

## **Hammersmith and Fulham Local Education Authority Public Notice of Proposal Gibbs Green Special School**

**Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Hammersmith & Fulham Local Education Authority of Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, W6 9JU (“the Authority”) intends to discontinue Gibbs Green School, Mund Street, London W14 9LY with effect from 31 March 2009.**

It is proposed that the Gibbs Green provision is re-designated as a centre at Langford Primary School. The provision would transfer to new accommodation at Langford Primary School, Gilstead Road, SW6 2LG from April 2009, and would formally become part of the school. All full-time pupils will transfer to the roll of Langford School.

The re-designation of the school (and all its associate functions) as a ‘centre’, to be located on a mainstream site, would be in line with national trends. This location would in itself do much to promote and develop further the inclusion of pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD).

The Authority is confident that the proposed arrangements for the re-designation of Gibbs Green as a centre within a mainstream primary school will:

- maintain the good practice that already exists while improving inclusion opportunities for pupils;
  - improve transition to secondary education;
  - ensure there are sufficient and appropriate full and part time places;
  - be an effective use of the funding allocated to the Authority to respond to SEN issues;
- and the Authority believes that these proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard and quality of the educational provision for these children.

For those children transferring from Gibbs Green to Langford, the walking distance between the two sites is 1.565 miles. The Authority believes the proposed arrangements will not lead to greater car usage. Pupils attending the centre at Langford, both full time and those on short term placements, will be taken to and from the centre by minibus. The Authority will develop satellite provision at other schools to further reduce journey times for children in the north of the borough.

The Authority confirms that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to this proposal have been complied with.

In the opinion of the Authority, these proposals are not related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

Complete copies of the proposal can be obtained by writing to Barbara Beese, Children’s Services Department, Cambridge House, Cambridge Grove, London W6 0LE, or by telephoning 020 8753 3636 or emailing [barbara.beese@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.beese@lbhf.gov.uk)

The proposal can also be viewed on the council’s website: [www.lbhf.gov.uk](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk)

Any person may object to, or comment on the proposal. Objections, comments and representations must be made in writing and addressed to:

Andrew Christie  
Director of Children's Services  
Hammersmith and Fulham Local Education Authority  
Town Hall  
King Street  
London W6 9JU

Objections, comments and representations must be received by no later than 5 p.m. on 22 November 2007.

Signed: Andrew Christie

## **Explanatory Notes**

(i) This proposal is made in the context of Hammersmith and Fulham Local Education Authority's Primary and Special Schools' Strategy, published on 30 March 2007, which set out proposals which would provide enhanced provision for children with special needs, enabling where possible, more children to remain in borough for their schooling. Further, for their needs to be met more quickly and for the provision for pupils with SEBD to be provided within a mainstream school setting.

(ii) When reviewing special needs provision in the borough, Gibbs Green was looked at in terms of its current roll and in the context of changing aspirations for meeting the needs of children with special needs. Although Gibbs Green is funded for 20 full time places, it has admitted less than 40 primary pupils with SEBD statements over the past five years, seven of whom were out of borough pupils. This equates to an average of eight pupils on the school roll at any time.

(iii) In addition, increased delegation of funding for SEN to mainstream schools will mean that fewer children will require a statement of special needs in order to access appropriate support.

(iv) Taking these and other issues into consideration, Gibbs Green School is proposed for closure, with its provision being re-designated as a 'centre' on a mainstream primary school site.

(v) Regulations made under the Act further provide that where a Local Education Authority in England propose to discontinue a community special school, the authority must publish their proposals under this section, then:

“(a) any comments/representations under this paragraph shall be sent to the Authority within the prescribed six week period, “the representation period”; and

(b) where proposals are published by the Local Education Authority and there are not objections from specified objectors – the local Church of England Diocese or the Bishop of the local Roman Catholic diocese, the proposals must be determined by the Authority within two months from the end of the representation period.”