

## Section 10 Consultation

### Rowan Wood School

#### Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

| <b>Facilities / build:</b>   |  |
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| Will the primary site have similar facilities to the secondary site available to them?   | The project board are committed to ensuring that the facilities on both campuses meet the needs of the children and young people attending. The facilities will be broadly the same but have some differences to reflect the ages of the children and young people on both campuses. For example, there will be no need for the primary campus to have a dedicated sixth form area. However, all other facilities, including, for example, therapy spaces, a life skills room, library etc. will be available. We are conscious though of making sure that aesthetic feel of both campuses is matched to the age ranges of those attending.  |
| Why does the plan not include provision for a swimming pool and how does the school plan to provide access to a pool should one not be built onsite? | There is a significant financial implication to the inclusion of a swimming pool and unfortunately this could not be accommodated within the overall cost of the build. However, both Rowan Wood and Willow Dene will be working closely together and this close working will also include the sharing of facilities, such as the use of the swimming pool at Willow Dene, where appropriate for both individuals and groups of children and young people. We also firmly believe in making use of other external facilities; including the local swimming pool – The Eltham Centre. This pool is more suitable, particularly for our secondary aged young people as the pool at Willow Dene is too shallow. This will, of course, be carefully planned and staff from Rowan Wood will always be in attendance to support. |
| Will any physical spaces be large enough to accommodate gym equipment?   | Yes. A space has also been planned specifically for the use of suspended equipment to support children and young people’s regulation. There is also generous outdoor spaces which can also be used.  |
| Will there be dedicated office space for therapy staff?  | Yes. Generous office space has been included in the build plans which will be ample, even when the school is at full capacity. Clinic space has also been accommodated.  |
| Do the facilities include any dedicated spaces for families to use – for example, a family room?   | Yes. We know how important such a space is. Therefore, a family / parent room has also been included. This facility will also be mirrored on the primary campus. We want this space to have its own unique character, in line with what our families tell us is important to them.   |
| Is there a plan B for if a suitable primary site cannot be found?  | Feasibility studies are already being undertaken by the Royal Borough of Greenwich to identify a range of suitable sites for the primary campus. There is a commitment to having a dedicated primary campus in Greenwich and this commitment remains. Up until the opening of the primary campus, the Trust are working closely with the Royal Borough of Greenwich to support mainstream schools with primary children who have an EHCP and are waiting for special school provision.   |

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| <b>Places &amp; admissions:</b>   |  |
| Will pupils in Greenwich with SEND have first priority over places? It would be a shame if pupils out of the area got places over Greenwich pupils. | The Royal Borough of Greenwich anticipate that all places will be filled by children and young people who are attending schools within the Royal Borough of Greenwich. This is due to the demand on special school places within the local authority. The admissions policy for Rowan Wood has already been agreed by both the DfE and the local authority. A copy of this policy was made available as part of the consultation process. A link to it can be found <a href="#">here</a>   |
| <b>Opening:</b>   |  |
| What are the timelines for opening?   | The timelines within the original specification are for the secondary campus to open in September 2025. This is still the timeline that the project board are working towards and the construction company are on site. Opening will be phased, with the secondary campus opening first. Young people in key stage 3 can expect to have Rowan Wood named on their EHCP for September 2025.   |
| <b>Curriculum:</b>  |  |
| Will students be able to be entered into formal qualifications such as GCSEs and A-levels, not just functional skills?                              | As outlined in Rowan Wood's admissions policy, the school will cater for children and young people who have been diagnosed with autism and severe language and learning delays, working significantly below age-related expectations. We are unlikely to be offering GCSE or A-levels, given the parameters of our admissions policy. That does not mean that we are not aspirational for all those who will be attending Rowan Wood. We will ensure that all young people follow an accredited learning route that is matched to their specific needs.  |
| <b>Partnership working:</b>   |  |
| Given that Rowan Wood is a free school, how will the local authority and the school work together?  | The Compass Partnership of Schools already enjoys a very strong relationship with the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Upon opening, Rowan Wood will automatically join the Greenwich Learning Partnership. This is a partnership between all Greenwich schools and the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The local authority are also the admitting authority for all children and young people who will attend Rowan Wood.  |
| <b>Recruitment:</b>   |  |
| What are your plans for teacher recruitment?  | The Headteacher Designate (Ross Silcock) has already been appointed and is a member of the pre-opening project board. Our next priority is to recruit the Deputy Headteacher for the secondary campus. The first round of recruitment for teachers will begin in January 2025. This will be a national recruitment campaign, but also open to existing staff within the Trust – including at Willow Dene. For non-class based teams, including teaching assistants, recruitment will begin in the 2025 summer term. In the short term, there will also be some roles that will be shared across both Willow Dene and Rowan Wood. These roles are already filled by Willow Dene staff – for example, family support and sensory processing. |