

THE
COMPASS
PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS

Rowan Wood School

Section 10 Consultation Report



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Michael Green Education Services

November 2024

Contents

Introduction and Context	3
Consultation purpose and methodology	3
Critical milestones	5
Consultation events	6
Analysis of consultation responses	6
Conclusion and next steps	11
Acknowledgements	11
Appendix A to I - Consultation artifacts	
• Appendix A - Questionnaire	13
• Appendix B - Advert	15
• Appendix C - Trust website	16
• Appendix D - Topics explored in Trust information events	20
• Appendix E – FAQs to the consultation & the Trust’s response	20
• Appendix F - Consultation poster	23
• Appendix G – Targeted communications:	24
○ Trust staff	
○ Parents / stakeholders / supporters / other interested parties	
○ Councillors & elected officials	
○ Local Schools	
• Appendix H - Social media	29
• Appendix I - Press release	29

Introduction and context

This report has been written by Professor Michael Green from [Michael Green Education Services](#) who has supported the Compass Partnership of Schools with the statutory S10 consultation process.

In April 2024, the Compass Partnership of Schools was successful in its bid to establish a new special free school in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The new school, Rowan Wood School, will be an all-through special free school for children and young people aged 5-19 who have been diagnosed with autism and complex learning needs.

As part of the process for establishing Rowan Wood School, The Compass Partnership of Schools was legally required to hold a consultation exercise (under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State. The Act states that academy trusts are required to consult with those persons that the Trust deems appropriate. The consultation took place over a period of six weeks between 16 September and 28 October 2024 and involved a range of consultation methods and communication channels.

The purpose of this report is to outline the process that took place, to detail the findings arising from the consultation and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding the next steps. An abridged version of this report will be made available on the consultation webpage.

Consultation purpose and methodology

It is important that a new school should open with the support of its local community. The Compass Partnership of Schools remains committed to engaging with the community regarding its proposals. The purpose of consultation was threefold:

- to seek open and honest engagement with stakeholders in the community and beyond, to learn more about Rowan Wood School and, importantly, to provide a mechanism for their views and feedback to be heard.
- to draw upon views and feedback to inform the opening and establishment of Rowan Wood School
- to raise awareness of the school opening in order that prospective parents and/or carers would be aware of the school

Consultation –audience & stakeholders:

The Academies Act (2010) states that trusts are required to consult with those persons that the Trust deems appropriate. The Compass Partnership of Schools sought to consult with a wide range of stakeholders, to ensure that as many people as possible were aware of the proposal to open the school and had the opportunity for their views to be captured. Below provides an overview of key stakeholders targeted as part of the consultation process:

- All mainstream primary and secondary schools within Greenwich, including those with a SEND resource base
- All special schools in Royal Borough of Greenwich
- All primary and secondary special schools & maintained schools with specialist resource provision within neighbouring London boroughs (Lewisham, Bexley & Bromley)
- Compass Schools staff – including trustees and local school committees
- Parents and/or carers in the Trust’s schools
- Royal Borough of Greenwich locally elected Councillors
- MPs for Greenwich & Woolwich, Erith & Thamesmead and Eltham
- Members of the Rowan Wood strategic board group
- Prospective parents and/or carers of children and young people who might attend Rowan Wood School
- The children and young people themselves who might attend Rowan Wood School
- Local businesses – particularly near to the location of the secondary and sixth form campus
- Other identified education & health services
- Supporters contained within original free school application

- Local media
- Any other interested member of the community, including local residents

Communication methods:

In order to ensure that the consultation had a wide reach, a wide range of communication methods were used to promote engagement in the process. These included:

- The establishment of a dedicated consultation area on the Compass Partnership of Schools website - <https://www.compassps.uk/rowanwoodconsultation>
- An advert in the local newspaper – in print – News Shopper – for a two week period. The average issue readership is 74,097 with a weekly circulation of 41,164 papers
- Targeted letters / emails to the above identified stakeholders
- Two consultation & information events which took place on 23 September (online) and 9 October (in-person)
- Establishment of a dedicated consultation email (rowanwoodconsultation@compassps.uk)
- Use of the Trust’s social media channels – Twitter (X) - @CompassSchools
- Use of Willow Dene’s social media channels – Twitter (X) - @WillowDeneSch – Instagram @willowdenesch1
- Posters in Greenwich libraries
- Notices in the Royal borough of Greenwich’s school ebulletin
- Press releases issued to local media

Please refer to appendices A to I for illustrative examples of the consultation artefacts used as part of the process.

Methods of providing feedback:

Good practice (Cabinet Office 2018) states that a variety of feedback mechanisms should be used, including opportunities for those without access to technology. Consequently, four means were established:

- Dedicated Rowan Wood consultation email address – rowanwoodconsultation@compassps.uk
- Survey
- By post - New School Consultation, C/O Willow Dene School, Swingate Lane, Plumstead, London, SE18 2JD
- In person and online consultation events

Guidance used to inform consultation planning:

The following DfE and Cabinet Office guidance was used to inform the planning and execution of the consultation:

- DfE guidance (updated 31 October 2023) - [Free school pre-opening guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-pre-opening-guide)
- Table 9 – statutory consultation (updated 31 October 2023) – [checklist of activities](#)
- Cabinet Office consultation principles (updated 19 March 2018) – [consultation principles guidance](#)

Critical milestones

Successful consultation occurs only when it has been carefully planned. The Trust devised and implemented a comprehensive plan which sought to openly engage with the local community and stakeholders as part of its statutory obligation to consult under the Academies Act (2010). The following provides an overview of the critical milestones:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
22 Jul	23	24	25 S10 planning day 1	26 S10 planning day 2
29	30	31	1 Aug	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30 Comms plan & artefacts signed off
2 Sept	3	4	5	6 Press-release sent to local media outlets
9	10	11	12	13
16 Consultation launch Comms out	17 X tweet 1 - launch	18 Advert in press	19	20
23 Online consultation event	24 Interim review of survey feedback 1	25	26	27
30 X tweet 2	1 Oct	2 Interim review of survey feedback 2	3	4
7	8	9 In person consultation event	10	11 Interim review of survey feedback 3
14 X tweet 3	15	16	17	18
21 Interim review of survey feedback 4	22	23	24	25
28 Consultation close	29	30	31	1 Nov
4	5	6	7	8 Report drafted

	Consultation planning phase
	S10 consultation period
	Analysis and report drafting phase

Consultation events

As part of the consultation process, two information events were held – one in person and one online. Please refer to Appendix D for an overview of the topics covered. Copies of the PowerPoint slides can be accessed [here](#)

The consultation events were publicised through the local media, via the Trust’s social media account, via the Trust’s consultation webpage and in all written communication relating to the consultation process.

Representatives from the Trust in attendance, and involved in the events included the Chief Executive Officer, the Chair of Trustees, the Director of Special Schools and Special School Outreach and one of the Deputy headteachers from Willow Dene School.

A **total of 21 stakeholders** attended both events (excluding the representatives from the Trust). 15 stakeholders attended the online event held on 23 September 2024 and a further 6 stakeholders attended the in-person event held on 9 October 2024. Attendees included representatives from the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Compass local school committee members, prospective parents, parents with children in Trust schools, local residents, representatives from local organisations and businesses and locally elected councillors.

Both events were very well received by those attending and there was strong support for the outlined proposals. **No attendee at either event raised any objections or issues.** Feedback on the usefulness of these information events was left by a number of attendees, either as part of the survey or in separate follow-up emails:

- *‘Just wanted to say thanks for all the information today, it was great hearing in detail about Rowan Wood building design and all the specific features. It looks like it will be an amazing place.’*
- *‘Today’s consultation meeting was really helpful. I feel much more informed about the proposals and curriculum offer. Thank you for organising.’*
- *‘Thank you for organising tonight’s consultation event. It was extremely informative and clear. It was encouraging to hear that the trust is seeking genuine engagement and not just ticking a box which can often be the case with this type of process I have every confidence in Compass’ ability expertise to make a success of this much needed school.’*
- *‘I had the pleasure of getting in the call recently and was impressed with the presentation which looks very exciting and providing a well needed resource for the Borough.’*

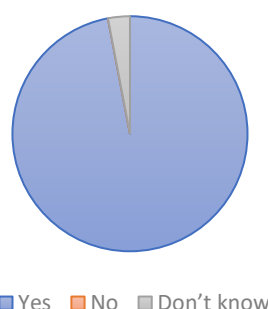
Analysis of consultation responses

Consultation opened at midday on Monday 16 September and closed at midday on Monday 28 October. **A total of 67 responses were received via our online questionnaire.** All responses were received before the advertised close of the statutory consultation period and have therefore been included for analysis. Please refer to Appendix A for an overview of the questions asked.

What follows is a report on the findings to the questions asked, including an analysis of the key themes from the free-text comments.

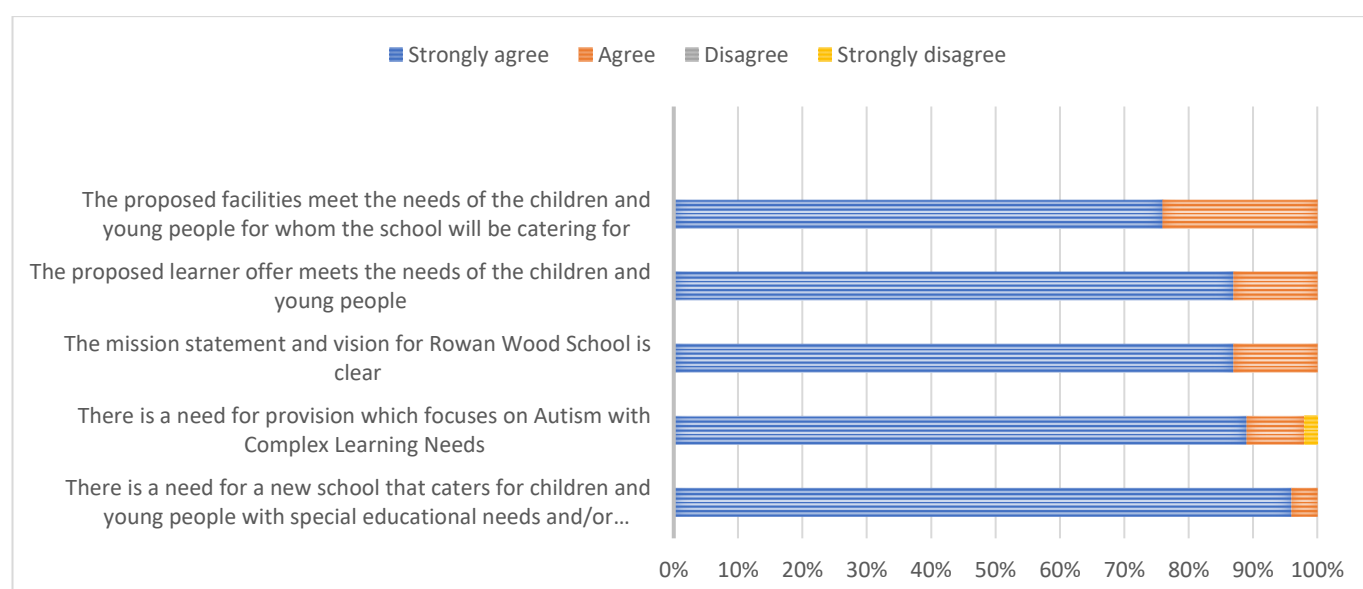
Question 1	Yes	No	Don’t know
Should The Compass Partnership of Schools enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to run the new special free school – Rowan Wood School?	97%		3%

Should The Compass Partnership of Schools enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to run the new special free school – Rowan Wood School?



A significant number of respondents (97%) agreed that a funding agreement should be entered into between The Compass Partnership of Schools and the Secretary of State for Education in order to open and run Rowan Wood School. Only one respondent (3%) was unsure. No respondents (0%) disagreed. Whilst such responses are extremely positive, it is important that as the pre-opening phase of project progresses, The Compass Partnership of Schools continues to engage and involve stakeholders so as to maintain the significant support with the local community and beyond.

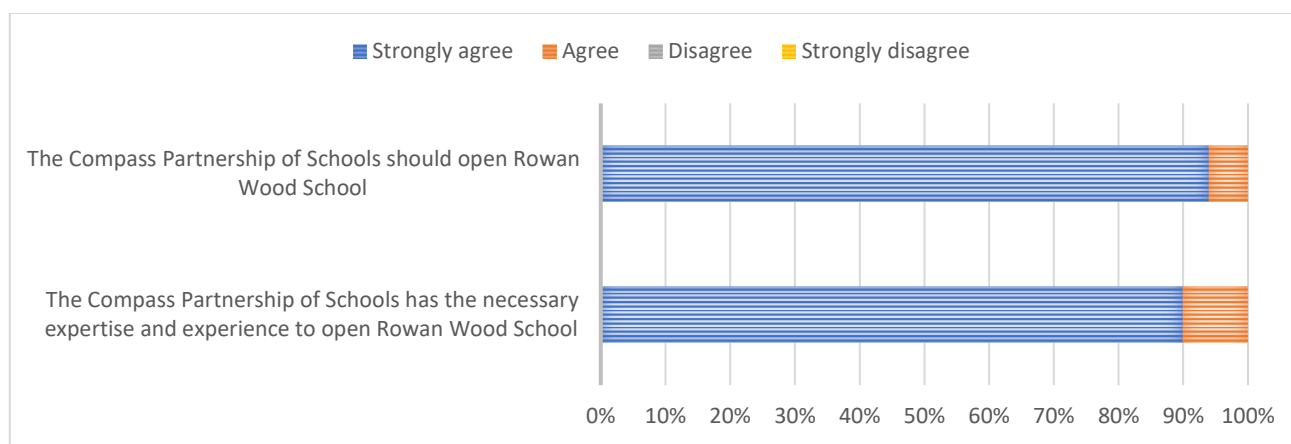
Question 2	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
There is a need for a new school that caters for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in the Greenwich locality	96%	4%		
There is a need for provision which focuses on Autism with Complex Learning Needs	89%	9%		2%
The mission statement and vision for Rowan Wood School is clear	87%	13%		
The proposed learner offer meets the needs of the children and young people	87%	13%		
The proposed facilities meet the needs of the children and young people for whom the school will be catering for	76%	24%		



As illustrated in the tables above, **there is a very high level of support for Rowan Wood School**. All (100%) respondents expressed the need for a new school that carers for children and young people with SEND in the Greenwich locality. Similarly, a significant number (98%) either agreed or strongly agreed that there is a need for provision which focuses on Autism with Complex Learning Needs.

In relation to the proposed mission statement for Rowan Wood, 100% felt that it was clear; with 87% strongly agreeing. Similarly, 100% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the proposed learner offer meets the needs of the children and young people.

Question 3	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The Compass Partnership of Schools has the necessary expertise and experience to open Rowan Wood School	90%	10%		
The Compass Partnership of Schools should open Rowan Wood School	94%	6%		



The Compass Partnership of Schools received very positive support from respondents; with 100% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the Trust should open Rowan Wood School. A key reason behind this level of support; as indicated in the free text comments concerns the expertise and experience that the Compass Partnership of Schools has; particularly in relation to SEND. **100% of respondents felt that the Trust has the necessary expertise and experience; with 90% strongly agreeing.**

We want Rowan Wood School to be an important part of the community. Are there any other services you would like the school to offer?	25 responses
<p>Out of the 67 respondents; 25 respondents (37%) choose to leave free text comments. One respondent stated 'none'. A small number of these responses (2) commented that the focus and priority, at least in the immediate term, should be on the children and young people in the school.</p> <p>Of the remaining 22 responses, three key themes emerged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist outreach support / training services. 7 respondents (32%) suggested opportunities for the expertise within Rowan Wood School to be shared more widely through training and outreach support to other schools and teachers in the local community and beyond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Could there be a training programme offered for other schools in the area? Training could cover a range of themes. For example, safeguarding & SEND, supporting learners with autism in mainstream. Adult education for adults with a special educational need and or disability (SEND).'</i> <i>'Will the school offer training for mainstream school teachers?'</i> <i>'Support for other schools in the area- e.g. training for teachers.'</i> <i>'It could also offer and advice and support to schools whose pupils do not qualify for a place but none the less need additional support. Some schools are not always well equipped to meet the needs of these pupils and would therefore benefit from advice and support from experts at Compass.'</i> 	

- **Support for parents and/or carers.** Another stakeholder group identified that could benefit from support was that of parents and/or carers of children and young people attending Rowan Wood School. 6 respondents (27%) specifically suggested additional support for parents and/or carers in the form of parent classes / workshops and support groups:
 - *'Family Support is particularly important within the community of parents and families, and this should definitely be considered in the staffing structure.'*
 - *'Classes for us parents would be wonderful. Having a child with ASD is hard so any help and support that we can have would be appreciated.'*
 - *'As the school becomes more established a big gap in need that the school could easily fill would be to offer and run courses for parents of children with SEND. These classes could offer the opportunity for parents to network with one another.'*
- **Out of hours provision and support.** 8 respondents (37%) commented that out of hours provision offered both after school and during holidays would be appreciated. Many felt that such provision would provide invaluable respite support:
 - *'I would like the team to consider what out of hours / out of term time provision will be included.'*
 - *'Respite provision, such as Saturday Clubs and holiday play schemes.'*
 - *'Afterschool clubs or Saturday clubs that cater for CYP with complex needs and neurotypical children. This could be sports activities, dance, drama.'*

A number of the respondents suggest that this could provide an opportunity to partner with local external groups to support with the running of the out of hours provision.

Of the remaining free text responses, two other suggestions emerged. These include:

- **Access to the site and its facilities** for the community and/or the families of the children and young people attending Rowan Wood (3 respondents):
 - *'Possibly a cafe onsite, something the older pupils could learn live skills from whilst also serving staff refreshments. It would provide a place that families at the school could meet up at too.'*
 - *'It would also be a missed opportunity if the school did not provide a means for local community groups to use the site and facilities.'*
- Mirroring the offer available at Willow Dene School (1 respondent).

Additional comments

34 responses

34 respondents (51%) took the opportunity to provide additional free text comments.

Very strong support for Rowan Wood School and The Compass Partnership of Schools came through in a significant number of the comments. This is reflective of the highly positive responses to questions 1, 2 and 3 of the survey (refer to previous pages). A key theme (14 respondents or 41%) which emerged from the free text comments relates to the perceived **need of Rowan Wood School and the positive impact the school will have on the community; including the children and young people who will attend.**

- *'This is very much needed in the local area, this can be seen through the vast numbers of children and young people who come through panel for a place within a special school.'*
- *'This provision is long overdue in the local area and will hopefully alleviate some of the pressures in mainstream schools where teachers are trying their best in an imperfect system. I do though wonder where 240 places is enough.'*
- *'Borough of Greenwich need this school for SEN children, which are struggling in mainstream schools.'*
- *'This new school cannot come soon enough.'*
- *'Children with complex ASD cannot manage in a mainstream school, so the sooner the primary school can be built and opened the better.'*

A key feature within the 14 free text comments that emerges frequently is a concern that currently children and young people with autism and complex learning needs are not having their needs met within mainstream provision.

Other themes which emerged within the comments relate to:

- **Support for the Compass Partnership of Schools** to open Rowan Wood and the **Trust's expertise and reputation for SEND** (8 respondents or 24%).

- *'Delighted that Compass has been selected to run Rowan Wood School. Their expertise is well known in the area of SEND.'*
- *'So glad that a trust with expertise in autism and complex learning needs is opening the school.'*
- *'Finally, a trust that knows something about special educational needs is opening a new school. This is good news for the pupils and their parents.'*
- *'The Compass Partnership is exceptionally well placed to deliver this project with a proven track record of delivering expansions and new buildings, which are purposefully designed to meet the needs of children with autism and complex needs.'*
- *'Cannot think of a better suited MAT than Compass for running Rowan Wood.'*

The Trust's **strong track record of success with Willow Dene** features as an important reason why respondents (many of whom are parents of children and young people attending the school) express support for the Compass Partnership of Schools to open Rowan Wood.

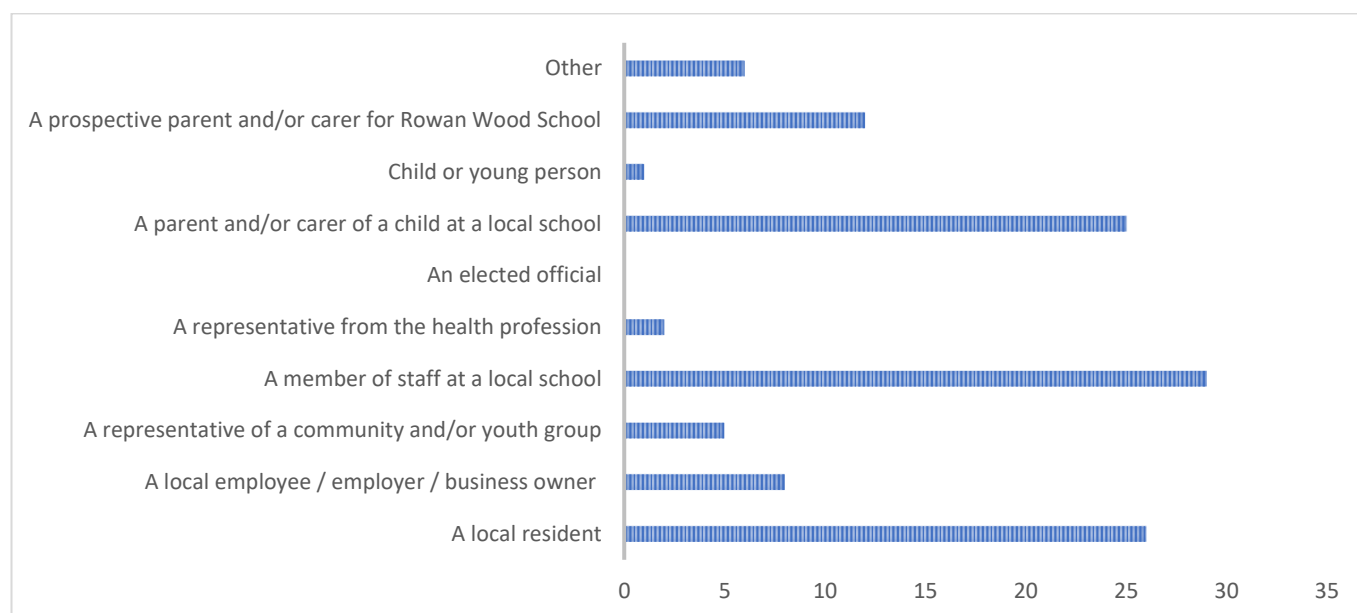
- *'Willow Dene has changed our lives, my sons, but also our family. Every child and family deserves this.'*
 - *'WD is an outstanding school according to Ofsted, but I see it every day that I am there... More children with complex needs need to be there to help them fulfil their own unique potential.'*
 - *'It is good that the experience and good practice at Willow Dene is being used to inform the approach to teaching and learning at Rowan Wood. The children deserve to have this specialist input.'*
- Suggestions and/or comments on the **curriculum and learner offer; including the facilities**. 10 respondents (29%) comment specifically on the curriculum and/or facilities. Within the free text comments there is strong support for the proposed learner offer and facilities. Respondents seem particularly pleased to see that the curriculum offer is ambitious and that it meets the needs of children and young people with Autism and Complex Learning Needs. The free text comments are reflective of the fact that 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the proposed learner offer meets the needs of the children and young people and 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the proposed facilities meet the needs of the children and young people for whom the school will be catering for:
 - *'The curriculum looks very relevant for ASD learners. Good to see leaders being aspirational and a focus on learners obtaining qualifications.'*
 - *'The offer clearly meets the specific needs of students with autism and complex learning needs.'*
 - *'The information on the website is very comprehensive and totally geared to pupils with autism. It is pleasing to see that leaders are being ambitious for the pupils who will be attending.'*
 - *'Curriculum offer looks excellent and just what is needed.'*
 - *'The facilities look amazing for the school and totally suitable for the needs of the students attending.'*
 - A number of respondents (4) also used this as an opportunity to provide positive feedback on the **in person and online information events** held as part of the consultation:
 - *'Thank you for organising tonight's consultation event. It was extremely informative and clear. It was encouraging to hear that the trust is seeking genuine engagement and not just ticking a box which can often be the case with this type of process.'*
 - *'Today's consultation meeting was really helpful. I feel much more informed about the proposals and curriculum offer. Thank you for organising.'*

In addition to the above themes; there was:

- One comment from a prospective child or young person expressing their desire to attend:
 - *'I would like to attend this school. It looks nice. I like to do forest school in my school.'*
- One comment suggesting potential partnership opportunities between a local organisation and Rowan Wood to develop projects for the children and young people.
- Two comments urging that the school open as soon as possible; including the provision for primary.
- One comment stating that the consultation process is 'totally pointless'.
- One comment stating that the proposal is exciting for the families of Greenwich.
- One comment stating that pupils in Greenwich should have priority over pupils out of area.

A wide range of respondents, representing various backgrounds and perspectives, engaged in the consultation. This indicates the success of the process in ensuring a wide reach of backgrounds and perspectives.

It is particularly pleasing to see that 26 of the respondents identified as being a 'local resident'. Whilst no respondent declared themselves to be an 'elected official', two local Councillors did attend one of the consultation events.



As outlined on page 4 of this report, **in addition to the in person consultation events and online survey**, stakeholders could also provide feedback via either email or post. No letters were received via post. Emails were received from 5 individuals:

- An email from a local Councillor offering their support – *'I had the pleasure of getting in the call recently and was impressed with the presentation which looks very exciting and providing a well needed resource for the Borough.'*
- Two emails from prospective parents and/or carers seeking additional information on how to obtain a place at Rowan Wood School.
- One email asking why the facilities did not include a swimming pool.
- An email providing feedback on the in person consultation event – *'Just wanted to say thanks for all the information today, it was great hearing in detail about Rowan Wood building design and all the specific features. It looks like it will be an amazing place.'*

No specific issues or concerns were raised by any respondents; either via the survey or via the other means of communication.

A range of helpful questions were asked during the consultation period. These questions were collated together into a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document; with the Trust responses. Refer to appendix E for the FAQ document and responses. The FAQ document and responses were posted to the consultation website page at the end of the consultation.

Conclusion and next steps

The consultation process achieved its aim of engaging with a range of stakeholders to seek their views on the opening of Rowan Wood School. The feedback given as part of this consultation will be used by the pre-opening team. Through this engagement, the Trust is now further aware of what it needs to deliver in order to meet expectation and respond to the needs of the local Greenwich community and beyond.

Despite the statutory consultation period ending on 28 October 2024, the Trust remains committed to continuing to engage with stakeholders throughout the pre-opening phase and beyond – this includes with prospective children and young people and their families.

As has been outlined on the preceding pages, there has been **considerable support received for the opening of Rowan Wood School; with 97% of survey respondents agreeing that the Compass Partnership of Schools should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and 100% of survey respondents agreeing that the Compass Partnership of Schools should open Rowan Wood School. No specific issues or concerns were raised by any respondent.** This is testament to the strong reputation and track record the Trust has for special school provision and meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. There is an eager anticipation of the benefits that Rowan Wood School can bring; not only to prospective children and young people and their families but also to other schools in Greenwich.

Since the start of the consultation, the headteacher designate has been appointed and will take up post in January 2025. He will be a key member of the pre-opening project team moving forward; ably supported by other members of the team.

As a result of the consultation, it is recommended that this report is reviewed and approved by The Compass Partnership of Schools Board of Trustees. The feedback received indicates that there is exceptionally strong support for the Trust to enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State. On this basis, it is recommended that the Trust proceed.

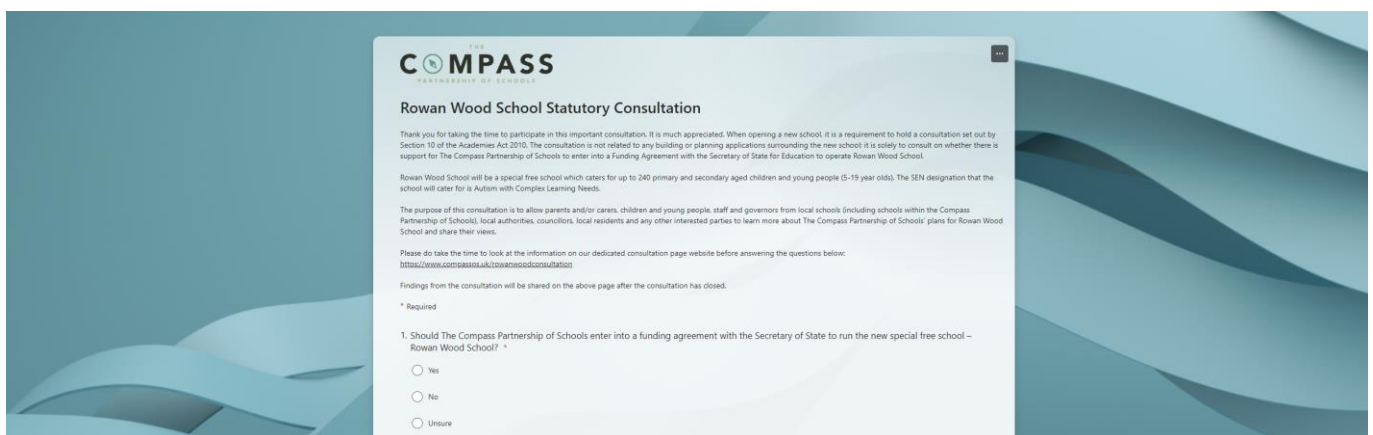
Acknowledgements

The Compass Partnership of Schools would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who constructively engaged in the consultation, visited the website and who took the time to complete the consultation survey. The submitted responses and contributions were all gratefully received.

Appendices – consultation artefacts

Artefact
Appendix A - Questionnaire
Appendix B - Advert
Appendix C - Trust website
Appendix D - Topics explored in Trust information events
Appendix E – Consultation FAQs
Appendix F - Consultation poster
Appendix G – Targeted communications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trust staff• Parents / stakeholders / supporters / other interested parties• Councillors & elected officials• Local Schools
Appendix H - Social media
Appendix I - Press release

Appendix A: Questionnaire



The image shows a screenshot of a Microsoft Forms questionnaire titled "Rowan Wood School Statutory Consultation". The form is set against a light blue background with a wavy pattern. The header includes the logo for "THE COMPASS PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS". The main heading is "Rowan Wood School Statutory Consultation". Below this, there is introductory text explaining the purpose of the consultation and providing a link to the dedicated consultation page website: <https://www.compassps.uk/rowanwoodconsultation>. The first question is a required question: "1. Should The Compass Partnership of Schools enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to run the new special free school – Rowan Wood School?". It has three radio button options: "Yes", "No", and "Unsure".

An electronic survey was set up using Microsoft Forms with a link included in all the consultation literature; including the website. The questions and introductory text are outlined below:

Statutory Consultation: Rowan Wood School

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important consultation. It is much appreciated. When opening a new school, it is a requirement to hold a consultation set out by Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. The consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school; it is solely to consult on whether there is support for The Compass Partnership of Schools to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to operate Rowan Wood School.

Rowan Wood School will be a special free school which caters for up to 240 primary and secondary aged children and young people (5-19 year olds). The SEN designation that the school will cater for is Autism with Complex Learning Needs.

The purpose of this consultation is to allow parents and/or carers, children and young people, staff and governors from local schools (including schools within the Compass Partnership of Schools), local authorities, councillors, local residents and any other interested parties to learn more about The Compass Partnership of Schools' plans for Rowan Wood School and share their views. Please do take the time to look at the information on our dedicated consultation page website before answering the questions below.

<https://www.compassps.uk/rowanwoodconsultation>

- Should The Compass Partnership of Schools enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to run the new free school – Rowan Wood School? (Yes / No)
- Four point Likert scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree):
 - There is a need for a new school that caters for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in the Greenwich locality
 - There is a need for provision which focuses on Autism with Complex Learning Needs
 - The mission statement and vision for Rowan Wood School is clear
 - The proposed learner offer meets the needs of the children and young people
 - The Compass Partnership of Schools has the necessary expertise and experience to open Rowan Wood School
 - The proposed facilities meet the needs of the children and young people for whom the school will be catering for
 - The Compass Partnership of Schools should open Rowan Wood School
- Free text question - We want Rowan Wood School to be an important part of the community. Are there any other services you would like the school to offer?
- Free text question - Do you have any additional comments?

Other questions asked:

Your details:

- Name (optional)
- Organisation representing (if relevant)
- Please select all that are relevant:
 - Local resident
 - A local employee / employer / business owner
 - A representative of a community or youth group
 - Member of staff at a local school (including Compass Partnership of School)
 - A representative from the health profession
 - Prospective parent and/or carer
 - Parent and/or carer of child or young person at a local school
 - Child or young person
 - Elected official
 - Other (please state)
 - Rather not say

Appendix B: Advert in local press

2 week run in News Shopper – in print
Published on 18 September and 25 September
Average weekly circulation: 41,164 copies
Average weekly readership: 74,097



CONSULTATION FOR THE PROPOSED **Rowan Wood School**

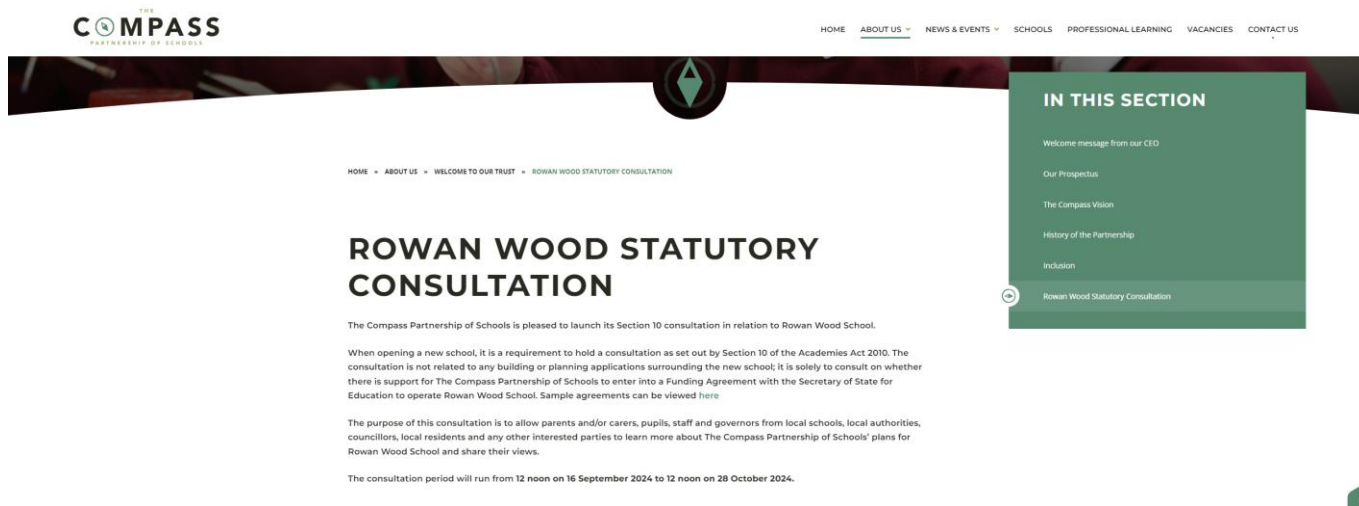
The Compass Partnership of Schools is consulting on its proposal to open a new special school for learners aged 5 to 19 with Autism and Complex Learning Needs in the Royal Borough of Greenwich to open in 2025/26.

**CONSULTATION PERIOD:
12 noon Monday 16 September 2024 –
12 noon Monday 28 October 2024**

For more information about the consultation & to provide feedback, please visit

<https://www.compassps.uk/rowanwoodconsultation>

Members of the public are also cordially invited to attend one of our information & consultation events. Further details about these can be found via our website.



A comprehensive consultation page was established on the Trust's website. This went live on 16 September and remains live: <https://www.compassps.uk/rowanwoodconsultation>

As part of the consultation, the following **policies** were shared:

- Admissions policy
- Statement of provision
- Safeguarding policy
- SEND information report

In addition to the above, school specific policies, a link to Trust wide policies was also shared.

All communications promoting the consultation included a link to the webpage. Below provides an overview of the key contents:

Rowan Wood – Statutory Consultation

Introduction

The Compass Partnership of Schools is pleased to launch its Section 10 consultation in relation to Rowan Wood School.

When opening a new school, it is a requirement to hold a consultation as set out by Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. The consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school; it is solely to consult on whether there is support for The Compass Partnership of Schools to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to operate Rowan Wood School. Sample agreements can be viewed [here](#)

The purpose of this consultation is to allow parents and/or carers, pupils, staff and governors from local schools, local authorities, councillors, local residents and any other interested parties to learn more about The Compass Partnership of Schools' plans for Rowan Wood School and share their views.

The consultation period will run from **12 noon on 16 September 2024 to 12 noon on 28 October 2024.**

Rowan Wood School:

To help meet the increased demand for special school places in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, The Compass Partnership of Schools is pleased to be opening Rowan Wood School. It will be a special free school which caters for up to 240 primary and secondary aged children and young people (5-19 year olds). The SEN designation that the school will cater for is Autism with Complex Learning Needs.

All placements will be fulltime. The Royal Borough of Greenwich anticipate that all places will be filled within the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

The opening of Rowan Wood School will be phased. The secondary and sixth form campus and primary campus will open during 2025/26.

Compass Partnership of Schools: Expertise in special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

The Compass Partnership of schools has a well-documented record of strengths in education for children and young people with special educational needs, consistently recognised by Ofsted in both special and mainstream sectors. An experienced and dedicated team of leaders ensure that principles of inclusion and inclusivity are non-negotiables and anchor the approach to pedagogy and school development. Willow Dene is central to The Compass Partnership of Schools, sharing expertise to ensure that children and young people with special educational needs are well-supported in their mainstream settings.

Willow Dene is an outstanding special school and the only special school in Greenwich which meets the needs of children and young people aged 2-19 who have a wide range of special educational needs. At Willow Dene, teachers and support staff are exceptional practitioners, who work as part of an extensive multi-disciplinary team of specialists to plan learning pathways that ensure children and young people are given the best opportunities to thrive and become independent.

You can read more about what Ofsted say about our expertise and impact in SEND here [\[INSERT LINK TO SEND EXPERTISE DOCUMENT\]](#)

Mission statement and vision:

Rowan Wood School is committed to making a positive difference to the life chances of all the children and young people (CYP) who attend our school.

Rowan Wood School will:

- Form the foundation of the education plan which enables all CYP to be active learners moving towards independence, autonomy, control and choice regardless of their starting point.
- Be ambitious for CYP with autism by setting aspirational targets, having high, consistent expectations, and a focus on essential areas such as communication, learning, social and self-help skills.
- Provide a high quality, broad, inclusive curriculum, matched to the learning profile of CYP.
- Have CYP at the centre, minimising educational disadvantage and ensuring that every CYP has the opportunity to thrive, be successful and have passions that can be built on.
- Have a strong sense of being part of the local, global and cultural communities surrounding the CYP enabling them to be valued and valuable members of the communities of which they are part.
- Embrace local faith communities contributing to the ethos that all are welcome and included, proactively breaking down barriers to acceptance of and access for CYP with autism.
- Be pupil and family focused, hearing the voices of pupils and their families within the school and ensuring they can see a positive future for their CYP and can celebrate their progress and successes.
- Have high expectations of and aspirations for CYP and staff in line with Willow Dene's successful vision of 'Seeing Possibilities and Realising Dreams'. This will include a considered approach to challenging and removing barriers to learning.
- Facilitate a safe, secure and supportive environment enabling CYP to become more independent and resilient, be happy, and enjoy learning. Maximising the environmental aspects of the building, such as the outdoor space and transition routes will allow a focus on autism as a speciality.
- Capitalise on the benefits of all-through education such as educational continuity, and the large-scale capacity such as the vastly diverse school community and wide-ranging expertise of staff.
- Complement and work in partnership with Willow Dene; learning from, but also contributing to, collective local expertise for the benefit of CYP and their families.
- Provide a wide range of motivating, appropriate educational visits and residential school journeys which enable CYP to broaden their experiences outside of home and school.
- Working in partnership with the Royal Borough of Greenwich to extend the school day in a way that is meaningful to CYP and manageable for families.

Our learner offer:

Curriculum rationale and philosophy

- Our curriculum has been carefully designed to meet the holistic needs of CYP so that they thrive and are successful, to lead fulfilled lives as valued and valuable members of their communities. This aligns to the school's vision.
- Using Willow Dene's tried and tested model, CYP will sit at the heart of the curriculum at all phases, reflecting the goal for CYP to be enabled as active learners who develop independence, autonomy, and control.
- The curriculum provides access to all areas of the National Curriculum for children in KS1-KS3 This breadth is balanced with a CYP-centred approach, with elements we consider essential for CYP with autism, including communication, regulation, independence, digital skills, and Preparing for Adulthood. As CYP move into KS4 and KS5, they will develop their strengths and interests with accredited learning and work opportunities.
- The curriculum is organised to ensure that CYP's individual learning needs, defined in EHCPs and through careful assessment, are prioritised. This personalisation ensures learning is meaningful and purposeful, from CYP's unique starting points, so all can enjoy learning, make progress and achieve.
- The curriculum at all phases is structured to ensure a clear progression and end points. Each key stage builds on what has gone before and adds layers to offer opportunities and challenge.
- Therapeutic provision will be integrated into the curriculum using a universal, targeted and specialist model. Lead therapists will be involved in strategic planning to ensure that this is deliverable.
- The curriculum will be delivered through a range of specialist teaching approaches, designed for CYP with autism.

We will take a needs-led approach to class groupings, according to CYP's learning, social communication, and sensory processing needs, so all CYP will be taught with appropriate peers; have access to a specialist learning environment; have an appropriately adapted, ambitious curriculum; and be supported by skilled staff.

We will employ the established model of four **learning profiles** used by Willow Dene which inform curriculum, assessment and wider provision. These cover CYP working at the earliest levels of development, through to those learning subject-specific knowledge. You can learn more about the learning profiles [here](#).

Admissions & statement of provision:

Admission to Rowan Wood School is determined by the local authority (Royal Borough of Greenwich). The Royal Borough of Greenwich's place planning projections indicate that all places will be filled within the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Other local authorities (OLAs) must consult with the local authority for a place at this school. The Statement of Provision for Rowan Wood School can be found here [\[INSERT LINK\]](#)

A copy of our admissions policy can be found here [\[INSERT LINK\]](#)

How will Rowan Wood School and Willow Dene work together? Willow Dene is a popular, over subscribed special school, with smaller secondary provision than primary. This means that Willow Dene is not always able to offer places to children and young people who need them. There is also less flexibility to move children and young people around. The opening of Rowan Wood School will:

- meet the increased demand for special school places in the Royal Borough of Greenwich
- help to ease the over subscription challenges of Willow Dene
- develop the specific needs of children with Autism with Complex Learning Needs

Willow Dene will continue to accommodate pupils with Autism and more Complex Learning Needs, such as medical conditions or the involvement of a number of health professionals; including therapists.

School location:

The secondary and sixth form campus (years 7 to 14) is to be built at Hargood Road, SE3 8HR, on the former site of Kidbrooke Park Primary School. Planning permission for this has already been granted. A purpose built, new build will be created on the site. The primary campus (Reception to Year 6) will be developed on an alternative site within the borough. Its location is to be confirmed.

Facilities:

Rowan Wood School will provide purpose-built, state of the art facilities for the children and young people. This includes:

- Suspended equipment room for sensory processing work
- Large, multi-function hall
- A dedicated dining hall
- Forest school areas
- 2 sensory rooms, fulfilling different functions
- Sensory circuit room
- Multi use games area (MUGA)
- Food technology room
- Libraries
- A dedicated sixth-form area which includes a common room, kitchen & life skills room
- Therapy spaces
- Specialist music room
- Specialist room for teaching science
- Generous outdoor spaces
- Dedicated teaching spaces to cater for all ages
- 61 parking spaces, including charging facilities for electric vehicles

Artist impressions of the new build proposals for the secondary and sixth form campus are available here [\[INSERT LINK TO ROWAN WOOD SCHOOL FACILITIES\]](#)

How you can have your say:

We are keen to ensure that we deliver a school that meets local needs and requirements and we welcome your views. There are a number of ways to provide feedback:

- Our online [questionnaire](#)
- By writing to us: New School Consultation, C/O Willow Dene School, Swingate Lane, Plumstead, London, SE18 2JD
- By emailing us at rowanwoodconsultation@compassps.uk

Public information events:

All stakeholders are warmly invited to attend one of our public consultation events to meet us and find out more information. The events will be held as follows:

<p>Date and time: Monday 23 September 2024 (online) 5:00-6:00pm Location: Teams Please email rowanwoodconsultation@compassps.uk by Friday 20 September by midday so that a link to the meeting can be shared.</p>
<p>Date and time: Wednesday 9 October 2024 (in person) 10:30-11:30am Location: Willow Dene School, Swingate Ln, London SE18 2JD Please arrive by 10:15am. Parking onsite will be available (subject to availability)</p>

Other useful links:

Our school specific policies are still being developed but here are some links to draft policies and those already in practise across The Compass Partnership of Schools.

- Public information event PowerPoint slides [\[INSERT LINK\]](#)
- [Safeguarding including child protection policy – Trust central policy](#)
- Rowan Wood School safeguarding, including child protection policy [\[INSERT LINK\]](#)
- Statement of provision and admissions policy [\[INSERT LINK\]](#)
- Rowan Wood School SEND information report [\[INSERT LINK\]](#)
- [Other Trust policies](#)

Appendix D: Topics explored in Trust information events

Two events (one in-person and one online) were planned and occurred as part of the consultation process.

A copy of the slides used are available [here](#)

A floorplan of the secondary and sixth form build were also available for attendees to view and provide feedback on. A copy of the facilities slide deck is available [here](#)

PowerPoint slides from consultation & information event. Key topics covered in the consultation:

- Why consult?
- Our Trust
- Trust values
- Introducing Rowan Wood School
- Rowan Wood School vision & mission statement
- Curriculum intent & learner offer
- The campuses
- Facilities, including plans and artist impressions
- Admissions process
- Access and transport, including travel plan
- Progress so far on opening & next steps
- Questions

Appendix E: Frequently asked questions arising from the consultation



Section 10 Consultation

Rowan Wood School

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

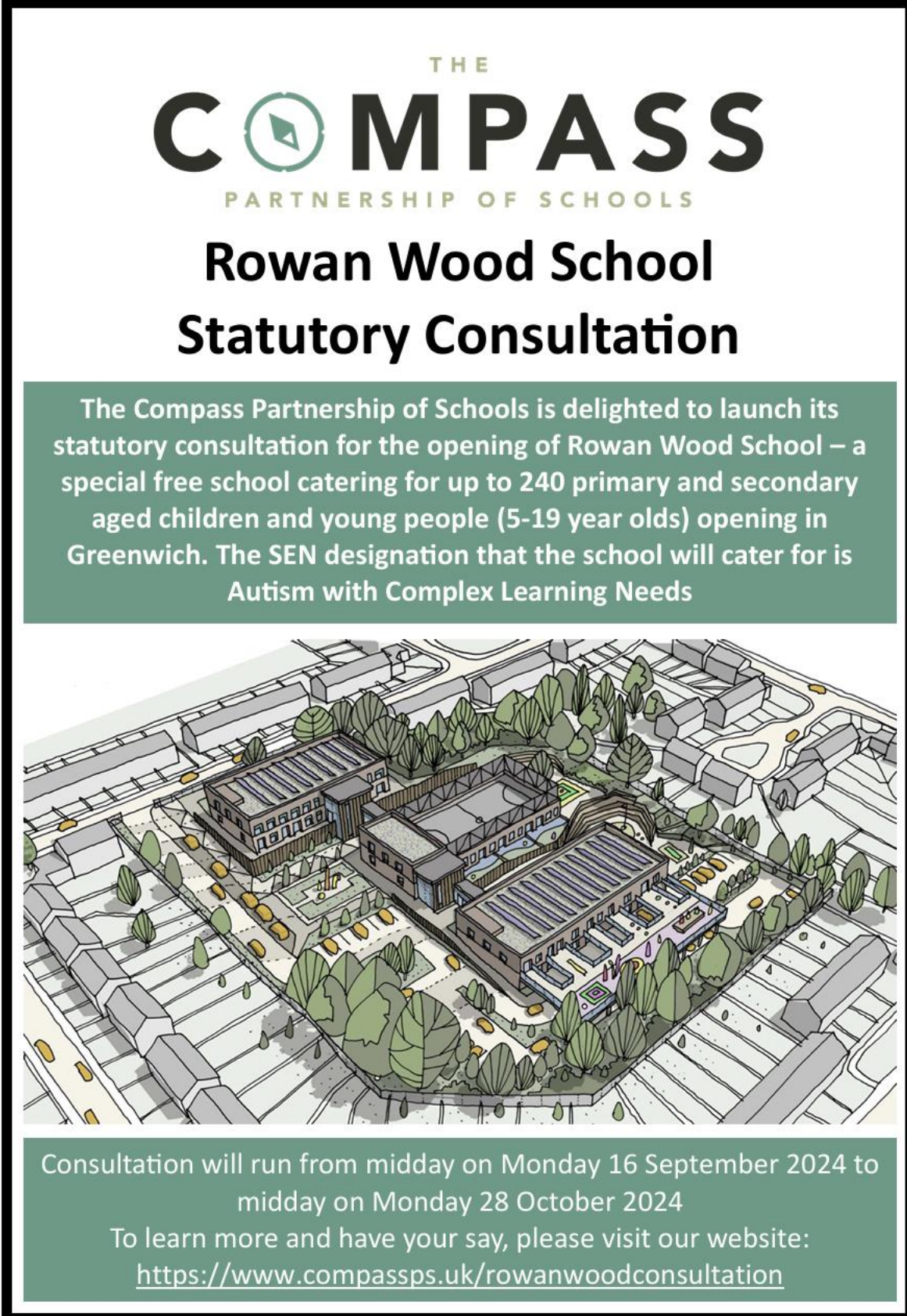
Facilities / build:	
Will the primary site have similar facilities to the secondary site available to them?	The project board are committed to ensuring that the facilities on both campuses meet the needs of the children and young people attending. The facilities will be broadly the same but have some 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.
Places & admissions:	
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 here
Opening:	
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.
Curriculum:	
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.
Partnership working:	
Given that Rowan Wood is a free school, how will the local	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

authority and the school work together?	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.
Recruitment:	
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.

Appendix F: Consultation poster


The following poster was displayed in libraries in the Royal Borough of Greenwich and all schools within the Compass Partnership of Schools. A QR code to the questionnaire was also shared to further increase engagement.



**THE
COMPASS**
PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS

Rowan Wood School Statutory Consultation

The Compass Partnership of Schools is delighted to launch its statutory consultation for the opening of Rowan Wood School – a special free school catering for up to 240 primary and secondary aged children and young people (5-19 year olds) opening in Greenwich. The SEN designation that the school will cater for is Autism with Complex Learning Needs



Consultation will run from midday on Monday 16 September 2024 to midday on Monday 28 October 2024
To learn more and have your say, please visit our website:
<https://www.compassps.uk/rowanwoodconsultation>

Appendix G: Communications

The following communications were sent to inform stakeholders of the consultation and to encourage engagement in the process:

Email communication A – Compass Partnership of Schools staff / Trustees & local school committees

Statutory Consultation – Rowan Wood School

16 September 2024

As you are aware, the Compass Partnership of Schools has been successful in its application to open a special free school in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Rowan Wood School will cater for children and young people aged 5 to 19 who have been diagnosed with autism and complex learning needs.

As part of the pre-opening preparation, we are required to hold a consultation as set out by Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. The consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school; it is to consult on whether there is support for the Compass Partnership of Schools to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to operate Rowan Wood School.

We are keen to hear your views. Our consultation will operate online as well as through two public consultation events (see details below).

The consultation will enable all stakeholders and interested parties to learn more about Rowan Wood School and to share their views.

This is an exciting time for all of us as we embark upon this journey to open much needed specialist provision in Greenwich in new, state of the art facilities. It will provide opportunities for us to build on the strengths and experiences of our community, in collaboration with schools within Compass and more widely. We look forward to hearing your views.

The consultation period will run from 16 September to 28 October 2024.

Public consultation events:

All interested parties are warmly invited to attend our public consultation events, to meet us and find out more information. Further details are below:

Date and time: Monday 23 September 2024 (online) 5:00-6:00pm Location: Teams Please email rowanwoodconsultation@compassps.uk by midday on Friday 20 September so that a link to the meeting can be shared.
--

Date and time: Wednesday 9 October 2024 (in person) 10:30-11:30am Location: Willow Dene School, Swingate Ln, London SE18 2JD Please arrive by 10:15am. Parking onsite will be available (subject to availability)

Consultation website:

You can find out further information via our website: <https://www.compassps.uk/rowanwoodconsultation>

How to respond and give your views:

We are keen to ensure that we deliver a school that meets local needs and requirements and we welcome your views and feedback. There are a number of ways to provide feedback:

- Our online questionnaire: <https://forms.office.com/e/Mm4i1u9tVF>
- By writing to us: New School Consultation, C/O Willow Dene School, Swingate Lane, Plumstead, London, SE18 2JD
- By emailing us at rowanwoodconsultation@compassps.uk

Thank you, in advance, for your engagement.

John Camp OBE
Chief Executive Officer

Susan Skidmore
Chair of Trustees

Rachel Harrison
Director of Special Schools and Special School Outreach

Email communication B – Parents and/or carers / wider stakeholders / supporters

Statutory Consultation – Rowan Wood School

16 September 2024

The Compass Partnership of Schools is delighted to launch its consultation in relation to its new special free school, Rowan Wood School which will open in the Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2025/26. Rowan Wood School will cater for children and young people aged 5 to 19 who have been diagnosed with autism and complex learning needs.

The Compass Partnership of Schools is a charitable trust of 15 schools that work as one to achieve the very best for all children and young people and all communities. Compass prides itself on being both community-centred and community engaged. Compass has an extremely strong record and reputation for excellence in provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This extends beyond our special school provision at Willow Dene to all schools within the Trust. Recent inspections by Ofsted have consistently highlighted provision for pupils with SEND to be a strength.

As part of the pre-opening preparation, we are required to hold a consultation as set out by Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. The consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school; it is to consult on whether there is support for the Compass Partnership of Schools to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to operate Rowan Wood School.

This consultation will allow parents and/or carers, pupils, staff and governors, local authority representatives, local councillors and other elected representatives, local residents, businesses, health care professionals and any other interested parties to learn more about Rowan Wood School and to share their views.

The consultation will enable all stakeholders and interested parties to learn more about Rowan Wood School and to share their views. We are keen to hear your views. The consultation period will run from 16 September to 28 October 2024.

Public consultation events:

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John Camp OBE
Chief Executive Officer

Susan Skidmore
Chair of Trustees

Rachel Harrison
Director of Special Schools and Special School Outreach

Email communication C – Elected officials and their representatives

Statutory Consultation – Rowan Wood School

16 September 2024

Dear Councillor / Member of Parliament

As I am sure you are aware, there is increasing demand for local special school places. To help meet this need, the Compass Partnership of Schools submitted a special free school application to the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Department for Education to open a new, all-through special school in Greenwich for children and young people aged 5-19 who have been diagnosed with autism and complex learning needs. This application was approved in April 2024.

The Compass Partnership of Schools is a charitable trust of 15 schools that work as one to achieve the very best for all children and young people and all communities. Compass prides itself on being both community-centred and community engaged. Compass has an extremely strong record and reputation for excellence in provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This extends beyond our special school provision at Willow Dene to all schools within the Trust. Recent inspections by Ofsted have consistently highlighted provision for pupils with SEND to be a strength.

The Compass Partnership of Schools is delighted to launch its consultation in relation to its new special free school, Rowan Wood School which will open in the Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2025/26.

As part of the pre-opening preparation, we are required to hold a consultation as set out by Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. The consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school; it is to consult on whether there is support for the Compass Partnership of Schools to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to operate Rowan Wood School.

This consultation will allow parents and/or carers, pupils, staff and governors, local authority representatives, local councillors and other elected representatives, local residents, businesses, health care professionals and any other interested parties to learn more about Rowan Wood School and to share their views.

The consultation will enable all stakeholders and interested parties to learn more about Rowan Wood School and to share their views. We are keen to hear your views. The consultation period will run from 16 September to 28 October 2024.

Public consultation events:

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Chief Executive Officer

Susan Skidmore
Chair of Trustees

Rachel Harrison
Director of Special Schools and Special School Outreach

E-bulletin communication D – Greenwich schools

Statutory Consultation – Rowan Wood School

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The Compass Partnership of Schools is delighted to launch its consultation in relation to its new special free school, Rowan Wood School which will open in the Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2025/26. The consultation will enable all stakeholders and interested parties to learn more about Rowan Wood School and to share their views. We are keen to hear your views. The consultation period will run from 16 September to 28 October 2024.

You can find out further information, including how to respond and give your views and details of our two public consultation events via our website: <https://www.compassps.uk/rowanwoodconsultation>

Thank you, in advance, for your engagement

Email communication E – Special schools & maintained schools with specialist provision in neighbouring London boroughs

Statutory Consultation – Rowan Wood School

16 September 2024

Dear stakeholder

As I am sure you are aware, there is increasing demand for local special school places. To help meet this need, the Compass Partnership of Schools submitted a special free school application to the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Department for Education to open a new, all-through special school in Greenwich for children and young people aged 5-19 who have been diagnosed with autism and complex learning needs. This application was approved in April 2024.

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Thank you, in advance, for your engagement.

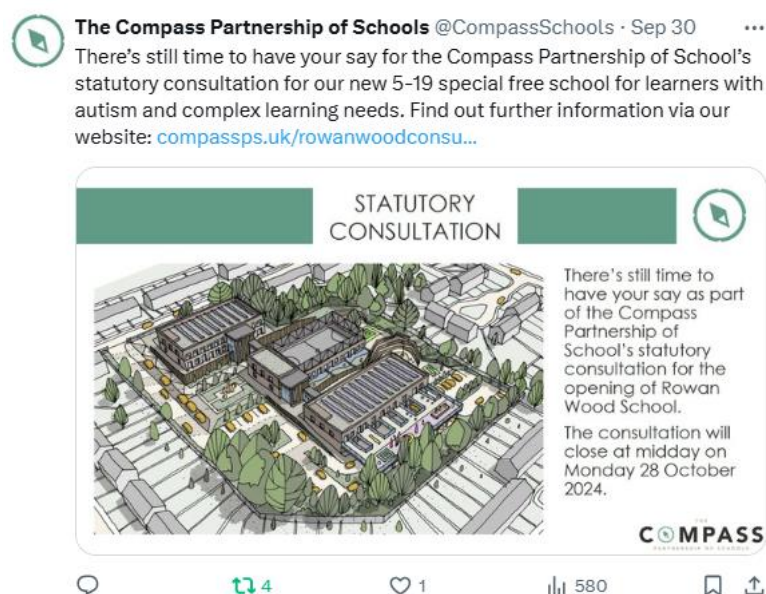
John Camp OBE
Chief Executive Officer

Susan Skidmore
Chair of Trustees

Rachel Harrison
Director of Special Schools and Special School Outreach

Appendix H: Social media messaging

The Trust has over 450 followers on Twitter / X. Willow Dene has over 3100 followers on Twitter / X. In addition to the targeted communications already outlined, social media was also used as a vehicle to further promote the consultation. Examples of posts are below:



Appendix I: Press release

The following press release was shared with the local media. As a result of this three articles ran on the following news outlets

- Yahoo News UK (online)
- News Shopper (online and in-print)
- MSN News (online)

PRESS RELEASE

Green light given for new special school build

The Royal Borough of Greenwich's planning committee has given the green light for the redevelopment of the former Kidbrooke Park Primary School site in Hargood Road to accommodate a new, multi-million pound, purpose-built special school.

The school, which will be named Rowan Wood School, will be run by the Compass Partnership of Schools, which also runs 14 other schools, including the highly successful Willow Dene School.

Rowan Wood School, which will open in the Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2025/26 will cater for children and young people aged 5 to 19 years old who have been diagnosed with autism and complex learning needs.

The site at Hargood Road will accommodate the secondary and sixth form campus of the new school. The primary campus will be developed on an alternative site within the borough. Its location is to be confirmed.

As part of the pre-opening stage, the Compass Partnership of Schools will be holding a statutory consultation between 16 September and 28 October. The consultation will allow stakeholders and interested parties to learn more about Rowan Wood School and to share their views. As part of the consultation, two public consultation events are also planned. Further details about the consultation can be found on the Compass Partnership of Schools' website from 16 September: www.compassps.uk

Rachel Harrison, Director of Special Schools and Special School Outreach for the Compass Partnership of Schools said; 'We are excited to be opening Rowan Wood School, which will cater for up to 240 primary and secondary aged learners and help to meet the increased demand for special school places in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. We have an extremely strong track record and reputation for excellence in provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Rowan Wood will have a positive impact, not just on the children and young people who attend, but also the schools and communities from which they are drawn.'

Editor's note:

The Compass Partnership of Schools is a charitable trust of 15 schools that work as one to achieve the very best for all children and young people and all communities. Compass prides itself on being both community-centred and community-engaged.

When opening a new school, it is a requirement to hold a consultation set out by Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. The consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school; it is solely to consult on whether there is support for The Compass Partnership of Schools to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to operate Rowan Wood School.

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