

Appendix 1: Checks against Statutory Guidance

Effect on standards and school improvement

A system shaped by parents

Giving Morasha Jewish Primary School Voluntary Aided status will widen the choice of maintained schools in the area for those wanting an Orthodox Jewish education, helping to meet parental preferences.

Standards

Morasha is already a high performing independent school and was judged *good* by Ofsted at its last inspection. The school's most recent Foundation Stage moderation showed pupils to be performing above the area average in all areas of the curriculum. The new school building will provide improved facilities for children and staff which will contribute to improved educational standards. The school has been receiving support from Barnet's Learning Network Inspector in preparation for becoming maintained.

The school is committed to ensuring progression in the National Curriculum and providing opportunities to improve further teaching and learning and the raising of standards across the primary age range. It will work in partnership with other schools to share good practice and learn from their successes within and beyond the curriculum.

Diversity

The school will add to the diversity of provision in the area and will meet the needs and wishes of the local Jewish community.

The school will make appropriate provision at School Action, School Action Plus and for pupils with statements as specified in individual Statements and in line with Barnet Policy and the SEN Code of Practice (2001).

Every Child Matters

The school intends to provide extended services including after school and breakfast clubs and family learning. The statutory proposals set out in detail how the school will help pupils to achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes through the curriculum, the building, and teaching methods.

Types of school

The school will be a self-governing school and will work in partnership with other schools in Barnet

The school will have sufficient staff to meet the requirement of a maintained school, and all relevant teaching staff have qualified teacher status.

Premises

The new school building at Stanhope Road will comply with the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999.

See risks above.

School characteristics

The school will be a one form entry, mixed, voluntary aided Jewish primary school; this is a common size of school in Barnet and is large enough to be viable. Nursery provision is not proposed.

Admissions

The proposed admission arrangements for the school comply with the law and the School Admissions Code. To reduce the likelihood of future challenge Morasha will consult on updated admission criteria as part of consultation for the next admission round for those entering the school in Academic Year 2014/15.

National curriculum

The school will follow the national curriculum. An important focus of this school is the integration of the secular (National Curriculum) and Jewish Studies with the aim of raising achievement and achieving excellence in both. Whole school ethos, policies and schemes of work will ensure the continuity and progression in the National Curriculum and provide opportunities to improve further teaching and learning and the raising of standards across the primary age range.

Extended services

The school intends to provide a range of extended services including breakfast and after school clubs, and adult and family learning.

Equal opportunities

The school will admit both boys and girls and will provide them with equal opportunities. Pupils will engage in a wide range of activities and learning to promote community cohesion, including links with other Jewish and non-Jewish schools. The school reflects strong demand from within the Finchley area for orthodox Jewish education.

Need for places

There is significant and increasing demand for primary school places in Barnet. To meet demand for September 2012, 19 additional Reception classes were created. Morasha is proposing to increase the number of places available in each year to 30 (with the exception of one year group – see 9.3), which will make some contribution to meeting increased demand for places. It will also increase the number of state-funded primary school places available to the Jewish community in the Finchley area.

The proposers have provided a wide range of evidence to demonstrate the growing demand for orthodox Jewish primary school places in the Finchley area. The existing independent school is currently oversubscribed and it does not appear that there would be any difficulty in filling the additional places.

Impact on the community and travel

Community cohesion and race equality

The proposals set out a range of ways in which the school will promote community cohesion and increase equality and inclusion. The school intends to build links with a range of other schools and organisations and will be inclusive for pupils with a range of educational needs.

Through the consultation process, the school has received plenty of evidence to support the demand for orthodox Jewish schooling within the maintained sector in Finchley. The proposers of the school are committed to providing this and to providing an inclusive environment within the school.

Travel

The school has been working closely with the Council to develop its school travel plan which aims to maximise the use by pupils and teachers of public transport and walking and to significantly minimise private car use. The permanent and current sites are accessible and fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act requirements.

Specific age provision issues

Early years provision

Nursery provision is not proposed. The Stanhope Road sites will not accommodate a nursery at this stage. There are a number of maintained and privately-run Nursery and pre-school providers within three miles of Morasha.

Funding and land

Capital

The total capital costs for the Reception to Year 6 project is estimated at £3.25m, which includes (a) the cost of the land / property acquired for £1.25m in March 2012 and (b) the re-development and build costs involved with this project of £2.0 million. The proposers will meet the entire building costs and a contract is in place with a construction and project management company.

The Morasha Jewish Primary School Governing Body and the trustees of Finchley Jewish Primary School Trust are making available all costs relating to the building from their own resources and will cover any reasonable cost overruns. Contributions will be provided from existing assets and fundraising from individual donations and charitable trusts.

New voluntary aided school funding

A signed copy of Form 18 has been received. This form provides evidence that the new school's Governing Body would be able to meet their financial responsibilities for any future building work.

Land tenure arrangements

The Stanhope Road site is owned by the Finchley Jewish Primary School Trust on a freehold basis and is being made available to the school on a permanent basis, which is a satisfactory land tenure arrangement.

See risks above.

School Playing Fields

The school playing fields do not meet the minimum requirements set out in The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999. The additional requirement for the Stanhope Road site will be met by accessing the playing fields at the nearby Victoria Park, Friary Park and Rowley Lane where sports facilities include two football pitches and AstroTurf for all weather use. On the Moss Hall Grove site, the additional requirement will be met by utilising the nearby Gordon Hall (Huntley Drive, N3) for PE lessons and the nearby Victoria Park which is used for outdoor activities and PE lessons as well.

Views of interested parties

A wide range of stakeholders were consulted by the school during the consultation process. All responses received to the consultation were positive and supported the proposal for the school to become voluntary aided. During the representation stage, one representation was received regarding the admissions criteria prioritising children attending Finchley United Synagogue rather than other local synagogues. This is being addressed by the school (see 9.7).