



PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF BRENT KNOLL SCHOOL

Notice is given in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013/3110 that Lewisham Council intends to change the age range of Brent Knoll School (Perry Rise, London SE23 2QU) from 4-16 years old to 4-17 years old.

Name, address and contact details of proposer:

Lewisham Council, Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU

Name, address and category of school:

Brent Knoll School, Perry Rise, London SE23 2QU
This is a foundation special school.

Description of alteration:

The Council proposes that Brent Knoll School's age range should change from 4-16 years old to 4-17 years old from September 2024.

The proposal makes permanent a pilot increase to the age range at the school over the past 2 years.

Overview of proposal and need:

Brent Knoll School is a Foundation School and part of the Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust. It is one of five Special Schools within Lewisham, that currently provides (Ofsted rated Good) provision for children aged 4–16 with complex social, communication and interaction difficulties, including autism.

The council has been working with Brent Knoll School over the past two years, piloting a programme whereby the School continues to educate a number of vulnerable Year-12 aged pupils to help further enable them to transition into adulthood and access local college provision.

Following the success of this pilot work (in which all but 1 pupil successfully transferred into local college provision last year), we now wish to formally change the age range of the school (as prescribed by statutory guidance) to allow this work to continue. And will then seek to commission up to 10 post-16 places per annum at Brent Knoll School from the 2024/25 Academic year onwards.

This provision will enable us to keep young people local and prepare them for the next step in their transition.

The council will have clear KPI's in place with Brent Knoll related to monitoring the success rate of these youngsters moving on to local colleges instead of moving out to the costly independent special college sector, helping to reduce pressure on the high needs block.

The admissions criteria for this Y12 offer will be very clear and specific, there is no automatic 'entitlement' to move from Y11 at Brent Knoll to Y12 at the school.

We anticipate that approximately up to 50% of the Y11 cohort at Brent Knoll may access this provision created.

The proposal would not have any negative impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area. The proposal would also have a positive impact on travel distance/time for the majority of students, both for the period at Brent Knoll School but also transitioning to a nearby further education establishment.

This proposal forms part of Lewisham Council's response to the statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation:

The change in age range will make permanent the successful 2-year pilot and will be implemented from September 2024.

Effect on other educational institutions in the area:

It is not anticipated that the proposed change in age range of Brent Knoll School will have any impact on other educational facilities within the local area. The proposal has been made to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers that is being experienced within the Borough, and to help transition students into appropriate local provision, thus also reducing the reliance on out of borough provision.

Commenting on the proposal:

Within five weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may comment on, support, or object to the proposal in writing to Matt Henaughan, Head of Infrastructure, 2nd Floor Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU, matt.henaughan@lewisham.gov.uk

The closing date for responses is 12 noon, 21 June 2024.

Signed: Matt Henaughan, Head of Infrastructure, Children and Young People's Services

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