



9 September 2019

## **Consultation on a proposal to increase the number of places from 10 places up to 18 places, at the complex needs Specialist Resource Base at Sprowston Infant School, Norwich from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.**

### **Introduction**

The Children and Families Act 2014 champions the progressive removal of barriers to learning and general presumption of mainstream education for all learners with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to attend a mainstream setting should they or their parents wish to.

In 2018, Norfolk County Council announced it was to invest £120m in specialist school places and services, with up to four new special schools and 170 places in specialist bases at mainstream schools. The aim is to create more than 500 extra school places for children with special education needs and disabilities in Norfolk.

A Specialist Resource Base (SRB) is a small class in a mainstream school, where children are taught by specialist staff. A panel of professionals would continue to admit pupils to the SRB, not only from the local area, but also across a wider area. Pupils at a SRB not only benefit from smaller classes with favourable pupil-staff ratios, but also benefit from being in a mainstream school and being included in many learning opportunities with their mainstream peers, with additional support from specialist staff. In addition, a SRB would access further resources from a Special School Partner and additional professionals to support children.

### **What are we proposing**

To meet the demand for primary specialist resource base places we are proposing to;

- Increase the capacity of the complex needs Specialist Resource Base from 10 places up to 18 places, at Sprowston Infant School, from 1 February 2020.

Sprowston Infant School already operates a complex needs SRB and is unique in that it caters for children who meet the profile for a placement in a Complex Needs School. It operates at 100% occupancy throughout the academic year and has done so during the past 5 years. For the 2019 September Admissions round, 20 applications were made; 9 places have been offered.

It is proposed to use the Children Centre teaching space, based at the school, which is next to the current SRB.

### **What are the benefits of this proposal**

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

- It provides consistency of and access to complex needs SRB provision for children, young people and families in the area
- It ensures that needs can be met locally avoiding the need for children to spend unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away
- There is an increase of places to meet the needs of children with complex needs
- This SRB would continue to be part of a wider county wide SRB programme, providing consistency of SRB provision
- Provides additional resource for the pupils currently requiring specialist resource
- It addresses an identified gap in specialist provision through the SEND Sufficiency Strategy to meet needs locally.

There are several considerations that Norfolk County Council take into account when considering changes to organisations of schools. These include school leadership, performance, impact on the community, diversity of provision, need for places, travel, early years provision and special education provision. The overall driving force is to ensure any change is in the best interest of children's education and achievement.

### **What will happen to children currently supported by the SRB**

The current children supported by the SRB at Sprowston Infant School will remain on roll at the school and there will be no disruption to their learning. The only exceptions would be where an annual review of a child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) decided to consider a change of school, or parental preference changes.

### **Capital costs**

The proposal is to expand the ASD SRB into the adjoining room being vacated by the Children's Centre thereby doubling the capacity of the school's SRB provision. Works will involve joining the two rooms together, consolidating the external areas to form a single outdoor creative play space. The extent of the project is subject to the availability of funding and an assessment of cost per pupil place. Capital costs will be covered by Norfolk County Council.

**The earliest this could happen is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### **How can you have your say**

We will be holding drop-in events where you can come and find out more about these proposals, by attending any of the dates below:

- 9 – 10am, Monday 16 September, Sprowston Infant School
- 6.30 – 7.30pm, Wednesday 25 September, Sprowston Infant School

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

- complete the attached form and hand it to the school office
- or write to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, Floor 8 (Bay 29), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR,
- or email [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)
- or access our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/sprowston>

**We need all responses by 18 October 2019.**



## Consultation on proposed changes to Sprowston Infant School, Norwich

Let us know what you think of our proposal

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to increase the number of places from 10 places up to 18 places, at the complex needs Specialist Resource Base at Sprowston Infant School?

Please tick a box.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

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 places the Specialist Resource Base at Sprowston Infant 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 returning this completed form to:

- Your school office
- Posting it to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, Floor 8 (Bay 34), Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH
- Emailing [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)
- Accessing our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/sprowston>

**This consultation ends on 18 October 2019**