

	Bowden House and Ben Jonson SEMH Provision Consultation
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from Ben Jonson and Bowden House staff, parents and governors	
1. Does the LA have a vision for the provision at Ben Jonson	The vision for the provision has been set out through the SEN Strategy, the SEMH implementation plan and the specification for expressions of interest. All available on LA website.
2. What are they key elements of the model	The model is expected to be: 2*12 pupil provisions, which together provide a continuum of provision for boys and girls of primary age. It is expected to ensure the delivery of quality primary curriculum access, providing access to mainstream education provision whenever possible and to encourage an aim to return to mainstream schooling whenever appropriate. The flexibility to access the most suitable of provisions for the child with smooth transitions is a key element of the expected provision.
3. Do the schools have any flexibility in how they develop the provision.	Yes the vision provides a framework and the LA have encouraged the schools to develop a model that fits that framework. Through negotiation (supported by independent consultant) they will arrive at an agreed model as set out in the Service Level Agreement and financial modelling.
4. Will there be adequate building provision	The LA are aware (through Honora Brinkley and Calvin Coughlan) of the need for key elements to be in place asap. They are working on a phased approach to developing the building changes needed
5. Will there be any impact on Bowden House Seaford provision	No there will be no impact on the Seaford House provision. The LA recognises the additional management support needed, and the time involved for travel. It has allocated an additional support sum to Bowden House for initial set up support.

<p>6. Will all the children in the Bowden House Primary provision go on to Bowden House Seaford</p>	<p>No. All children have to apply for secondary school places. Access to Bowden House Seaford provision is through EHC Plans, with a need for residential provision clearly identified. The early intervention support available from the provision should ensure more children are able to transition to mainstream secondary provision.</p>
<p>7. What will happen to secondary age girls</p>	<p>The LA are developing specialist secondary girls SEMH provision. Ben Jonson and Bowden House are expected to establish strong transitional links to secondary schools and, in particular, to any new specialist secondary provision for girls.</p>
<p>8. Will the provision be suitably funded to secure success</p>	<p>Senior leaders and governors have been working closely with the LA to develop the provision model and funding agreement. These will be confirmed through an SLA and funding agreement.</p>
<p>9. How will set up and transition be supported by the LA?</p>	<p>The LA recognise the importance of good set up and transition and have therefore agreed to fund the provision from April 1st 2021.</p>
<p>10. We should avoid all the children starting at the same time</p>	<p>The LA recognise the need to gradually build a quality provision so that ethos, values and expectations can be clearly established. They are expecting the new provision to grow over 3 years to support a more gradual intake.</p>
<p>11. Will the children be joining Ben Jonson classes?</p>	<p>The children joining the Ben Jonson part of the provision will primarily be supported in mainstream classes. Children in the Bowden House part of the provision may be included in some Ben Jonson classes based on their needs and agreement between the two schools. The Ben Jonson provision recommends 2 additional children per year group (of 90) children</p>

<p>12. Will there be too many children with problems all at the same site?</p>	<p>Staffing levels for the provision would ensure that this is not a problem. Building adaptations should ensure sufficient space for everyone, including safe spaces for children who are struggling to manage their emotions or behaviour. This will allow staff to support them and ensure that there are no health and safety risks for other children. Larger numbers allow more specialist staff to be available to meet needs.</p>
<p>13. Might the behaviour of the children at the SEMH provision impact negatively on the behaviour of children at Ben Jonson?</p>	<p>Ben Jonson expects to retain the same high behaviour standards, including behaviours for learning, rights respecting approaches and empathy for others. The new provision is not expected to affect those standards because new children joining will be given additional support to develop skills to learn to manage their behaviours and emotions.</p>
<p>14. Will there be pressure to take all 24 children too quickly</p>	<p>The LA is committed to the success of the project and recognises that time is needed to establish values and expectations. That is why the SLA recognises a need to grow over time, but does expect an increase of 4 children each for both Ben Jonson and Bowden House, each year over 3 years. The LA also recognises that Ben Jonson may only be able to include 2 children in each year group. The needs of the children and the commitment to top quality education for all will, as they always have, guide placements.</p>
<p>15. How often will the provision be reviewed</p>	<p>There is an annual review process for all Tower Hamlets SEND provision. In addition, the LA and Schools have agreed a full review of the provision at 2 years in order to ensure a long term, financially sustainable model is developed for years 3 to 6 of the provision. This will include external expertise.</p>

<p>Relevant FAQs from Cherry Trees consultation</p>	
<p>1. How can LA ensure the new provision is successful?</p>	<p>The Local Authority is working with experienced Headteachers to build new provision with high expectations from the start. Regular local authority monitoring, with experience and outcome expectations to match all the other children in the school, should reduce the risk of standards slipping.</p>
<p>2. How will the same quality of teaching and experience be secured at new provision?</p>	<p>Specialist SEMH provision already exists in primary schools, but the new arrangements will enhance this further, through bringing in expertise from Bowden House School. By bringing together expertise across the full primary provision alongside specialist SEMH experience high quality teaching and experience will be secured.</p>
<p>3. What will happen if the new provision fails as well?</p>	<p>Leadership and governance at Ben Jonson and Bowden House Schools is strong. If weaknesses develop there is a wider capacity of leadership staff to help ensure areas of weakness are quickly tackled and improvements made.</p>
<p>4. Will the new provision be as giving as Cherry Trees has been?</p>	<p>Both schools have strong reputations for supporting children and their families. The last OFSTED Report for Ben Jonson states " Parents and pupils are positive about the care, guidance and support provided by staff at the school " and for Bowden House "Your staff have extremely strong knowledge of the individual, holistic needs of pupils and continually demonstrate a high level of dedication and care. "</p>

<p>5. Will the new provision be sufficient to meet needs?</p>	<p>Tower Hamlets SEND Strategy has based its identification of need on the Joint Strategic Needs (JSNA) Strategy. There is scope to extend the model, if necessary, to meet any increasing level of SEND needs?</p>
<p>6. Will existing experienced Cherry Trees staff be employed to support children at the new provision?</p>	<p>At individual level the needs of each child have been considered through their EHC Plans and provision being recommended is expected to be at least as good, if not better, for each of the 11 children currently attending Cherry Trees School.</p> <p>In some cases staff may well transfer with children, and there may be redeployment opportunities, at the discretion of the Governing Bodies at Bowden House and Ben Jonson Schools. At this stage the position is not clear, but Tower Hamlets will do all it can to support children's transition and reduce the risk of compulsory redundancy, in line with its School Re-organisation Process.</p>
<p>7. Will there be strong transition planning to support these moves?</p>	<p>Yes the provision will be funded from April 1st 2021 to support transition</p> <p>Transition planning is a statutory requirement for children with EHC Plans and this work has already begun.</p>
<p>8. Has sufficient consideration been given to the cultural mix of schools, when considering the transitional support that might be needed and future friendship groups?</p>	<p>This is being considered, including establishing friendship groups and visits to possible schools. As numbers of children at Cherry Trees have reduced children are sometimes struggling to have friendships with so few boys at the school. Additional support is planned for families and children who may be concerned around being a "minority" of the pupil population, including "white minority"</p>
<p>9. The boys at Cherry Trees are here because Primary provision has not been able to meet their needs, why do the LA think Ben Jonson will be able to do so? (2)</p>	<p>The provision being developed at Ben Jonson will be specialist provision and will include support from Bowden House School, for those who find integrated mainstream support especially challenging.</p>

