

Consultation on a proposal to increase the number of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability at John Grant School (Foundation Special School), Caister-on-sea

The Proposal Summary

It is proposed that the number of places is extended to include 30 extra pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), at John Grant School (Foundation Special School) from 1 September 2020 to:

- Enable more pupils to benefit from the outstanding specialist education and support provided by school
- Increase the number of places for children with SEND in the east of the county as part of the Local Authority SEND Transformation Plan.

Why is this consultation taking place?

Before any major decision can be made about the future of a maintained school, there has to be consultation with those people likely to be affected by the change. The purpose of this document is to consult with parents and other stakeholders with an interest in the provision of special education provision for children in Norfolk. This document gives you background information and asks for your views.

Background information on John Grant School (Foundation Special School)

- John Grant School is an Outstanding special school, Ofsted October 2017, for pupils with complex needs, and currently has 143 pupils over an age range from reception to 19 years. This proposal is part of the SEND Transformation Programme, to increase provision in specialist schools.
- John Grant School is one of thirteen state-funded special schools in Norfolk which provide a total of 1600 places. However, there are several children in Norfolk whose parent has expressed a right to a special school place, that do not have one.
- Because the demand for specialist school places outstrips our state-funded supply, we place children and young people within the private sector on both a day and residential basis. The average cost of these placements far exceeds that of a SRB or state-funded special school.
- This proposal will help meet the rising demand for specialist educational places for children and young people with SEND by provided additional places in an outstanding school.
- The funding for the capital programme to support the expansion of places has been agreed as part of the Transformation programme and all costs will be met by the County Council.
- The capital programme includes a new block with 5 classrooms, a multi-purpose room, staff room, toilets and dedicated provision for students aged 11 to 19 with ASD – this includes a kitchenette, safe space and outdoor areas.
- Planning permission is required and due to be submitted July 2020 and building to start on site in November 2020. Please note that the school organisation change if agreed is dependant on planning permission approval.

Norfolk's SEND Sufficiency strategy

The cost-effective provision of high quality educational places is central to meeting the County Council's objective of ensuring inclusion *and* high standards of achievement for Norfolk learners with SEND. Norfolk County Council (NCC) is clear about what that provision is intended to achieve for children with SEND:

- Access to the most appropriate provision and placement, informed by ongoing and accurate assessment of need and consideration of parental/young person choice in line with the legal test;
- Children and young people attend good or outstanding provision wherever they are educated;
- Improved progress and achievement overall, narrowing the gap with peers;
- Strong relationships and partnerships and a collaborative approach that results in effective multi-agency support underpinned by collective agreement on what constitutes good outcomes for children and young people with SEND;
- Joint commissioning of provision across education, health and social care to achieve holistic outcomes for cohorts of and individual pupils.

Following a comprehensive local needs analysis of our population of pupils with EHCPs and strategic review of our Local Offer, we have developed a SEND Sufficiency Strategy. A summary of the Sufficiency Strategy can be found on Norfolk's Local Offer.

From this we know that:

- By 2025 the Norfolk 0-25 population is forecasted to grow by 2.5% bringing the total to 278,600;
- The total number of children with EHC plans in Norfolk, as at August 2018, was 5,880;
- 860 children are in the EHCP assessment pathway, as at August 2018;
- There is significant pressure on the SEND Transport budget due to children travelling long distances to attend a school which meets their needs;
- Norfolk has double the number of children with EHCPs attending independent and non-maintained schools than regional, statistical and national benchmarks;
- There is significant need for additional provision in Norwich with further "pinch points" throughout Norfolk.

Norfolk has 13 state funded special schools needs with approximately 1600 places which cater for children with complex learning needs. All schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted, including residential components.

Norfolk has seen a consistent increase in children assessed that their special educational needs are suitable for a special school.

The expansion of our existing special school estate is one aspect of our overarching strategy to increase the numbers of places available in Norfolk special schools and to enable children to attend a local school suitable to the special educational needs.

What we are proposing

Following discussions with the school it was felt that one of the ways John Grant School, Caister-on-Sea could contribute to meeting the changes in need, would be to extend the number of SEND pupils who can attend the school.

However, in agreement with the school this would be based upon:

- No pupil currently attending the school being displaced by this proposal. All pupils currently at the school would continue their education at the school.
- Pupils with Special Educational Needs for whom a complex needs special school has been identified as the most suitable provision could join the school as places become available from 1 September 2020 onwards.
- The school will continue to be a Complex Needs Special school and will continue to cater for the needs of its current pupils now and into the future.

Why we feel the changes are needed

The Governors of John Grant School and Norfolk County Council believe the changes would benefit children and young people because it would:

- Enable pupils with special education needs to benefit from the high-quality education and support at John Grant School, with potentially shorter travel times for local pupils.
- Enable John Grant School to develop provision for more children and young people with SEN.
- Enable more Norfolk children and young people with SEN to attend a school in Norfolk.
- Reduce the pressures on budgets created by expensive out of county placements thus enabling spend to benefit the development of Norfolk provision for Norfolk pupils.
- The changes will also enable us to redevelop our car parking facilities to provide increased parking spaces for both cars and buses.

What is the likely impact of the proposal

For pupils:

- Pupils currently placed at the school will continue to receive a high quality education at John Grant School.
- New pupils with SEN will be able to attend the school, giving more locations and choice of provision for families.
- More pupils will get access to a range of appropriate and relevant learning; work related learning, physical therapies and qualifications.
- Pupils will continue to receive an outstanding education and support which is being continuously developed
- Growth of the school will provide opportunities for improved provision and opportunities for pupils

For the school:

- An opportunity to develop and consolidate education provision
- The increased numbers, with the associated guarantee of funding from the LA, gives the school greater “economy of scale”, enabling them to continue to adapt, develop and evolve to meet the ever changing needs of children within Norfolk.
- Improve our financial efficiency through greater economies of scale.
- No negative impacts on staff numbers with opportunities to offer new posts and training.
- The opportunity to develop its workforce with new positions and additional leadership responsibilities.

For other schools:

- To remove the pressure of meeting the needs of pupils in mainstream who are currently waiting for special school places.

For Independent Special Schools:

- There should be some reduction in how many children are sent to these schools when parental preference is for a local school. However, with higher level need still increasing there may be no significant loss.

For the Local Authority:

- Greater capacity to meet the needs of children with SEN locally.
- Broadening the expertise and provision available in Norfolk's Special Schools.
- A potential reduction in expenditure when travel and independent special school fees are less used.
- Improved capacity to meet educational needs of pupils with SEND

The earliest the change could happen is 1 September 2020.

How can you have your say on our proposal

We would like to hear your views on our proposal and you can do this by;

- accessing our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/johngrant>
- or emailing schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
- or writing to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, Floor 8 (Bay 34), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR,

We need all responses by 22 May 2020.

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Let us know what you think of our proposal.

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to increase the number of pupils with Special Education Needs and Disability at John Grant School, Caister-on-sea? Please tick a box.

- Strongly Agree Agree Neither agree or disagree
 Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know

Why do you say this? Please write in the box below.

Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make to help us with this decision and in planning for the future provision of the children? Please write in the box below.

We would like to hear from many different people as your views help us to decide whether or not we make these changes. We will also use any personal information to understand how different groups of people feel about our proposal to increase the number of pupils at John Grant School.

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Protection Act 2018 and Norfolk County Council's data protection policy and guidelines. This means that Norfolk County Council will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation.

We won't identify individuals when reporting back our findings and under our record management policy we will keep this information for five years. We will also, under normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else. However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation, including any personal information. We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please tell us who you are, (tick all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil | <input type="checkbox"/> School governor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Parent Teacher Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Local business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Local sports group |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Local community group |

Other (please specify): _____

At which school? _____

What is your postcode? _____

Your views will help us decide if this proposal goes ahead. You can tell us your views by:

- accessing our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/johngrant>
- or emailing schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
- or sending this form to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, Floor 8 (Bay 34), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. No stamp is needed.

This consultation ends on 22 May 2020