

John Grant School

Statutory Proposal to expand the school with an off-site satellite class base

1. School details

John Grant School
St. George's Drive
Caister-on-Sea
Great Yarmouth
NR30 5QW

2. LA details

Norfolk County Council
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DL

Description of the changes and evidence of demand

John Grant School in Caister, Great Yarmouth caters for pupils with complex needs, including severe learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorder and profound and multiple learning difficulties. Judged 'Good' by Ofsted, it caters for students from the age of 3 to 19 years old.

For some time, Norfolk County Council has wanted to increase the number of places at John Grant School. The local authority requires additional places to be made available for children with these needs, and to enable them to access this provision close to their homes.

As well as increasing the school's roll, the Governors at John Grant School wish to ensure that its existing facilities are not overstretched and or compromised. This proposal will allow the school to create and develop additional places within its local community for the benefit of its stakeholders.

We are proposing the creation of a satellite class base for 6 pupils within the existing Shine Nursery in Great Yarmouth. The 6 places are additional to the current roll at John Grant School and will result in a new total of 141 places. The satellite class base will be run and managed by John Grant School staff in close liaison with the staff at SHINE Nursery.

Although educated in the satellite Class base at Shine, the 6 pupils will be on roll at John Grant School and have John Grant School named in Section 1 of their Education, Health and Care Plan

The aim is for there to be a "uniform" sweatshirt in the Shine colour, but with the John Grant logo on, available for parents to purchase; the wearing of any uniform would not however be compulsory.

The 6 pupils will be included as appropriate in activities on the John Grant School main site such as special assemblies, and they will have a transition programme planned in preparation for the time when they transfer to the main site in Caister full time.

At the present time, there is a high demand for complex needs school places in the Great Yarmouth area where John Grant School is the only provider. Pressure on admissions in other areas of the county is also high. The school and the local authority believe that it is important for pupils to access their education within their local environment and as a result with the shortest possible journey time. By accessing the capacity available at the Shine Nursery, the school can build on its already strong community links and offer stake holders placement in an inclusive purpose built setting. The smaller, more contained environment will enable pupils to gain confidence and act as a spring board into their longer term placement on the main school site. Providing these places on the main school site would compromise current facilities.

Objectives and Reasons (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

There is a very clear SEN Strategy in Norfolk, based on:

- increasing the availability of good and outstanding provision for children and young people with SEN;
- ensuring that there is a reduction on the current reliance on high cost out of county placements;
- ensuring that travel times in our large rural county are kept to a minimum for its most vulnerable learners.

This proposal, for a satellite class base the Shine Nursery is needed not only to meet the rising demand for complex school places in East Norfolk, but also to provide an extra dimension to the already good educational provision at John Grant School. Shine Nursery has been chosen with the needs of the John Grant pupils in mind, being an inclusive Nursery with modern purpose built facilities.

Whilst being a very specific provision for the 6 John Grant School pupils - run and managed by John Grant School staff; it is intended that there will be many inclusive learning opportunities with the Shine Nursery children. The aim is that learning alongside pupils with good models of play and communication skills will improve the educational outcomes for the John Grant School pupils. The Shine children will benefit from an educational environment where an increased range of specialist teaching strategies and expertise will be on offer and shared. The smaller, more contained environment will enable the John Grant School pupils to gain confidence and act as a spring board into their longer term placement on the main school site.

Overall the two well respected organisations – John Grant School and the Shine charity – working together in this way will be to the mutual benefit of both organisations and their stakeholders.

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

There is currently great pressure for complex needs school places in East Norfolk. John Grant School is the only institution providing these in the Great Yarmouth area. There is as

a result no competition with other schools or academies. The ability to increase the number of John Grant School places overall will hopefully ease the pressure to cater for these pupils' very high level needs within the main stream sector.

Project Costs and an indication of how these will be met

The cost of providing the 6 places at Sine Nursery is calculated to be £137,592.

All costs for the satellite class base will be met by the Local Authority via the John Grant School budget. The costs will be covered by the budget attached to the 6 additional school places.

Implementation date and proposed stages

This proposal will be implemented in September 2016.

Procedure for making representations: support, objections and comments

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals by emailing us at schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk , or by writing to us at:

John Grant School Consultation, FREEPOST IH2076, Children's Services School Organisation Team, **Bay 10, Floor 8**, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.