

Notes from visit to Greenvale School (Mayow Road) on 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2023



Greenvale is Lewisham's community special school for children and young people between the ages of 11 and 19 years who have significant learning difficulties including those with additional medical needs.

Greenvale school now has two purpose-built sites- one at Waters Road in North Downham and the other at Mayow Road in Forest Hill. Members of the Committee, namely- Cllr Luke Sorba (Chair), Cllr Liz Johnston-Franklin and Cllr

Coral Howard visited the Mayow Road site of Greenvale School and met with the Headteacher Lynne Haines and Deputy Headteacher Aaron Collins. The following key points were noted during the visit:

- Students in Key Stage 3 and 4 were based on the Waters Road site of Greenvale school whereas Key stage 5 and Glade Pathway students attended the Mayow Road site in Forest Hill.
- Greenvale School had around 210 children in total across its two buildings and 54% of those were on free school meals. It was discussed that having all SEND children on free school meals would be an ideal situation.
- Greenvale had 4 separate pathways according to the different needs of the students. These 4 pathways were- Grove, Forest, Woodland and Glade Pathway.
- Glade Pathway students were situated at the Mayow Road site. This pathway was for students with learning difficulties and additional complex needs. Students in this pathway required a high level of structure and routine throughout the day. They focused on the development of skills such as communication, behaviour, emotional regulation, engagement, initiation and generalisations. Many of these young people had additional complex behavioural needs.
- Greenvale school was using the household support fund to support families who were struggling by helping them with packed lunches and also establishing an opt-in breakfast club for those families.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic, the school's staff made and delivered hampers with essentials to school families in need. Once the staff was back at school, a charity helped them with delivering these support packages.
- Although the school was doing all they could to support children & their families with food, long-term support for food poverty was needed, especially for families with children who had EHCPs.
- Greenvale now had a family support worker who helped in liaising with the children's family for various purposes such as SEND transport provision assessments. They also had a transition support worker who helped young people transition from the school to colleges or career pathways.
- Members understood how homelessness and housing conditions affected children's attendance in school. The Children and Young People Select Committee had discussed this issue in its In-Depth Review in 2019.
- Greenvale school had medical staff on the ground that was always available to support the children and some children had part-time or full-time carers that were

covered by their continuing care plan package. However, the school acknowledged the stress its medical/ nursing staff was under and recognised that more staff was needed to ensure the existing staff wasn't over-stretched. Members stated that they would recommend the Cabinet Member for Health and the Chair of Healthier Communities Select Committee to visit Greenvale School so that they could hear about the challenges the School was facing particularly in relation to health services.

- During the school visit, it was brought to the Member's attention that Greenvale School formed a part of the Grouped Schools PFI along with Forest Hill Secondary School and Prendergast Ladywell School. The governors of the Prendergast Federation of schools recently announced their intention to consult on proposals to convert the federation to a Multi-academy Trust (MAT). If Prendergast did convert to a MAT, members wanted to understand how this would work since the Prendergast Ladywell School was in the Grouped School PFI and whether this would have an impact on the other schools in the PFI.