

Broadwater Pre-publication Consultation: Proposed Special School specification - October 2022

1. Background

Following a request at the Broadwater public consultation event on Wednesday 19th October 2022, this document sets out the specification, area requirements and relevant statutory guidance that will inform the proposed repurposing of Broadwater Primary School site for a new special educational needs school. Details are currently at a high-level stage of development as the build of a new special school is a complex process and will only progress in the event that the proposal is approved.

2. Proposed Special School Specification

Pupil Intake and Class Occupancy

- Pupil Intake: a maximum of 192 pupils, aged 11 to 19 with severe learning difficulties.
- Estimated staff numbers: 160 - 165 staff (approximately 1:1)
- Classrooms: 24 classes of 8 pupils per year group (8 year groups, from Year 7-14)
- Classes are organised roughly by year group, and are mixed gender.
- Level of mobility: Typically no physical disabilities.

Internal and external accommodation

- Access to secure outdoor space will be required for some/all classes, with access to fitness/gym equipment.
- Maximise lower floors to pupil space due to challenges with stairs for some pupils.
- Canteen and assembly hall.
- Sufficient breakout rooms, therapy rooms, and soft play and sensory spaces appropriate to the needs of the pupils. Specialist teaching facilities: food technology, art room, music room, science room, sport hall, therapy pool, wet room, medical inspection space. Some spaces with comfort cooling/heating.
- Café for work experience, which is also accessible for the public.
- Large staff room, meeting rooms (minimally 2) with waiting areas outside meeting rooms, planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) work-room, office space, parent training room.
- Office space for at least 11 individuals such as Head teacher and EHCP office.
- Storage in playgrounds for equipment, and bike racks.
- Goods lift.
- Transport – sufficient access for school transport by minibus or taxi (roughly 10 minibuses and 50 cars/taxis).

3. Minimum Spatial Requirements

An architect team was commissioned to complete a feasibility report based on a review of the Broadwater site and the specification for the new school. Informed by Department for Education (DfE) guidelines for an SEN secondary school (links below), recommendations were made for internal and external space requirements, as summarised in the table below. This table shows that the DfE model requires more gross site area than available in Broadwater's current accommodation. The architects have therefore proposed an option of a new three storey building with modifications to the existing buildings on site to provide the accommodation required for a new SEN school.

Table - DfE recommended model for SEN School accommodation compared with Broadwater School’s existing accommodation (source: Wilby & Burnett, architects, August 2022)

Area	DFE Model for 192 pupils	Existing Accommodation
Total Basic Teaching	1,297m2	897m2
Total Large Spaces	391m2	409m2
Total Learning Resource Areas	388m2	194m2
Total Staff and Administration Areas	487m2	267m2
Total Storage	223m2	75m2
Total Net Area	2,786m2	1,842m2
Total Non-net Area	1,199m2	678m2
Total Gross Area	3,986 m2	2,520 m2
Total Net Site Area	7,288m2	8,585m2
Total Non-Net Site Area	8,532m2	3,356m2
Total Gross Site Area	15,820m2	11,941m2

Relevant links

- *BB102 Designing for disabled children and children with special educational needs:*
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/276698/Building_Bulletin_102_designing_for_disabled_children_and_children_with_SEN.pdf
 (Please note that this publication has been withdrawn by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and it has been superseded by BB104. However, the EFA advise that general guidance provided within BB102 is still relevant.)
- *BB104 Area guidelines for SEND and alternative provision:*
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/905693/BB104.pdf