



Consultation meeting about expanding Willow Dene School on the Swingate Lane site



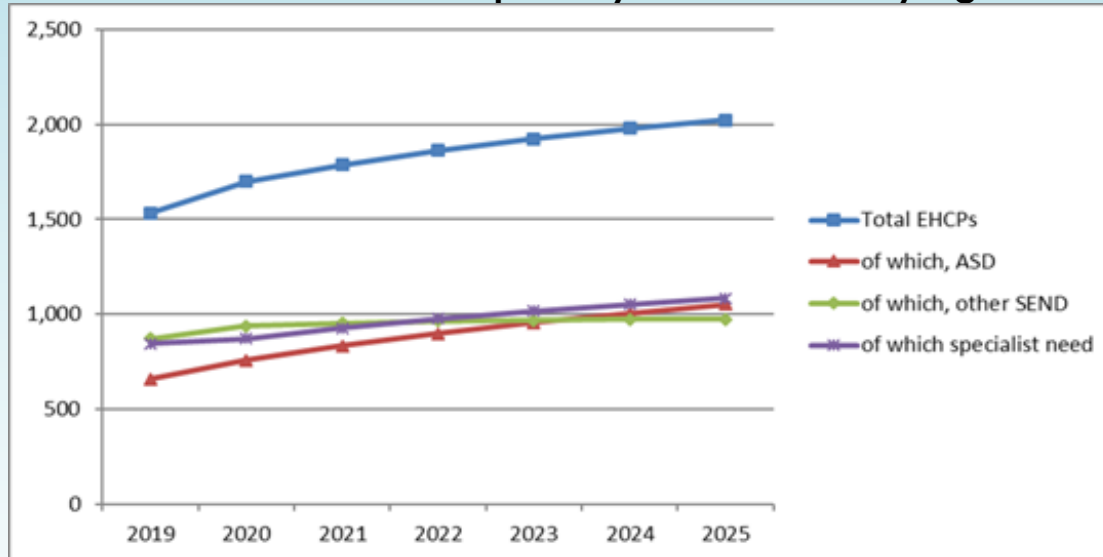
Seeing possibilities, realising dreams

Alderwood - Deansfield - Halstow
Horn Park - South Rise - Willow Dene - Wingfield

Why is the expansion of Willow Dene being proposed?

- Demand for specialist school places in the borough is expected to increase over the next five years, particularly for those pupils with ASD with complex learning needs.

Predicted future need for primary and secondary ages



- If additional places are not provided within the borough, children will need to be sent out-of-borough to have their needs met. Places within the borough therefore enables more children's needs to be met locally.
- Opportunities for expanding special schools in the borough are extremely limited.
- A rigorous sequential site assessment found the Swingate Lane as the most viable option for SEND primary expansion and Hargood Road site offering the best opportunity to provide additional SEND secondary places.

What is being proposed at Swingate Lane?

Expansion of provision to provide an additional 112 places (so site would have 321 pupils in total including nursery).

Primary phase places for pupils who have autism with complex learning needs.

Continuing to be day provision, not residential.

The temporary accommodation added in spring 2021 is the first 16 of these places to meet immediate need.

Remaining additional places would start being occupied when the building works complete – during the 2022/23 academic year.

The additional places would be filled over approximately 5 years as new cohorts of pupils join the school.

Introducing Willow Dene and Compass

Willow Dene:

- Special school, currently for 257 pupils aged 2 – 16 with wide range of special educational needs.
- Situated on two sites: primary at Swingate Lane, secondary at Oakmere Road
- Successful and popular school – confident of 'Outstanding' at next Ofsted
- Focus on meeting individual needs, pedagogy and staff development
- Also consulting on establishing additional secondary provision (with sixth form) at a new site – Hargood Road in Kidbrooke

The Compass Partnership of Schools

- Multi-academy trust of 6 primary schools and Willow Dene – all Greenwich
- Values: optimism, ambition, resilience
- Strong relationships with local communities and with Royal Greenwich

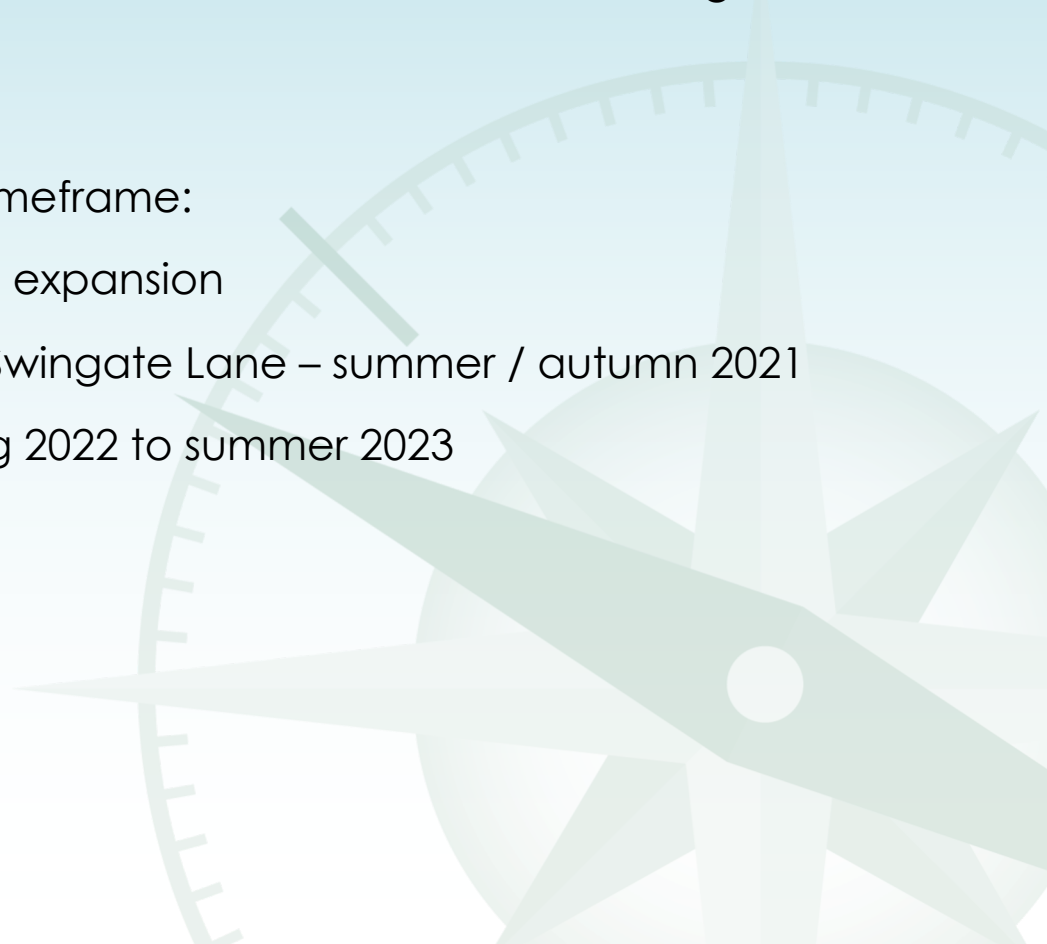
What are the implications / timeframes?

Two separate processes:

- Department for Education – whether Willow Dene is allowed to expand (at Swingate Lane, and to occupy Hargood Road (including sixth form))
- Planning process – whether the additional accommodation at Swingate Lane is approved

IF the proposal proceeds, possible timeframe:

- DfE approval in spring 2022 to the expansion
- Planning consultation regarding Swingate Lane – summer / autumn 2021
- Construction works on site – spring 2022 to summer 2023



How you can have your say / what happens next

Consultation about whether the expansion should take place until 22nd June 2021. Have your say:

- Online: questionnaire at www.willowdene.Greenwich.sch.uk
- Post: Expansion Consultation, Willow Dene School, Swingate Lane, London, SE18 2JD

All responses reviewed before decision taken about whether to proceed – next steps would be application to DfE and progressing proposals for capital works.

LA would fund and manage the capital works. Planning process would involve the usual consultation requirements with local residents before decisions are taken.

