

Statutory Representation Period

Local Authority: Blackburn with Darwen
School: Shadsworth Infant School
Proposal: Statutory representation period on the proposed addition of a SEN Unit at Shadsworth Infant School.
Date of Implementation: Autumn 2023

Why are we consulting?

The guidance ["Making significant changes \('prescribed alterations'\) to maintained schools, January 2023"](#) informs that Blackburn with Darwen as the Admissions Authority for Shadsworth Infant School are required to undertake statutory processes to make an addition of an SEN Unit at the school. The Local Authority carried out a pre-statutory publication consultation from 18th April 2023 to 5th June 2023. The results of this pre-publication consultation has informed the specific proposal as detailed below.

As detailed within the statutory process the Local Authority will carry out a further consultation (i.e. 4 week period of formal representation).

The Local Authority is keen to hear the views of all interested stakeholders on the modified proposal.

Requirements for Notification and Publication

Under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, the Local Authority must follow the required statutory process to make the proposed change.

Background

It is the duty of the Local Authority to ensure sufficient school places for all children and young people, including those with SEND who may need additional support or more specialist provision. Blackburn with Darwen's pupil place modelling informs of a current and predicted future shortfall of places in resourced provisions, special schools, and alternative provision schools. Locally and nationally the number of students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is on the rise and the need for special school places is increasing.

Most students with special educational needs and/or disabilities can generally be supported in mainstream schools, however a number of students are unable to access the National Curriculum at age related expectations and for those pupils a SEN Unit can provide a full, broad and balanced education in an environment that is more suited to their needs.

Shadsworth Infant School currently operates as a 3 to 7 year old intake nursery and infant school. This means that the school admits children from nursery age until they reach junior school age. The addition of an SEN Unit would have no detrimental impact on admissions to the schools nursery and/or reception class. Places at the SEN Unit will be in addition to the Schools published admission number (PAN).

The Prescribed Alterations Guidance says that there is a strong expectation that the Local Authority will consult interested parties prior to publication of statutory proposals in order to take account of all relevant issues. The Local Authority carried out a consultation from 18th April 2023 to 5th June 2023 and now proposes to follow the statutory process to make this change.

Specific Proposal

The local authority, as the admissions authority for Shadsworth Infant School, proposes to add an additional SEN Unit with effect from autumn 2023, in a purpose built extension to the existing Infant School.

Places in the SEN Unit will not impact on the Infant Schools Published Admissions Numbers. Admissions to the SEN Unit will be for those students with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) where the school is named in that plan.

The proposal will not negatively affect staff currently employed to work at Shadsworth Infant School.

The local authority, as the admissions authority, will consider any views from the statutory representation period before making a final decision on the specific proposal.

How would this Increase Educational Standards?

Most students with special educational needs and/or disabilities can generally be supported in mainstream schools, however a number of students are unable to access the National Curriculum at age related expectations. The SEN Unit provides an opportunity for those students to get a full well-rounded education in a setting which is more suited to their needs.

What is the Impact on other Educational Institutions?

The addition of an SEN Unit would have no impact on other local infant, primary and junior schools. In relation to the impact on other specialist provision, it would positively impact, as it would decrease place pressure in those institutions.

Who are we consulting with?

During this statutory representation period, we want to seek views from all interested parties, this may include:

- Parents and carers of children;
- School staff;
- Trade unions;
- School Governors;
- Primary, infant, junior and specialist schools (including any associated Academy Trust) in Blackburn with Darwen;
- Councillors and MP's;
- Relevant local authority departments.

Timeline for the Consultation Period

Date	Action
9 th October 2023	Start of the statutory representation period.
3 rd November 2023	End of the statutory representation period/deadline for submitting views to the Local Authority.
November 2023	Analysis of statutory representation period views and preparation of information to be considered by the LA.
November 2023	Head teacher to present the statutory representation period outcomes to Shadsworth Infant School governing body.
November 2023	Executive decision meeting to consider views and agree future arrangements.

When would any Changes come into Effect?

If a decision to create an SEN Unit, at Shadsworth Infant School is agreed and approved; the arrangements would be introduced from autumn term 2023 term onwards.

Projected Costs

Each place within the SEN Unit is commissioned and funded by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

Implementation

The Local Authority as the Admissions Authority would, if the statutory representation period was successful, begin admission in the autumn 2023 term.

How to Respond

This statutory representation period will run from **Monday 9th October 2023** (a period of 4 weeks). You are invited to submit views in writing about the statutory representation period above to the Local Authority. You can share your views via this [online form](#) , or send by post or email to the following addresses –

Blackburn with Darwen Council
Pupil Support & Admissions Team,
Children's Services & Education Department,
10 Duke Street,
Blackburn,
Lancashire,
BB2 1DH.
Phone: 01254 666605
Email: admissions@blackburn.gov.uk

All views must be received by **5pm on Friday 3rd November 2023**. Views received after this specified time and date will not be considered.

For further information please contact:

Carol Grimshaw

Phone: 01254 666605

Email: admissions@blackburn.gov.uk