



Trafford Alternative Education Provision



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Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Relocation to Former Brentwood School

I am writing to inform you about the future plans to relocate Trafford High School and Trafford Medical Education Service to co-locate on the former Brentwood Special School site: Brentwood Avenue, Timperley.

Rationale:

Bulletin 77 sets out standards for Pupil referral Units (PRUs) and when compared to this the current accommodation occupied by THS and TMES is deficient in many areas: The physical infrastructure limitations on both school sites and buildings pose particular challenges.

Our current position:

The Trafford Medication Education Service site is too small. It was originally a youth club and has had modifications to create teaching spaces. There are only two reasonable classroom spaces and three smaller spaces neither of which can accommodate more than 6 pupils. The space upstairs does not have disabled access and therefore has limited usage. There are no science labs or suitable area for the pupils to eat. Food Technology lessons take place in an adapted kitchen with two ovens. The room used for assessments has no window. The outdoor area is unsuitable for PE activities.

Trafford High School site is a former primary school; our pupils are secondary age pupils, the majority in Years 10 and 11. The hall space cannot be used properly for PE activities and the outside area is in extremely poor condition. The canteen area is too small and cannot accommodate all 32 children; Food Technology lessons have to take place in the canteen area which is not ideal. There are no science facilities so currently Y11 pupils go off site to Wellacre Academy to carry out experiments.



Trafford Alternative Education Provision



In essence our students and staff deserve accommodation that is fit for purpose

The good news for Trafford Alternative Education Provision is that:

A feasibility study was undertaken by Trafford Council to see if the education team could utilise the site for another education purpose rather than selling the site. The outcome of this study recommended the relocation of Trafford High School and Trafford Medical Education Service to the site.

Trafford High School and the Trafford Medical Education Service can be accommodated within the former Brentwood School operating as two discreet, services with no additional accommodation required. Trafford Alternative Education would have sufficient space and layout inside and out, appropriate to a modern school, however minor internal remodelling will be necessary to accommodate the needs of each service with secure doors and CCTV installation where necessary in addition to the work required to bring the building to a good standard of repair.

The 6th form block is ideal for the Trafford Medical Education Service to operate as a distinct service as it has sufficient large classrooms, a therapeutic room and a dining area. The classrooms already have dedicated quiet zones making them good spaces for pupils with anxiety and mental ill-health. There is an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) block which could accommodate pupils undergoing assessment. There is also sufficient separate outdoor space for the students to utilise as a playing area during break and lunchtimes

The Brentwood site is a purpose built school, even though for secondary age special needs pupils. The site will provide an improved, enhanced learning experience and environment that our governors, students and staff will be proud of. It already has designated ICT, Science, and Art, Food technology and Design and Technology rooms. Pupils will not have to travel offsite to access some of their science lessons. There is a separate gym and dining area with opportunities to develop our curriculum offer providing: horticulture activities and a vocational curriculum such as: Dance, Drama, Construction, Carpentry, Music, Beauty therapy and Hairdressing.

The existing blocks naturally lend themselves to two separate entrances for each facility and another dedicated entrance for staff and visitors; the sports hall and canteen will be shared between the two schools. The areas will operate on a fob system; there will be different start and finish times and staggered break and lunch times.

The playing areas at the Brentwood site are already separated and doors open out to the play area thus providing space for pupils experiencing bouts of anxiety with the capacity to be supervised without being invasive. There are football and basketball facilities at the park next door which will allow opportunities close by for pupils to experience different sports.



Trafford Alternative Education Provision



There will be greater opportunities for pupils and staff to come together when it is beneficial and safe to do so. Transition will be easier for pupils who are better placed in the Trafford Medical Education Service instead of Trafford High School.

There is sufficient space to create separate THS Key Stage 3 and 4 blocks thus reducing the amount of movement across the building.

The proposed site is more centrally located within the Borough for pupils making it easier for some pupils to travel to school. Many of our pupils use public transport; pupils from both the North and South of the Borough have difficult journeys to THS and TMES. A more accessible school will improve punctuality and attendance.

A report to the Council Executive was approved in December; it stated the benefits to be gained by the move;

- The current sites for Trafford High School and Trafford Medical Education Service are not fit for the purpose of equipping pupils with the skills they need to flourish in later life, whereas the new site has the accommodation to set up dedicated specialist spaces such as Science, Food Technology, Woodwork Art, Hairdressing etc.
- The two schools are now under the same management team, therefore there is the opportunity to make revenue savings by bringing the two services under the same roof.
- There is also the opportunity to share facilities such as hall and dining, however these will be staggered as the needs and age ranges of the pupils are quite different.
- Teaching and support staff who work at both schools will spend less time travelling and more time teaching.
- There will be minimal adaptations required to fit out the former Brentwood School as it already has a dedicated science, food technology room and hall. The building also lends itself to two separate pupil entrances for each service with a central admin office for visitors.

If you would like to read the full report, please visit the Council Website using the following link;

<https://democratic.trafford.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=764> please follow the link to this report at the bottom of the page.

It is important to note that the two establishments are not being merged. The students are diverse and some may have similar or different needs, therefore the education provision will reflect this.

Our aim is to ensure that the most vulnerable children in Trafford receive an education provision and environment on par with their mainstream counterparts. Thus allowing them to flourish and achieve their potential in a suitable 21st century modern school setting. .



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In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the new plans, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email: Lynda.Thompson@Trafford.Gov.UK.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'LHThompson'.

Lynda H Thompson
Executive Headteacher