

18th September 2024

Dear Parents/ Guardians of Pupils at Coteford Infant School,

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

We wanted to inform you 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, as a result of the consultation, it is likely that closure of the SRP will take place at the end of the Summer term in July 2025. This does not affect the main school.

This is the information, from the London Borough of Hillingdon, that I have been asked to convey to you:

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 classes full time, with the exception of therapeutic interventions, and do not access a separate provision. The proposal to close the SRP will not have any impact on the wider elements of the school, or the children attending the school now, or any children who may wish to attend the school in the future.

There will be:

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

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

The Local Authority is working closely with the school to support them through this process and ensure that children are not impacted by the proposed changes.

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.

Appendix 05 – Letter to all Parents outlining reasons for SRP Closer 18.09.24

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](#)).

We want to reassure you that the experience of children at the school will not change if the decision is taken to close the provision, and we will continue to work with the Council to ensure that children's needs are met.

The consultation period will run from Wednesday 25th September to Friday 25th October 2024 and represents an opportunity to learn about the proposal, ask questions and make comments that will be recorded and summarised in a consultation report.

The Proposal will be published on the Hillingdon website alongside a survey and can be accessed via this [link](#)

The consultation will involve a drop-in session at the school for anyone affected by the proposal where Officers will be on hand to answer any questions in person and to explain the proposal as necessary on Friday 4th October 2024, 2.30pm- 3.30pm. This will be also offered virtually for stakeholders to attend on Wednesday 2nd October, 5pm - 6pm using the following link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Paper copies of the consultation document will be available at the drop-in sessions and from the school office on request. Anyone is welcome to make contributions to the consultation.

There will also be a list of frequently asked questions available on the school website, and the Council website related to the consultation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Crook
Headteacher – Coteford Infant School