

Appendix 1:



Statutory Proposal - Expansion of Phoenix Arch School

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1), 19(1) and 21(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) that Brent Council intends to make an alteration to Phoenix Arch School (Department for Education number 3047005) of Drury Way, London, NW10 0NQ.

Phoenix Arch School is located in the Stonebridge ward and is a community special school which means it is maintained by Brent Council and the Council owns the buildings and the land. The school has a current roll of 55 pupils. All children who attend Phoenix Arch have a diagnosis of autism spectrum condition (ASC). Some children who attend Phoenix Arch also have learning disabilities (LD).

Notice is given that Brent Council is formally proposing the expansion of Phoenix Arch which will involve the creation of a 'satellite' school on the grounds of the currently unused Strathcona site which will accommodate around 50 additional pupils. This will expand the capacity of the school by about 91%.

School and Local Authority Details

The proposer is Brent Council, Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ. The school that is proposed to be expanded is Phoenix Arch School, Drury Way, London, NW10 0NQ, which is a mixed gender community special school for pupils aged between 4 and 11 years old.

Pupil numbers and admissions

At the point of the January 2026 school census, Phoenix Arch School was making provision for 55 day pupils between the ages of 4 and 11. This included 40 boys and 15 girls. Children are only admitted to the school where they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school. The satellite site would offer around an additional 50 places for children with an EHCP. Due to the nature of providing suitable education for children with EHCPs, the actual number of additional places available may vary above or below 50 places.

Impact on the community

The Strathcona site was previously used for primary school provision for up to 210 pupils with parents and children using a range of means to travel to school. Most of the children attending the special school on the site would be provided with home-to-school SEND transport, which is usually a minibus that would reduce the number of individual vehicles during school pick-up/drop-off. SEND Transport minibuses would drive through the school gates and onto the site to turn around, rather than sitting on the road. Very few children are expected to travel to/from school by private car.

It is acknowledged that there would be staff travelling to the site and other professionals supporting the pupils at different points of the day. Currently there are 10-11 parking spaces on the Strathcona site, which is similar to the number of parking spaces at the main Phoenix Arch site that caters for 55 pupils. Nevertheless, Brent Council recognises the concerns raised by local residents regarding possible impacts of the provision on local traffic and parking.

Mitigating measures that are being considered include the possibility of increasing parking on-site for visiting professionals who are likely to travel by car to different school sites. As well as exploring possible arrangements for staff parking using other local offsite car parks, use of public transport will be encouraged as the most sustainable form of transport. The site is close to tube stations (South Kenton and Preston Park) and local bus routes, the use of which would be included in a sustainable travel plan.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

The proposal is that Phoenix Arch would open an additional site on the Strathcona school site in September 2027. The address of the proposed site onto which Phoenix Arch will be expanded is Strathcona Road, Wembley, HA9 8QL. The new site would deliver the same specialist provision as the main site for around 50 children with ASC and LD. It is proposed the school on the Strathcona site will be called 'Phoenix Arch Strathcona'.

Brent has a current shortfall of around 210 places in primary special schools. To prevent children from not having a school place, the independent sector, home tuition, out-of-borough schools and the mainstream school sector are all currently being utilised. As well as not supporting children to be part of their local community and being less convenient for pupils who must travel longer distances to school, out-of-borough and independent schools are putting increasing strain on the high needs block and schools transport budgets. The development of the Phoenix Arch Strathcona expansion will provide new opportunities for children with an EHCP to attend a more local special school in Brent.

This proposal is part of an ongoing programme to deliver additional local school places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Brent to meet increasing demand.

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

Phoenix Arch is a very well regarded and popular local authority maintained special school., It has a strong leadership team and a supportive governing body. Phoenix Arch has considerable expertise in supporting children with ASC and LD. Because of this, Phoenix Arch is well-placed to support more children in need of specialist support.

Brent has a shortage of special school placements for children with ASC and LD. Because of this, some children are waiting too long for a special school place in Brent or are having to travel long distances out of borough to attend school, sometimes at considerable cost. It is felt that children should be able to access high quality specialist provision close to home. Expanding Phoenix Arch will enable more children to do this.

Expanding an existing special school can be done more quickly than creating a new special school. Creating a new special school may take many years, and further delay is unacceptable when children are waiting for a school place.

The Department for Education (DfE) has provided capital funding to enable local authorities to create more special school places. Therefore, the costs of the capital works needed to expand Phoenix Arch onto the Strathcona site will be covered by this grant funding.

Expanding Phoenix Arch will benefit the existing school as an additional site will necessitate the addition of further leadership capacity (to run the new site). As a larger school, Phoenix Arch may benefit from certain economies of scale e.g. purchasing resources.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area

There will be no effect on other educational institutions in the area. The expansion is proposed out of a need to address a shortfall of supply of local places for children who need to attend a special school.

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

The estimated capital costs of creating a satellite site on the Strathcona site are £1m. As noted above, these costs are covered by a High Needs Capital grant that Brent Local Authority has received from the DfE. These proposed costs were approved by Brent Cabinet in January 2026.

The school's revenue budget will not be expected to contribute to any setting-up costs without additional funding being provided to the school.

Implementation plan

Subject to Decision Maker approval, any subsequent statutory approvals and completion of the required construction work on the Strathcona site, the alterations proposed would

be implemented from September 2027 which will be the proposed date the new school site will open and the formal date of expansion.

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

Copies of this proposal are available at haveyoursay.brent.gov.uk or can be obtained from: Michael Rollin, Service Manager, Access to Education, London Borough of Brent, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ or Email: PhoenixArchConsultation@brent.gov.uk

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal any person may let us know that they support the proposal, object to the proposal and / or make comments on the proposal, in writing, through the form on haveyoursay.brent.gov.uk where responses must be received by 11.59pm on 27th July 2026.

Postal responses can be sent to Michael Rollin, Service Manager, Access to Education, Children, Young People and Community Development, London Borough of Brent, 2nd Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ.

The last date for representations is **27th July 2026**.

Signed: **Shirley Parks**
Director, Education, Partnerships and Strategy

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