<b>Tuesday 29th March 2022</b>
Parents Meeting at 10.00am
Staff Meeting at 3.30pm
Governing Body Meeting- Monday 4th April 10.00am

### **3.4. New Heights School - Draft Proposal**

New Heights School operates as a pupil referral unit and currently occupies the part of the Parklands Site. New Heights School would move to the vacant premises on Naylorfield Drive in Netherley.

As New Heights only occupy a section of the Parklands building this is not an efficient use of space when the city has an ongoing increased demand for SEND places. This proposal would free up the space required for Bank View School.

Consultation meetings have been arranged at the school. They will give you an opportunity to have the proposals explained and to hear why they are being made. The meetings are your opportunity, whether you are a parent, a member of staff, or a governor to express your views and any concerns, or to offer alternative ideas.

Officers will be present at the meetings to answer questions and an officer will take a note of the views expressed.

*Meetings at New Heights School*

<b>New Heights School Parklands, Speke, Liverpool L24 2RZ</b>
<b>Date 7th April</b>
Staff Meeting 3.15-4.00
Governing Body Meeting 4.00-5.30

### 3.4.1. Parent Meetings

It is also proposed to undertake a number of meetings with parents.

<b>Parent Meetings</b>
30th March 2021 7.00 Liverpool Parent Carer Forum
6th April 2022 7.00-8.30 <a href="#">SEND Sufficiency Consultation Tickets, Wed 6 Apr 2022 at 19:00</a> <a href="#">  Eventbrite</a>
20th April 10-12 Liverpool Parent Carer Forum
28th April 2022 10.00-12.00 <a href="#">SEND Sufficiency Consultation Tickets, Thu 28 Apr 2022 at 10:00</a> <a href="#">  Eventbrite</a>

### 3.4.2. Health Partners Meeting

It is also proposed to undertake meeting with Health Partners

<b>Health Partners Meeting</b>
8th April 1.00-2.00

## 4. What Happens Next?

Feedback from the consultation will be considered by the City Council’s Cabinet. If the Cabinet decides to continue with the proposals, a formal statutory consultation will be undertaken to further review the progression of the school moves.

- Statutory notices will be posted at the schools and published in the Liverpool Echo, in the Autumn Term 2022

- There will be a period of four weeks during which anyone can comment on or object to the proposals.

Any comments or objections received during this period will be reported to the City Council’s Cabinet which will then decide whether or not to approve the proposals.

## 5. Timetable

The expected timetable for progress of the proposal is:

Consultation Period	16th March 2022-11th May 2022
City Council Cabinet decision whether to proceed to publish proposals	July 2022
If approved, Statutory Notices published with four-week representation period	September 2022
City Council Cabinet decision	October 2022
Implementation date	September 2023

## 6. How to Respond

You can submit views in writing about the proposal to:

School Organisation Team  
 (5th Floor, Cunard Building)  
 SEND Sufficiency Consultation  
 Children & Young People’s Services  
 Cunard Building

Water Street,

Liverpool, L3 1DS

Or e-mail: [lorraine.walters@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.walters@liverpool.gov.uk)

by Wednesday 11th May 2022

Any comments received, by letter or e-mail, will be reported to the City Council when it comes to take a decision on the proposals.

City Council papers are public documents and are posted on the City Councils website.

Any comments you make, therefore, will be made public, but the papers will be edited before publication, as appropriate, to preserve anonymity in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and to prevent copying of signatures.