



FAO: Louise Crook
 Coteford Infant School
 Fore Street
 Eastcote
 Pinner
 HA5 2HX

11th September 2024

Dear Louise,

**Re: Letter to School outlining the reasons for Proposal to Close the
 Physical Disability Specialist Resourced Provision**

Further to our recent conversations, we confirm that Hillingdon Council are proposing to close the Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for Physical Disabilities (PD) at Coteford Infant School. If appropriate approvals are agreed, it is likely that closure will take place by July 2025 at the latest.

Please note that the SRP is not a traditional, additionally resourced learning space at Coteford Infant School, and therefore the closure is not a closure of a specific unit or classroom. All students who have SRP provision written in their EHCP for Coteford Infant School, access mainstream classes at all times.

Why are we proposing this change?

Hillingdon Council regularly reviews the needs of the population, and the evidence shows that there has been a significant decline in the demand for places for an SRP for PD needs. There is also an expectation that children with physical disabilities should have their needs met in mainstream schools with reasonable adjustments, and therefore, we no longer require a separate SRP provision to meet the needs of these children.

				Jan-20	Jan-21	Jan-22	Jan-23	Jan-24
School	Phase	Provision Type	Designated Need	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Coteford Infant School	Primary	SRP	PD	7	7	4	4	4

An SRP is funded in a manner that is based on a number of children accessing provision and resources, therefore, it is more challenging for a school to maintain the provision when numbers are significantly lower. Ordinarily there would be a teacher employed for the SRP and children would access mainstream for at least 50% of their timetable.

All schools are expected to be inclusive. Many local authorities across the country have already taken the decision to close their Physical Disability specialist provisions in light of similar changes and expectations.

The Hillingdon SEND & Alternative Provision strategy sets out these aspirations and expectations for all of our schools (see [SEND and AP Strategy](#)).

Impact for children currently accessing the SRP

Unlike a traditional SRP, children who are admitted to the SRP at Coteford Infants are already attending mainstream full time, with the exception of therapeutic intervention, and do not access a separate provision. The proposal to close the SRP will not have any impact on the children attending now or any children who may wish to attend in future.

There will be:

- No change to the support outlined in the child's Educational Health Care Plan
- No change in the equipment provided
- No change to the plan for the child

Next Steps

We will support the school through the process to consult on closing the SRP and will maintain close contact to keep you informed at all times. It will be important that parents are reassured in this process as the experience their children have at the school will not change from the formality of closing the provision. It is important that they are aware of this, and they are clear there is no impact on their children's education.

We will also make direct contact with the families of children who are part of the SRP to reassure them that their child will not be affected by the proposed closure if it is agreed, and know we can count on your support to make this process as smooth as possible for them too.

Timeline:

The timeline for the consultation is set out below, and further information will be shared with the school as the process progresses.

September 2024

- Mid-September the school will be provided with a Public Notice to be displayed in and around the school notifying local residents and parents of the ongoing consultation
- Consultation will then last 4 weeks (25th September to 25th October) where local residents and parents will be able to submit their views - links to the consultation page on Hillingdon's website will be shared with the school and will need to be added to the Coteford Infants website.

November 2024

- Following the consultation closing, a report will be written and submitted to Children, Families and Education Select Committee (13th November)

December 2024

- The report will then go to Cabinet (12th December) for approval and a formal decision will be shared with DfE.

July 2025

- If the proposal is approved at Cabinet, the SRP will formally close in July 2025 at the latest, but may close earlier in conjunction with the school, and based on any responses to the consultation.

This may be an unsettling time for parents and carers, and it is important that they are reassured that the support and provision for their children will not change through this process. The closure of the SRP is a formality rather than a change to any element of the delivery of children's EHCPs. We are keen to work with you to ensure families understand that their children will continue to receive the strong support that Coteford Infant School continue to provide for children with physical disabilities.

I look forward to further discussions regarding this matter, and to working with you to ensure that the children continue to be supported appropriately and the school are informed and supported at each stage. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Binstead
Senior SEND & Inclusion Commissioner