



Statutory Proposal

Alteration to Roe Green Infant School – Full Proposal

Publication Date: 26 June 2019

Deadline for representations: 24 July 2019

School and Local Authority details

The Proposer:

London Borough of Brent, Children and Young People, 5th Floor Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ.

The School:

Roe Green Infant School (Community), Princes Avenue, London NW9 9JL

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) and 21(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) that Brent Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Roe Green Infant School, Princes Avenue, London, NW9 9JL (Department for Education number 3042042).

Roe Green Infant School is a co-educational community school with a published admission number of 150 places in the Reception year group (five forms of entry). Four forms of entry in this year group are allocated at the main site in Princes Avenue, Kingsbury NW9 9JL and one form of entry is allocated at the annex site in Strathcona Road, Wembley HA9 8QL.

Pupils attending the main site continue at the school until the end of Year 2, at which point they must apply to attend a junior school or arrange to continue their education elsewhere. The majority of children in Year 2 at the main site go on to attend Roe Green Junior School.

Pupils attending the annex site do not need to apply for a different school at the end of Year 2, as they are able to continue attending the site until the end of Year 6, at which point they must apply to attend a secondary school or arrange to continue their education elsewhere.

Roe Green Infant School has an age range of 3-11 years (including the nursery provision). This is the age range that the establishment is legally allowed to make provision for.

Since 2014, the Governing Board of Roe Green Infant School has managed the educational provision and staffing at the Strathcona Road site as an extension of their existing provision. This arrangement was made permanent in 2016.

In summary there are currently 570 places between both sites for years Reception to Year 6, not including nursery places (360 Princes Avenue for Key Stage 1 children and 210 at Strathcona Road for Key Stage 1 and 2 children). In response to reduced demand for primary school places across Brent it is proposed to close the annex of Roe Green Infant School on the Strathcona Road site.

This will involve:

- changing the age-range of Roe Green Infant School from 3-11 to 3-7;
- reducing the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 to 120 for September 2020;
- implementing a phased closure of the provision on the Roe Green Strathcona Road site.

There are currently 110 pupils on the Roe Green Strathcona Road site, with only 7 pupils in Reception. Other than Year 5, all year groups currently have significantly lower numbers than 30. Applications for Reception places on the Strathcona Road site for September 2019 were also low, with only 6 offers made on national offer day (16 April 2019). After taking into account declines received and late applications, it is likely that there will be 5 pupils starting in the Reception year group in September 2019.

Numbers on roll at Roe Green Strathcona Road site (forecasts in italics)

Year	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2014/15	34	59	14	28	-	-	-	135
2015/16	15	30	55	9	28	-	-	137
2016/17	16	19	26	49	6	27	-	143
2017/18	7	14	11	22	42	3	22	121
2018/19	7	8	16	12	20	44	3	110
2019/20	5	7	8	16	12	20	44	119
2020/21	7	5	7	8	16	12	20	75
2021/22	7	7	5	7	8	16	12	62

The school achieves good outcomes for pupils across both sites and was rated by Ofsted as 'Good' in November 2017. However, sustaining a split site school where provision on one site is small becomes increasingly difficult when pupil numbers continue to fall. Furthermore, maintaining the provision does not represent good value for money – the per pupil cost of provision for children on the Strathcona Road site is already higher than the Brent average.

Roe Green Infant School is funded through the national funding formula. The school receives approximately £5,300 per pupil funding plus a split site allocation of £200k. With 110 pupils at the Strathcona Road site, this totals £786k of funding that Roe Green Infant School receives as a result of having the Strathcona Road site. Funding is provided by the Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG), and equates to £7,100 per pupil for children at the Strathcona Road site. This compares to an average of £5,000 per

primary pupil across the borough. Given that there are spaces in other schools, the closure of the site will lead to more efficient use of DSG.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The decision to propose the closure of the Strathcona Road site of Roe Green Infant School has been made in response to low demand for the school and projections that indicate reducing demand for primary places across Brent (as indicated in the London Borough of Brent School Place Planning Strategy 2019-2023, approved by Cabinet in November 2018). Within this context, maintaining the provision is not considered to be sustainable.

The local authority is responsible for ensuring that the Dedicated Schools Grant is used effectively to provide a good education for all pupils. If pupil numbers continue to reduce on the Roe Green Strathcona Road site, the cost of provision on the site will increase. In the longer term this could impact on the quality of provision for pupils at Roe Green Infant School, as funding reduces and fixed cost expenditure remains stable.

Due to the high availability of places in Brent primary schools, parents currently have a greater chance of securing a place at a preferred good or outstanding school than they did when the Strathcona Road provision was first opened as a temporary provision in 2014 and when places were offered to children who had been unable to secure a preference offer.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area

There is sufficient availability of school places in the local area to meet the needs of any children who are relocated from the Strathcona Road provision or who would otherwise have applied for a place at the provision in the future. Other schools with spare places will benefit from having additional children on roll.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved

The cost of relocating children to alternative schools will be negligible as this function will be carried out within the existing functions of Brent Council's Admission and School Organisation team.

The proposal would lead to a reduction in overall school staffing levels which would, therefore, result in the possibility for the need to consider redundancies. The number of staff affected would depend on the nature of a phased closure. The school, supported by the local authority, would need to follow the Managing Change in Schools policy and procedure including consultation with affected staff and trade unions to effect the changes in due course.

The cost of maintaining the Strathcona Road site following the closure of the provision will be met by the local authority. Should a decision be made to close the school then the Council will review its priorities and potential future uses for the site, which could include educational use.

Long term value for money will be achieved due to the more efficient use of the Dedicated Schools Grant across the London Borough of Brent.

Implementation plan

Brent Council is proposing to change the legal age range of Roe Green Infant School so that it is for children between the ages 3 – 7. This change is proposed to take place for the beginning of the 2022/23 academic year.

Brent Council is proposing to seek, from the Schools Adjudicator, a variation to the admission arrangements for Roe Green Infant School so that the Published Admission Number for the school is reduced from 150 to 120 for September 2020.

Brent Council is proposing to implement a phased closure of the provision on the Roe Green Strathcona Road site so that no new admissions are made into any Reception cohort from September 2020 and the site is fully closed at the end of July 2022. This will allow the majority of children in the school to complete their current key stage before the provision is closed. Children in Year 3 during the 2019/20 academic year will not complete their key stage on the site.

Children attending the school in the 2021/22 academic year will be offered relocation options at a range of local schools, with any transfers taking place in September 2022. This will include the cohort of children attending the provision with a date of birth between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2015. Parents will also be able to apply to change their child's school at any other time through the normal In-Year admissions process. For children with an Education, Health and Care Plan which names the Strathcona Road provision, an alternative school will be identified through consultation with the Brent Special Educational Needs Advice Service team. There are a number of schools in the local area with spare places.

While the phased closure programme is underway, admission applications will not be accepted for the Strathcona Road provision in any year group that does not have an active class. In-Year admission applications may still be made to any year group with an active class and places will still be available for up to 30 children in each class.

Statement explaining the procedure for responses: support, objections and comments

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal any person may object to or make comments on the proposal, in writing, to Michael Rollin, Admissions and School Organisation Manager, Children and Young People, London Borough of Brent, 5th Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ. Email: strathconaconsultation@brent.gov.uk.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with.

The last date for representations is **Wednesday 24 July 2019**.

Signed: Brian Grady,
Operational Director, Safeguarding, Partnerships and Strategy

Publication Date: Wednesday 26 June 2019