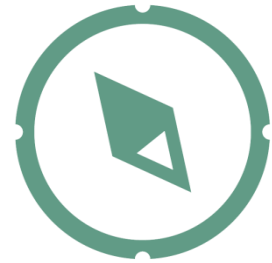


# The Compass Partnership of Schools

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**Chief Executive Officer:** John Camp, OBE



16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Willow Dene Parents / Carers

## **Statutory Consultation – Rowan Wood School**

As you will know from our regular briefings and newsletters, The Compass Partnership of Schools has been commissioned to open a free special school for children with autism. We are very excited about this opportunity and the chance to change the lives of children and families for the future. There are some additional details for Willow Dene parents about where we are at the moment and what is going to happen next in the briefing released on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. If you get chance please watch this first before joining the consultation.

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:

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 <a href="mailto:rowanwoodconsultation@compassps.uk">rowanwoodconsultation@compassps.uk</a> 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> or by clicking on the QR code



- 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](mailto: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