

Consultation on the opening of a satellite provision of Rivermead School in the London Borough of Bromley Local Authority Area

Providing specialist education for up to 100 children and young people who have social communication difficulties (which may include a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASC) with accompanying social and emotional mental health (SEMH) needs, including high levels of anxiety, all of whom have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

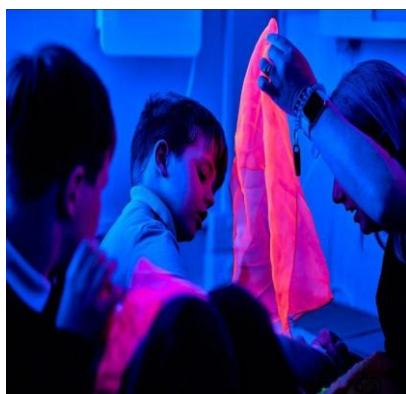


Consultation Dates

13th May 2026 to 16th June 2026

Glossary of Terms used in this document

Term	Definition
Rivermead Inclusive Trust	The Multi Academy Trust proposing the expansion
Rivermead School	The existing special school operated by the Trust
‘Rivermead at Bromley’	The name of proposed Rivermead School satellite provision
DfE (Department of Education)	Responsible for children’s services and education
London Borough of Bromley	The local authority area where the proposed satellite site will be based
RD	Regional Director for DfE
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)	An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is a legally binding UK document for children and young people (0–25) with special educational needs (SEN) that require support beyond what mainstream education normally provides.





This document is designed to:

Notify you of Rivermead Inclusive Trust's proposal to open 'Rivermead at Bromley' a satellite provision of Rivermead School, in the London Borough of Bromley. In the capacity of the Trust's delegated responsibility to deliver education to eligible pupils who all have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and neurodivergent profiles, with effect from 18th January 2027; specifically to:

- **'Increase the number of pupils at a special school'**. The Proposal will increase the number of pupils of pupils at Rivermead from 139 to 239. The 'Rivermead at Bromley' satellite will provide specialist education for up to 100 pupils, where this has been identified as the most appropriate provision. This will support the London Borough of Bromley to reduce reliance on out-of-borough and independent placements and ensure pupils' needs are met locally.
- **'Expand Rivermead School through the opening of a satellite provision'**. The new satellite provision will be located at Hawkswood Lane, Chislehurst. 'Rivermead at Bromley' will operate fully under the governance, executive leadership and quality assurance systems of Rivermead School which is part of the Rivermead Inclusive Trust, whilst having its own Head of School and leadership team, ensuring consistency of practice, robust safeguarding and strong outcomes.

Explain why these changes are being proposed.

Invite your comments on these proposals.

THE PROPOSAL

Proposer: Rivermead Inclusive Trust

School: Rivermead School
Forge Lane
Gillingham
Kent
ME71UG

Proposed new satellite site:

Rivermead at Bromley
Hawkwood Lane
Chislehurst
BR75PS

This is a Special School



The Proposal:

To open a Satellite site of Rivermead School at Hawkwood Lane, Chislehurst, BR7 5PS. The satellite site is approximately 21 miles from the Rivermead School site.

To increase the number of pupils at Rivermead School from 139 to 239. The 100 additional pupils will be based at Hawkwood Lane, Chislehurst.

Description of Proposal

The London Borough of Bromley has identified increasing pressure on both mainstream schools and specialist provision due to rising numbers of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (ECHPs) requiring specialist placements. Projections indicate that current capacity is insufficient to meet future needs, resulting in increasing reliance on out-of-borough placements.

The opening of 'Rivermead at Bromley' will enable Rivermead Inclusive Trust to support the London Borough of Bromley in providing appropriate, local placements for up to 100 pupils from Year 5-Year 11, whose needs require specialist provision.

Rivermead School currently operates across three sites within Medway, and staff are employed to work flexibly across these locations. However, given the geographical location of the proposed satellite, staffing arrangements will differ, with staff and school leaders based predominately at the 'Rivermead at Bromley' site.

Rivermead leaders are highly experienced and adept at working collaboratively. The new Head of School at 'Rivermead at Bromley' will operate as part of a distinctive yet dynamic leadership team, characterised by strong partnership working and regular communication. This team is overseen by a single Executive Headteacher and supported by the Trust Executive Team, ensuring cohesive leadership, consistency of practice, and strong strategic oversight across the Trust.

Background

'Rivermead Inclusive Trust operates a range of specialist provisions for children and young people with complex needs. Rivermead School provides education for pupils ages 4-19, all of whom have Education, Health and Care Plans, and has a proven track record of delivering high-quality specialist education.

The London Borough of Bromley has identified a significant and increasing demand for specialist SEND provision, particularly for pupils with neurodiversity whose needs cannot be met appropriately within mainstream settings.

There is a growing requirement for additional maintained specialist capacity within the borough. The London Borough of Bromley has therefore welcomed the Trust's proposal to establish 'Rivermead at Bromley', a Rivermead School satellite provision, to meet this demand.

What are the key risks associated with the project?

Risk Area	Risk Description	Mitigation
Funding	There is a risk that funding pressures could impact the viability or pace of implementation of the proposed provision.	Strong and established partnership working with the London Borough of Bromley, alongside careful financial planning and oversight by Rivermead Inclusive Trust.
Site Readiness	There is a risk that site readiness could affect the timely opening of the provision.	A phased implementation approach, supported by detailed planning, clear milestones, and effective project management.
Capacity and Expertise	There is a risk that the expansion of specialist provision could place pressure on leadership and operational capacity.	Rivermead School, operating as part of Rivermead Inclusive Trust, has a proven and well-established track record in successfully expanding and delivering specialist provision.
Community Impact (Transport)	There is a risk of increased impact on the local community, particularly in relation to transport and traffic.	The proposed site was previously used as a special school, and its use for specialist provision is well established. No additional impact on the local community is anticipated. Most pupils will continue to be transported by minibus, consistent with previous arrangements, and the site is well suited to pupils with additional needs.



Evidence of demand and benefits to children and families

- The proposal will increase access to high-quality specialist SEND provision within the London Borough of Bromley. Pupils will be educated closer to home, reducing travel time and associated disruption to learning and family life.
- Improved emotional wellbeing, engagement, and attendance are anticipated because of stable, local provision. The provision will reduce the risk of mental health escalation and exclusion by meeting needs earlier and more effectively.
- Pupils will benefit from consistent, specialist approaches delivered under the governance and oversight of Rivermead School.
- It is planned that the new provision will also include an Autism Centre of Excellence to support professions
- Strong partnership working with families and external professionals will support positive outcomes and continuity of care.

Funding for the scheme

The project includes adapting premises to ensure suitability for a specialist SEND provision. Funding has already been agreed by the London Borough of Bromley in line with identified SEND sufficiency needs and capital planning processes.



What happens next?

Following the five-week consultation period Rivermead Inclusive Trust will consider all responses received via this public consultation process.

No decision will be made until the consultation has closed and all responses have been carefully considered by the Rivermead Inclusive Trust Board.

Following consideration of the outcomes of the consultation Rivermead Inclusive Trust Board will decide on the proposal. If the Trust Board agrees to continue with the proposal it will need to make an application to the Department for Education, in line with department guidance on making changes to an academy, for determination before the changes can be implemented.

Indicative consultation timetable:

Proposed element of the project	Date
Letter to parents / residents	13 th May 2026
Public Consultation Period	13 th May – 16 th June 2026
Consideration of responses	June – July 2026
Decision and approvals	July – September 2026
Planned opening of 'Rivermead at Bromley'	18 th January 2027



Comments on the proposals

Within five weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, or make comments upon the proposals, by sending their representations to:

Rivermead Inclusive Trust,
Long Catlis Road,
Parkwood,
Gillingham, Kent,
ME8 9TX

You may also email your comments to the Rivermead School Office by putting 'Proposed Rivermead Expansion' in the subject header and use the address: consultation@r-i-t.org.

All responses must be received by: **16th June 2026 at 12 pm**

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to acknowledge receipt.

Date 13th May 2026

Proposals for the expansion of Rivermead at Bromley, A satellite provision of Rivermead School in the London Borough of Bromley

REPLY SLIP

Please complete this form and add any comments you wish below.

It would be helpful to have the following information:

Name:

Address:

I am (please tick)

☐

Parent/Guardian

☐

Governor

☐

Member of Staff

☐

Local Resident

☐

None of the above (please specify)

Please tick one box

☐

I approve of the proposals to the expansion of
Rivermead at Bromley.

☐

I object to the proposals to the expansion of Rivermead

Comments

Please give your reasons as fully as possible. This will help careful consideration to be given to the arguments in favour and against the proposal. You are able to provide additional sheets of paper as required.

Please return this slip to Rivermead Inclusive Trust, Long Catlis Road, Parkwood, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent,
ME8 9TX by 16th June at 12pm



Hoo St Werburgh
Primary School



Rivermead



**RIVERMEAD
solutions**



