

**EQIA
Section A**

Proposal to alter the designation of the Specialist Resource Provision at Temple Hill Primary Academy, from speech, language and communication needs to Autistic Spectrum Disorder and speech, language and communication needs, and to expand the provision from 15 places to 45, from September 2026.

Responsible Person
Rebecca Crouch – SENDCo and Assistant Headteacher

Approved by
Leon Dawson – Headteacher

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

Project/Programme

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Responsible Head of Service

Leon Dawson – Headteacher

Responsible Director

Claire Misy – Chief Executive Officer of The Golden Thread Alliance

Aims and Objectives

Proposal to alter the designation of the Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at Temple Hill Primary Academy, from speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) to Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and SLCN, and to expand the provision from 15 places to 45, from September 2026.

Context:

Kent County Council (KCC) is responsible for maintaining EHCPs for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years.

According to data from the SEN2 census (January 2025), there were 20,635 children and young people in Kent with an EHCP. This is an increase of 1,229 young people compared to January 2024. ASD remains the most common type of need in Kent, with 9,535 EHCPs listing it as the primary SEND need. SLCN was the third highest, with 3,583 having it as the primary SEND need type. Forecasts suggest that over the next 5 years, the number of children and young people with an EHCP for ASD will increase by about 500, and SLCN by over 900. Some of these pupils will need the additional support a primary school-based SRP can offer.

In January 2025, there were 452 primary aged pupils in the Dartford Borough who had an EHCP with ASD and/or SLCN as their primary SEND need type. Of these,

- 272 were attending a mainstream school,
- 39 an SRP within a mainstream school,
- 126 a maintained special school, and
- 15 an independent school (independent special or otherwise).

Forecasts suggest that the number of children and young people with an EHCP for ASD will increase by about 500 over the next 5 years, and SLCN by over 900. A number of these students will require the additional support a primary school-based SRP can offer.

Currently there are five other primary SRPs in the Borough. These are at:

- Oakfield Primary Academy, it offers 15 places for pupils with SLCN,
- Fleetdown Primary Academy, it offers 12 places for pupils with HI,
- Ebbsfleet Green Primary School, it offers 15 places for pupils with ASD,
- Leigh Academy Cherry Orchard, it offers 15 places for pupils with SLCN, and
- Langafel CE Primary School, it offers 30 places for pupils with ASD.

Due to the demonstrable need for additional primary SRP places in Dartford, Temple Hill Primary Academy have expressed an interest to expand and change the designation of their SRP.

In January 2025, primary aged pupils with an EHCP with a primary SEND need type of ASD in Dartford, were travelling on average 7.7 miles to access an appropriate specialist provision, whilst across Kent this was 6.5 miles. Travelling such distances is not always in the best interest of the pupils. More local SRPs would reduce journeys and enable more pupils to go to school nearer to where they live.

(Data is from the SEN2 2025 return which is a statutory data collection that gathers information on EHCPs, which is collected in January each year and submitted to the DfE)

The Proposal:

The proposal is to alter the designation of the SRP at Temple Hill Primary Academy, from SLCN to ASD and SLCN, and to expand the provision from 15 places to 45, from September 2026. This would ultimately create a further 30 places, making a total of 45 places for pupils with ASD and/or SLCN in Reception to Year 6 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for ASD and/or SLCN.

In bringing forward this proposal all parties believe that expanding the SRP for ASD and/or SLCN pupils will:

- Provide a much-needed resource that will support the growing number of primary aged pupils with ASD and/or SLCN across the Borough. It will reduce distances pupils need to travel to access appropriate support,
- Build on the expertise that the school has in educating children with SEND including ASD and/or SLCN,
- Have a positive impact on the education and social understanding of other pupils within the

school, and

- Support pupils with ASD and/or SLCN in the transition from early years to primary school, and then from primary to secondary school.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

No

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

This EQIA is an initiatory document and is part of the Public Consultation.

The consultation will be adverted to parents/carers and pupils at the school, staff, all schools in the Dartford area, Cabinet Committee Members, local Members, the Borough of Dartford and the London Boroughs of Bexley and Bromley, the Diocese of Rochester and of Southwark, Department for Education, KCC colleagues, including early years for cascading to settings, and the trades unions.

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

No

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

Service users/clients

Staff

Staff/Volunteers

Residents/Communities/Citizens

Residents/communities/citizens

Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?

Yes

Details of Positive Impacts

SRP places will benefit residents including those with protected characteristics.

High positive impact for young people aged 4-11 years:

Currently there are five other primary SRPs in the Borough. These are at Oakfield Primary Academy, it offers 15 places for pupils with SLCN, Fleetdown Primary Academy, it offers 12 places for pupils with HI, Ebbsfleet Green Primary School, it offers 15 places for pupils with ASD, Leigh Academy Cherry Orchard, it offers 15 places for pupils with SLCN, and Langafel CE Primary

School, it offers 30 places for pupils with ASD. Expanding the SRP at Temple Hill Primary Academy will address the requirement for additional SRP places in Dartford and will support pupils with ASD and/or SLCN.

Medium positive impact:

The provision will be for both boys and girls with an EHCP. As statistically fewer girls have an ECHP with ASD as their primary need type, it could be seen that girls will benefit less than boys from the opening of the SRP. However, through training, SRP staff will develop the whole staff body enabling them to support all young people on roll who may have ASD characteristics.

The school will provide for all pupils regardless of faith.

The creation of specialist places will mean that parents/carers of young people aged 4-11 years who require the specialist support may be able to access a specialist facility at a more local primary school reducing travel distances.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

Are there negative impacts for age?

No

Details of negative impacts for Age

Not Applicable

Mitigating Actions for Age

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age

Not Applicable

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

Are there negative impacts for Disability?

No

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Disability

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Disability

Not Applicable

21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex

Are there negative impacts for Sex

No

Details of negative impacts for Sex

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Sex

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Sex

Not Applicable

22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable

27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships

Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships

No

Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships

Not Applicable

28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities

Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities

No

Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities

Not Applicable