



Thursday 8th December 2022

Dear Parents /Carers and Stakeholders,

Myself and the LA would like to update you all on the third site for Hill Park.

Leadership

We have appointed Linda Williams as the Deputy Head to lead the site. Linda is currently KS3 Lead at Hill Park Secondary, but also has experience of supporting pupils working at age related expectations who are autistic and have mental health needs.

Linda was an extremely strong candidate and is very excited about her new role. We were supported in the selection process by a representative from PACC and would like to thank them for their time on this.

Environment

The plans for the refurbishment and building works are running to plan and no delays have been brought to my attention. Work is due to start in January and the students who are allocated places for September 2023 will have input into the environment / décor etc in the Summer Term.

Admissions Policy and Procedures

Hill Park 3rd Site is a mixed day specialist school for students in Key stage 3 and 4.

The admissions procedure follows the SEN Code of Practice: Parents/Carers have the right to express their preference for this school, but the school can only consider pupils for admission that have been referred by their Local Authority (LA) and whose needs fall within our admissions criteria.

Brighton and Hove City Council's Special Educational Needs Team makes final decisions on placing pupils at the third site, in consultation with school and families.

All students have an Education, Health and Care Plan or are undergoing statutory assessment for one.

Students who attend HP3 **do not** have a learning disability. They **may have** a learning difficulty as a result of their neurodiverse needs, but they **do** have the ability to engage in age related subject-specific study.

Their needs fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Autism and anxiety that means they have not been able to manage a mainstream school environment
- High anxiety that creates barriers for them to be able to engage with learning and executive functioning
- Emotional vulnerability / emotional and social development needs related to being autistic

- May have Specific learning difficulties including dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia
- Social Communication needs
- Mental health difficulties that have been diagnosed and are undergoing treatment from mental health services.
- Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties related to being autistic (but not where these are the primary category of need).

Students will need an EHCP to attend the third site but a small number of assessment places have been approved which will enable students to attend whilst their EHCP process is ongoing. Only students who we feel confident meet the criteria to attend the provision will be offered an assessment place.

Accessibility Hill Park 3rd Site is designed to meet the Equalities Act 2010 requirements.

Appeals The process for resolving disagreements with the contents of an Education, Health and Care Plan, including placement decisions is set out in The SEND Code of Practice 2015.

Placements for Hill Park 3rd Site will be considered at the end of the Spring term 2023. The process for consideration of future placements will be through parents making a preference at their child's annual review meeting or following their annual review meeting. The L.A will then make a consultation with Hill Park. There may be more requests for places than available places and the school will consider the admissions criteria carefully when making a decision on whether a placement is suitable. The final decision on placement will be made by the Local Authority.

We will be considering each student's paperwork and will have the following considerations when selecting the first cohort:

- Do they meet the admissions criteria above?
- Creating potentially viable group of students to teach in a group of 6/8
- Having a sustainable number of students who are working offsite , either fully or partially or who need 1-1 or 1-2 support
- Ensuring a potential peer group to encourage social skills and interaction
- Support needed to manage dysregulation
- A manageable number of assessment places
- Amount of time they have been missing education

We will continue to issue further updates, but in the meantime if you have any questions please contact rachelburstow@hillpark.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



Rachel Burstow
Executive Headteacher