



**London Borough of Merton**  
**High Needs Strategic Review Survey**  
**March 2018**  
**Closing date 9 May 2018**

The council is undertaking a consultation with stakeholders to help guide its strategic review of SEN provision and we are sending a tailored short survey to schools, professionals and parents of children with an interest in SEN in Merton.

In Merton our aspirations for children with special educational needs and disabilities are as ambitious as for all children and young people:

- that children can attend provision close to where they live
- That they achieve well in their local early years, schools and college settings
- that children and young people can build relationships and friendships with their peers in their local community.
- That there is a sufficient range and choice of provision locally that meets children's educational outcomes
- That there is seamless transition from local education into independent living

98% of children and young people in Merton attend mainstream schools without the need for additional support, but approximately 2% have a Statement of SEN or an EHCP (Education and Health Care Plan).

In recent years, however, the increase in the general child population and the requirement for more specialist school places has led to a change in demand for special education provision, including specialist out of borough provision. The table overleaf shows this change over the past 6 to January 2018.

Type of Provision	Jan 2012 (Statements)		Jan 2018 (provisional) (Statements and EHCPs)	
	No.	%	No.	%
Mainstream School (inc. Academies)	436	47%	526	35%
State Funded Special School	287	31%	415	28%
Independent Schools	96	10%	217	15%
Specialist bases within mainstream schools ("ARPs")	92	10%	116	8%
Further Education	0	0%	164	11%
Early Years (inc. Private & Voluntary Settings)	10	1%	7	0%
Other (including children Educated at Home, PRUs and Secure Units)	7	1%	41	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1486</b>	<b>100%</b>

There has been a particular rise in EHCPs for children with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder), SLCN (Speech, Language and Communications Needs), MLD (Moderate Learning Difficulty) and SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health)

Merton is responsible for commissioning placements in schools for children and young people with an EHCP in both mainstream and special state funded schools, and where necessary in the specialist independent sector.

The council's strategy has been to provide additional local provision through the expansion of its existing Outstanding special schools - the council has recently expanded Perseid School (for children with severe and complex learning difficulties) and has published a proposal to expand Cricket Green School (for children with additional complex and varied needs) by a further 61 spaces.

However, our forecasts show that this will not necessarily meet the increasing demand for extra specialist provision, and there is a need to review the need for further local provision to provide good quality, value for money placements, that meet children's outcomes.