

Report to the Executive Director of Children's Services for decision on a statutory change for a change in number of pupils in a special school, at John Grant School, Caister-on-Sea

What is the proposal?

The proposal is to increase the number of places by 30 pupils with Special Education Needs at John Grant School, St Georges Drive, Caister-on-sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 5QW from 1 September 2020.

Public notice and representation period

A statutory public notice was issued by Norfolk County Council and published in the Great Yarmouth Mercury on 12 June 2020. Copies were displayed at all the main entrances to John Grant School. The four week representation period came to an end on 10 July 2020. See Appendix 1 for Public Notice and Appendix 2 for the Prescribed Information which includes the consultation proposal.

No submissions were received during the statutory Public Notice period.

All statutory requirements in relation to the statutory consultation were complied with.

The decision

In coming to a decision, the Decision Maker is obliged to consider the following factors:

Education standards and diversity of provision

John Grant School was rated Outstanding by Ofsted in October 2017.

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

This proposal offers parents access to more complex needs special school places in Norfolk, reducing the travel time for children and young people living locally.

Equal opportunities issues

The County Council has considered that there are no specific discrimination issues that arise from the school organisation change being proposed.

Community cohesion

The County Council has considered that there are no specific community cohesion issues that arise from the school organisation change being proposed.

Travel and accessibility

It is not anticipated that there will be a significant increased impact on peak time traffic at the school, as the provision is already accommodated on the school site and the majority of pupils are bussed into the school.

Funding

Funding has been secured by Norfolk County Council to build a new 5 classroom build, with associated shared teaching spaces, located on the existing school site, and south of the existing building. A planning application will be submitted on 27 July and the outcome is expected on 22 September 2020.

Conclusions and recommendation

In considering the proposals, the Decision Maker can decide to:

- Reject the proposal
- Approval the proposal
- Approve the proposal with a modification
- Approve the proposal subject to it meeting a specific condition.

No responses to the proposal were received during the statutory Public Notice period. This proposal supports Norfolk County Council's SEND Transformation Programme to increase the number of places available in Norfolk special schools and to enable children to attend a local school suitable to the special educational needs.

It is therefore **recommended** that the Director of Children's Services, in her role as Decision Maker as delegated by Norfolk County Council, should decide **in favour** of the proposal to increase the number of places by 30 pupils with Special Education Needs at John Grant School, St Georges Drive, Caister-on-sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 5QW from 1 September 2020. This **approval is subject to** planning permission approval, due September 2020.



Proposed change to John Grant School

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, Norfolk County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to the following school, in accordance with section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, by increasing the number of places by 30 pupils, served by the school as indicated from 1 September 2020:-

School	April 2020 Number on roll	Present age range of pupils	Proposed age range of pupils	Annual intake		Capacity	
				Existi ng	Propos ed	Existi ng	Propos ed
John Grant (Foundation Special) School St Georges Drive, Caister-on-sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 5QW	143	3 - 19	3 - 19	6-10	6-10	143	173

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained by emailing schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk or by writing to the School Organisation Team, Children's Services Floor 8 (Bay 34), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to, or make comments on, the proposal by sending them to the School Organisation Team, Children's Services Floor 8 (Bay 34), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL or by email to: schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk

Signed: Sara Tough
Executive Director of Children's Services

Publication Date: 12 June 2020

Explanatory Note

John Grant School, is a special school which currently offers up to 143 places to pupils with complex needs, all of whom have an Education, Health and Care Plan. The school was judged Outstanding by Ofsted in October 2017.

Statutory Proposal to increase the number of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability, by adding 30 places at John Grant School, Caister-on-Sea, from 1 September 2020

1. Local Authority details

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

2. School details

Name	John Grant School
Type	Foundation Special School
Address	St Georges Drive, Caister-on-sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 5QW
Age Range	3-19 years
Capacity	143 pupils; Numbers on roll 1 April 2020 = 143
Ofsted	Last Ofsted; October 2017 Rating; Outstanding

3. What changes are proposed?

It is proposed to increase the number of places for pupils with special education needs and disability (SEND), by adding 30 places at John Grant School, from 1 September 2020.

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

Norfolk County Council has a statutory duty to;

- Ensure a sufficient supply of school places in its area for children of school age
- Promote high educational standards, diversity and parental choice
- Ensure fair access to educational opportunity
- Help fulfil every child's educational potential.

Norfolk County Council has published their SEND Sufficiency Strategy. A summary of this strategy can be found on [Norfolk's Local Offer website](#). The expansion of our existing special school estate is one aspect of our overarching strategy to increase the number of places available in Norfolk special schools and to enable children to attend a local school suitable to their special education needs.

Norfolk County Council and the Governors at John Grant School feel these changes would benefit children and young people because;

- 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.

An initial consultation was held between Monday 20th April and Friday 23 May 2020. Due to Covid19, we were unable to offer consultation events. However 280 consultation documents were distributed and 37 responses were received; 31 people (84%) strongly agreed or agreed and 4 people (11%) strongly disagreed with the proposal. 2 people (5%) neither agreed or disagreed.

The analysis of the responses received during the consultation is available in the Consultation Report in Appendix A and includes the consultation proposal in Appendix 1.

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

Norfolk County Council wants to:

- Enable 30 pupils with Special Education Needs and Disability to benefit from the outstanding specialist education provided by John Grant School
- Increase more children to attend a local school suitable to their special education needs, as part of the Local Authority SEND Transformation Plan.

Norfolk County Council's policy is to expand schools that are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. John Grant School was inspected in October 2017 and rated Outstanding. 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.

This proposal offers parents access to more complex needs specialist resource base places in Norfolk, reducing the travel time for children and young people living locally.

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 this proposal provides additional places which removes the pressure of meeting the needs of pupils who are currently waiting for additional support.

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

The additional 30 places will be provided by a new 5 classroom build, with associated shared teaching spaces, located on the existing school site, and south of the existing building. This project will be funded by Norfolk County Council. Any school organisation change will be subject to planning permission and capital scheme approval.

Long term value for money will be achieved as there is 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 2020.

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	12 June 2020
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	12 June – 10 July 2020
Decision required, no later than	31 August 2020
If approved, change of age starts	1 September 2020

Appendix 1

Report to the Executive Director of Children's Services for permission to publish a public notice

The Proposal: To increase the number of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability at John Grant School (Foundation Special), Caister-on-Sea, from 1 September 2020.

Reason for the proposed change	The proposal is to increase the number of pupils to include 30 extra pupils with special education needs and disability (SEND) at John Grant School (Foundation Special) from 1 September 2020.		
Consultation details	The consultation proposal is attached in Appendix A. The consultation ran from 20 April 2020 to 22 May (5 weeks). 280 reports were distributed to key stakeholders, including councillors, early years settings, local schools and local residents. All statutory requirements in relation to the statutory consultation, publication and decision-making were complied with.		
Number of responses in favour of the proposal	31 respondents (84%) strongly agreed or agreed	Number of responses against the proposal	4 (11%) strongly disagreed *2 respondents neither agreed or disagreed (5%)
Summary of views expressed in favour of the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are not enough places for children with special education needs and disability in the locality • Norfolk needs these places • Feel it is important for SEND children to get the specialist support they need • John Grant is an excellent provision, expansion is a good idea • Concerned that 30 places won't be enough • So many children struggle in mainstream school due to their needs not being met, they need to be in special school to get the extra care and attention they deserve • Children need correct facilities and specialised support • This is long overdue. The SEND Tribunal is a waste of money as all pupils who go through meet the criteria, the issue is not enough places. • Long wait times, difficulty procuring places for children who are in desperate need, due to lack of places 		
Summary of views expressed against the proposal / no opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the parking outside our home • Our driveway is constantly blocked or used as a turning circle after dropping off or picking up children • Concerned about the increase of traffic in the area as it is already bad, despite parents/visitors being asked to use the school car park, they still park on the road. 		

Commentary	The majority of respondents are supportive of the proposal, highlighting the need for these additional places to support children with special education needs and disability in the local area. The concerns from local residents about the impact of traffic will be raised with the school.
Resource implications	The additional 30 places will be provided by a new 5 classroom build, located on the existing school site. This project will be funded by Norfolk County Council and will be subject to planning permission and capital scheme approval.
Recommendation	To proceed to the statutory Public Notice stage to increase the number of places for pupils with special education needs and disability (SEND), by adding 30 places at John Grant School, from 1 September 2020.

I give permission for a public notice to be issued on the proposal to increase the number of pupils in John Grant School (Foundation Special), Caister-on-Sea. This will appear in the Great Yarmouth Mercury on Friday 5th June 2020.



Signed: Sara Tough
(Executive Director of Children's Services)

Date: 27 May 2020



John Grant School (Foundation Special School)

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