

March 2024



Report to the Executive Director of Children's Services for decision on statutory proposals for prescribed changes at The Parkside School, Norwich, Norfolk

What is the proposal?

The proposal by the Governors of The Parkside (Foundation) Special School is, from 1 September 2024, to;

- increase the number of pupils in the 6th form, to provide 12 extra places for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- change the age range from 7 – 17 to 7 – 18 years.

Public notice and representation period

A statutory public notice was issued by the Chair of Governors, The Parkside School and published in the Eastern Daily Press on 26 February 2024. Copies were displayed at all the main entrances to The Parkside School, in the reception area and on the school website. The four week representation period came to an end on 22 March 2024. See Appendix 1 for Public Notice and Prescribed Information.

No representations 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
- Equal opportunities issues
- Community cohesion
- Travel and accessibility
- Funding.

Education standards and diversity of provision

The Parkside School was rated Outstanding by Ofsted in January 2020. Norfolk County Council's policy is to expand schools that are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

These proposals are part of Norfolk County Council's Local First Inclusion which is the county council's six-year special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) improvement programme. We are committed to reviewing and developing Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) provision as part of Norfolk's Local Offer of support to children, young people and families.

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 their special educational needs.

Our research shows that there are fewer special education places available in Norwich, Norfolk, and yet there are a lot of young people living in this part of Norfolk who require complex needs placements.

In summary, this proposal will;

- Increase the number of special education places for children and young people in Norwich, Norfolk, as part of the Local Authority's Local First Inclusion programme.
- Provide more 6th form places, thereby increasing the offer to pupils and parents.

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

This proposal offers an additional 12 pupil places, to create a Year 13 provision. This means parents locally have access to more complex needs specialist resource base places in Norfolk, reducing the travel time for children and young people living locally.

There will be an impact to travel if this proposal is agreed, as an additional 12 pupils may have transport requirements to attend the school. However overall, it is anticipated that the impact will be minimal due to low number of additional places.

Funding

Governors at The Parkside School will locate the 24 place 6th form at Surlingham House. There is already capacity on this site for the additional 12 pupils. There are no capital costs for this proposal. However Governors are aware that there will be costs for additional resources such as ICT, Chromebook, software etc, but these can be met from the school budget.

In summary, funding has been agreed to support the delivery of these proposals and long term value for money will be achieved as there is greater capacity to meet the needs of children with SEND locally.

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 representations were received during the statutory Public Notice period.

These proposals support Norfolk County Council's Local First Inclusion Programme.

It is therefore **recommended** that the Executive Director of Children's Services, in her role as Decision Maker as delegated by Norfolk County Council, should decide in favour of the proposals, from 1 September 2024, to;

- increase the number of pupils in the 6th form, to provide 12 extra places for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- change the age range from 7 – 17 to 7 – 18 years.



Proposed changes to The Parkside School, Norwich

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, the Governing Body of The Parkside School, College Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 3JA, intends to make a prescribed alteration to the following school, in accordance with section 19 (3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 to;

- increase the number of pupils in the 6th form, to provide 12 extra places for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- change the age range from 7 – 17 to 7 – 18 years.

School	1 February 2024 Number on roll	Present age range of pupils	Proposed age range of pupils	Annual intake		Capacity	
				Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
The Parkside (Foundation Special) School College Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 3JA	181	7 - 17	7 - 18	N/A	N/A	181	193

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from;

- <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/fns>
- emailing schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
- by writing to the School Organisation Team, Children’s Services, 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 Norfolk County Council, c/o School Organisation Team, Children’s Services, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL or by email to: schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk

Signed: Paul Stanley
Chair of Governors
The Parkside School

Publication Date: 26 February 2024



Statutory Proposal to make prescribed alterations to The Parkside School, Norwich, from 1st September 2024

1. School details

Name	The Parkside School
Type	Foundation Special School
Address	College Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 3JA
Age Range	7 - 17years
Numbers on roll	181
Ofsted	Last Ofsted; January 2020 Rating; Outstanding

2. Local Authority details

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

3. What changes are proposed by Governors?

As a Foundation Special School, the governing body are proposing from 1 September 2024 to;

- increase the number of pupils in the 6th form, to provide 12 extra places for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- change the age range from 7 – 17 to 7 – 18 years.

The governors believe this is an exciting opportunity to expand our successful provision, for the needs of the current pupils and to meet the demand for future pupils.

These changes if agreed, will create a Year 13 provision, to offer a 24 place 6th form; 12 places in Year 12 and 12 places in Year 13. Please note that all the places may not be available from 1 September 2024, but phased over 2 years. By creating a Year 13 provision, we need to change the age range of the school to be able to offer places to pupils up to the age of 18 years.

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

Governors of The Parkside School feel these changes would benefit children and young people because it;

- supports more students with special education needs and disabilities to be educated and thrive in their local school and community;
- ensures that needs can be met locally avoiding the need for students to spend unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away. This is better for young people and saves the taxpayer money in transport costs;
- increases the availability of places to meet the needs of students with SEND.

5. Consultation details

The governing body of Fred Nicholson School consulted on the proposal to increase the number of pupils in the 6th form, to provide 12 extra pupil places and to change the age range from 7 – 17 to 7 – 18 years, from 1 September 2024.

The consultation was delivered, as set out by the DfE statutory guidance 'Making significant changes (prescribed alterations) to maintained schools', January 2023, and ran from 8 January to 16 February 2024. A total of 504 consultation documents were sent to governors, staff and parents at The Parkside School and key stakeholders. The consultation document was available on the school website.

A consultation event was held on 29 January 2024, virtually, supported by the Headteacher. No-one attended.

There were 10 responses and 90% of the responses strongly agreed or agreed with these proposals. The consultation report is available at Appendix A and includes the consultation proposal.

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

The Governors of Fred Nicholson School want to:

- Increase the number of special education places for young people in Norwich as part of the Local Authority's Local First Inclusion programme.
- Provide 6th form places, thereby increasing the offer to pupils and parents
- Change the age range from 7 – 17 to 7 – 18 years.

Governors are aware that Norfolk County Council's policy is to expand schools that are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. The Parkside School was inspected in January 2020 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 an additional 12 places in Norwich, reducing the travel time for children and young people living locally.

7. 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 in special schools who are currently waiting for additional support.

8. Will the proposed change impact travel and accessibility

This proposal will have a positive impact on accessibility, as it offers an additional 12 pupil places, to create a Year 13 provision. This means parents locally have access to more complex needs specialist resource base places in Norfolk, reducing the travel time for children and young people living locally.

There will be an impact to travel if this proposal is agreed, as an additional 12 pupils may have transport requirements to attend the school. However overall, it is anticipated that the impact will be minimum due to low number of additional places.

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

The 24 place 6th form will be located at Surlingham House. There is already capacity on this site for the additional 12 pupils. There are no capital costs for this proposal. However Governors are aware that there will be costs for additional resources such as ICT, Chromebook, software etc., but these can be met from the school budget.

There will be a need to employ additional staff (a teacher and 2 TAs) to support the additional pupils. These will be recruited as the pupil numbers grow. These will be funded by the Local Authority, as part of funding for additional pupil places.

Long term value for money will be achieved as there is greater capacity to meet the needs of children with SEND locally.

10. Will this definitely happen?

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

10. 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 as follows;

- Increase number of pupils in the 6th form – from 1 September 2024
- Change the age range at the school – 1 September 2024

11. Related proposals

There is no other proposal linked to this proposal.

12. 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. Please put the school name in the heading of the email.
- Writing to: School Organisation Team, FREEPOST, 1H 2076, Lower Ground Floor, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.

13. 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	26 February 2024
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	26 February – 22 March 2024
Decision required, no later than	22 May 2024
If approved, changes implemented from	1 September 2024



Report for Governors of The Parkside School, on the recent school organisation consultation and requesting permission to publish a statutory public notice

The proposal;

- increase the number of pupils in the 6th form, to provide 12 extra pupil places with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- change the age range from 7 – 17 to 7 – 18 years.

Reason for the proposed change	<p>There is a significant need for more school places in Norfolk for children with EHCPs, both in special schools and resource bases in mainstream schools.</p> <p>Governors of The Parkside School are looking to create a Year 13 provision, to offer a 24 place 6th form; 12 places in Year 12 and 12 places in Year 13. By creating a Year 13 provision, we need to change the age range of the school to be able to offer places to pupils up to the age of 18 years.</p> <p>This proposal is part of the Local Authority's SEND Transformation Plan and Local First Inclusion project to increase the number of places for children with SEND in the Norwich area.</p> <p>The consultation document is available at Appendix B.</p>
Consultation details	<p>The consultation was delivered, as set out by the DfE statutory guidance 'Making significant changes (prescribed alterations) to maintained schools', January 2023. A consultation was held from 8 January to 16 February 2024. A total of 504 consultation documents were sent to governors, staff and parents at The Parkside School and key stakeholders (full list is in Appendix C). A consultation event was held on 29 January 2024, virtually, supported by the Headteacher. No-one attended. An online survey was established to collect responses. The consultation was promoted widely, via the school website, social media.</p>
Number of responses	10 responses
Summary of views expressed in favour of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides more SEN provision, to give more young people opportunities stay on in 6th form (5 respondents)

proposal to add additional places to 6 th form (8 respondents gave comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for SEN post 16 level is not sufficient, this proposal will help (2 respondents) • Pathways is a vital provision that needs to be accessible to more pupils (1 respondent)
Summary of views expressed against the proposal/no opinion, to add additional places to 6 th form	There were no views against the proposal.
Summary of views expressed in favour of the proposal to change age range (8 respondents answered this question)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See previous comments to question above (3 respondents) • Helps young people who may be vulnerable, to have extra year in a secure setting and focus on important life skills for longer (3 respondents)
Summary of views expressed against the proposal/no opinion, to change age range.	There were no views against the proposal
Commentary	The consultation has been run in accordance with the DfE guidance. The response rate is 1.8%. The support for the proposal is high with 90% strongly agreeing or agreeing with each proposal. Norfolk County Council, as the local decision-maker for these proposals, neither agreed or disagreed at this stage.
Resource implications	<p>The 24 place 6th form will be located at Surlingham House. There is already capacity on this site for the additional 12 pupils. There are no capital costs for this proposal. However Governors are aware that there will be costs for additional resources such as ICT, Chromebook, software etc, but these can meet this from the school budget.</p> <p>There will be a need to employ additional staff (a teacher and 2 TAs) to support the additional pupils. These will be recruited as the pupil numbers grow. These will be funded by the Local Authority, as part of funding for additional pupil places.</p>
Recommendation	The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all pupils in its area. This proposal meets the need for additional places for young people with complex needs in the Norwich area of Norfolk and meets the targets set within their Local First Inclusion Programme.

	<p>It is recommended for Governors of The Parkside School to proceed to the statutory public notice stage of the school organisation process for the increase in pupil numbers and change of age range.</p> <p>If agreed, the public notice will be published on Monday 26 February 2024.</p>
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I give permission for a public notice to be issued on the proposal to increase the number of pupils and change the age range at The Parkside School Norfolk from 1 September 2024.

Signed: _____ Paul Stanley _____

(Chair of Governors)

Date: _____ 24/2/24 _____

Consultation on a proposal to increase the number of pupils with Special Educational Needs and change the age range at The Parkside School, Norwich

The Proposal Summary

As Governors at The Parkside School, we are proposing from 1 September 2024 to;

- increase the number of pupils in the 6th form, to provide 12 extra pupil places with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- change the age range from 7 – 17 to 7 – 18 years.

These changes, if agreed, will create a Year 13 provision, to offer a 24 place 6th form; 12 places in Year 12 and 12 places in Year 13. Please note that all the places will not be available from 1 September 2024, but phased over 2 years. By creating a Year 13 provision, we need to change the age range of the school to be able to offer places to pupils up to the age of 18 years.

This proposal is part of the Local Authority's SEND Transformation Plan and Local First Inclusion project to increase the number of places for children with SEND in the Norwich area.

Why is this consultation taking place?

Before any major decision can be made about the changes of a foundation special 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 The Parkside School

- The Parkside School is a complex needs school located in Norwich, split over 2 sites. The 6th form is based at Surlingham House.
- We currently have 181 pupils on roll, as at 1 January 2024, all of whom have Education, Health and Care Plans. We cater for all abilities across all ranges.
- The school educates pupils between the ages and 7 and 17, many of whom have additional sensory impairments, physical difficulties and/or medical needs.
- Our most recent Ofsted inspection (January 2020) rated the school as Outstanding in all areas.

- Surlingham House has capacity for the additional pupils, so there are no capital costs with this proposal.

Why we feel the changes are needed

The Trustees of The Parkside School believe the changes would benefit young people because it would:

- Enable pupils with special education needs to benefit from the high-quality education and support at The Parkside School, with potentially shorter travel times for local pupils.
- Enable The Parkside School to develop provision at 6th form for more young people with SEN.
- Enable more Norfolk 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.

How can I have my say

We will be holding a consultation event, virtually, where you can find out more about this proposal on Monday 29th January, 5.30 – 6.30pm

If you would like to attend this event, please contact the school office, by email; office@parkside.norfolk.sch.uk to register and receive the joining details to the meeting.

If you are unable to attend these events but would like to comment on our proposal please:

- access our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/parkside>
- complete the attached form and hand it to the school office
- or write to Chair of Governors, c/o The Parkside School.

We need all responses by 12 noon, 16 February 2024.

What happens next?

The Governors will review all the comments made during this consultation and decide whether to proceed to the statutory public notice stage for this proposal.

Appendix C

Summary analysis of responses for The Parkside School									
Total number of responses = 10									
Method of response									
Online		Letter				Email			
10									
Respondent * please note respondents could tick all that apply									
Pupil	Parent/ Guardian	Member PTA	Staff	Governor	Local resident	Local business	Local sports group	Local commu nity group	Other
	6 (60%)		1 (10%)		1 (10%)				3 (30%)
Response Analysis – How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to increase the number of pupils in the 6 th form, to provide 12 extra pupil places with SEN from 1 September 2024									
*please note respondents could tick all categories that apply - % of all respondents									
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know			
Total	7 (70%)	2 (20%)	1 (10%)						
Pupil									
Parent/Guardian	5	1							
Member of the PTA									
Member of Staff		1							
Governor									
Local resident	1								
Local business									
Local sports group									
Local community group									
Other	2		1						
Summary of views supporting this proposal – 8 respondents answered this question									
Because it gives more children a chance to stay on and study more									
Providing more SEN availability is extremely important in our area. The staff have done an amazing job with the first cohort of students and I'm sure will continue to do so with more students.									

Parkside is an outstanding provision and I welcome the proposal to increase sixth form numbers, especially in the context of additional pressures on complex needs school places across the county.	
Hopefully to help children and their families find much needed places in SEN schools, which are currently under resourced.	
Norfolk's provision for pupils with SEND is under resourced and this will be part of the solution.	
Pathways is a vital provision that needs to be accessible to more pupils who would really benefit from it.	
The provision for SEN pupils at post-16 level is not sufficient in the county, so this will help.	
If more SEN children have the ability to stay in the 6th form then it will enable them to continue to learn from the SEN school and focus on life skills to enable them to integrate in to society.	
Summary of views against this proposal – 0 respondents	
There were no comments against the proposal	
Summary of views that neither agreed or disagreed with this proposal – 1 respondent	
Norfolk County Council - We note the consultation on this proposal, but as the LA is the decision maker for this proposal, we will not provide a response at this stage	

Response Analysis – How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to change the age range from 7 – 17 to 7 – 18 years from 1 September 2024						
*please note respondents could tick all categories that apply - % of all respondents						
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Total	8 (80%)	1 (10%)	1 (10%)			
Pupil						
Parent/Guardian	7					
Member of the PTA						
Member of Staff		1				
Governor						
Local resident	1					
Local business						
Local sports group						

Local community group						
Other	2		1			

Summary of views supporting this proposal – 8 respondents answered this question
If the child is not confident enough to go to college it gives them a extra year to get more comfortable in leaving
It would be necessary to enable these new plans
See comments above in previous question (3 respondents)
To help children who are vulnerable to be in a secure setting for even longer.
Having no year 13 seems very odd! Transition will be helped for pupils.
Because the additional year, making it two years, means consistency, certainly and reassurance to young adults who need that routine and consistency to thrive. It also means you can add to and really focus on important life skills over a longer period of time which I feel would be incredibly beneficial.
Summary of views against this proposal – 0 respondents
There were no comments against the proposal
Summary of views that neither agreed or disagreed with this proposal – 1 respondent
Norfolk County Council - We note the consultation on this proposal, but as the LA is the decision maker for this proposal, we will not provide a response at this stage

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. – 3 respondents answered this question
None
With the options so limited for SEND provision over 16 years we feel this extended option at Pathways is absolutely essential to ensure more young adults get the incredible education they deserve.
Please ensure that you receive the funding associated with this increase and that it is not drawn from the already stretched budgets.

List of stakeholders who were sent the consultation document

- Parents, staff and governors of The Parkside School
- Trust Norfolk SEN
- City of Norwich School
- Ormiston Academies Trust
- Broad Horizons Education Trust
- The Clare School

Avenue Junior School
Heigham Community Federation
Colman Infant School
St Francis of Assisi School
Colman Junior School
Colman Infant and Junior Federation
Eaton Primary School
Evolution Academy Trust
The Clare School
Eaton Hall Specialist Academy
Hall School
Norfolk County Council
CEO Norwich City Council
Clive Lewis MP
County Councillor
District Councillors
Sunflower club
Peapod preschool
Activity Universe
Notre Dame Prep School
Beehive
Hamlet Centre
Wensum Junior Academy
Barracudas
Pollywobble Nursery
Busy Bees
Chapelfield Day Nursery
Chestnut Nursery
Bluebell Nursery
Activate
Treehouse Nursery
Free School Norwich
Little Squirrels
West Earlham Infants
Earlham Nursery
Muddy Puddles
Hewett Day Nursery
UEA Nursery
Magdalen Gates
Angel Road Nursery
Eaton Elephants
Charles Darwin Nursery
Lakenham Nursery
Tuckswood Nursery
Beehive Child Care
Spring Mile Cross
Mile Cross Nursery

Little Sparks
Cheeky Smiles
Kid Ease
Edith Cavell
Mousehold Nursery
Chestnut Nursery
JCBs Childcare
Clover Hill Nursery
Catton Grove Nursery
Norwich Montessori
Clever Clogs Cringleford