



Statutory Proposal to change the number of pupils in a special school, by adding 20 places (from 160 to 180) at Chapel Green School, Attleborough Road, Old Buckenham, Attleborough from 1 September 2025

1. Local Authority details

Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH

2. School details

Name	Chapel Green School
Type	Foundation Special School
Address	Attleborough Road, Old Buckenham, Attleborough, NR17 1RF
Age Range	3-19 years
Net Capacity	DfE Survey May 2024- 168 pupils Numbers on roll 1 January 2025 = 179
Ofsted	The school was judged by Ofsted in December 2024 to be: Quality of education: Good Behaviour and attitudes: Outstanding Personal development: Outstanding Leadership and management: Outstanding Sixth form provision: Good

3. What changes are proposed?

It is proposed to change the number of pupils attending a special school, by adding 20 places at Chapel Green School, from 1 September 2025, moving the number from 160 to 180.

4. Why do we want to do this? (evidence of demand)

The demand for school places for students with complex needs in Norfolk continues to rise, therefore the governors of Chapel Green alongside the Local Authority are proposing to make the necessary adjustments to the published pupil number following advice from the Department for Education. Despite increasing the numbers in 2022, the ongoing demand has highlighted the need for further change.

The proposed adjustment to the number of placements at the school will reflect the current position, which has already been reached by placements directed through Tribunal processes. Although Tribunal decisions are made based on individual cases, the decisions do not take into account local authority schools' capacity, the cumulative effect of these can present.

We acknowledge that this change does not align with the Department for Education's assessment of the school's Net Capacity (maximum 168, May 2024) and the Local Authority are not proposing any increase to the school's physical accommodation as part of this change.

5. Objectives, including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice.

The proposed change recognises the school's existing context and brings the published pupil number in line with the current situation. We are confident that this will not affect the quality of education or the provision that pupils currently receive. This proposal enhances local access to specialist places for children and young people with complex needs in Norfolk, helping to reduce travel time for those living in the surrounding area.

6. Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area?

We cannot foresee any impact on any other schools, as the additional places are already filled by pupils attending the school.

7. Project costs and an indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved.

There is no project investment proposed to expand the school. Long term value for money will be achieved as there is overall greater capacity to meet the needs of children with SEND locally.

8. Will this definitely happen?

No. There is a statutory process we must follow to make this type of change to schools.

9. Implementation date and proposed stages

If the proposal is agreed by the local decision maker; the Executive Director of Children's Services, Norfolk County Council, it is intended that the significant change will be implemented from 1 September 2025.

10. Related proposals

There is no other proposal linked to this proposal.

11. How can I make my views known?

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals, within 4 weeks of the publication of the statutory public notice by:

- Sending an email to; schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
- Writing to: School Organisation Team, FREEPOST, 1H 2076, Floor 8, Bay 34, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.

12. What happens next?

The following table sets out the key dates for the consultation and decision making. At any point the proposal may be withdrawn. The dates set out below meet the Department for Education requirements for consultation on school organisation proposals.

School organisation process	Date
Public Notice published	24 June 2025
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	24 June 2025- 22 July 2025
Decision required, no later than	31 August 2025
If approved, change in number of pupils starts	1 September 2025