

**Statutory Proposal to increase the number of places at the  
Complex Needs Specialist Resource Base (SRB), from 10 places to  
18 places, at Sprowston Infant School, Norwich from 1<sup>st</sup> February  
2020**

**1. Local Authority details**

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

**2. School details**

<b>Name</b>	Sprowston Infant School
<b>Type</b>	Community School
<b>Address</b>	Recreation Ground Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 8EW
<b>Age Range</b>	4 – 7 years
<b>Capacity</b>	180 pupils; Numbers on roll 1 September 2019 = 149
<b>Ofsted</b>	Last Ofsted; January 2019      Rating; Good

**3. What changes are proposed?**

It is proposed to increase the number of complex needs specialist resource base (SRB) pupil places, to include 8 extra pupils at Sprowston Infant School, from February 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 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.

An initial consultation was held between Monday 9 September and Friday 18 October 2019. During that period, two public meetings were held at the school on 16 September

and 25 September. 1 member of the public attended. The consultation document is attached at Appendix A. 281 consultation documents were distributed and 41 responses were received. Of those 37 people (90%) strongly agreed and 2 people (5%) agreed with the proposal. 2 people (5%) strongly disagreed.

The analysis of the responses received during the consultation is available at Appendix B.

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

Norfolk County Council wants to:

- Enable 8 pupils to benefit from the specialist education and support provided by Sprowston Infant School
- Increase the number of places for children with complex needs in the north of Norwich, 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. Sprowston Infant School was inspected in January 2019 and rated Good.

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 SEN.

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 in mainstream schools 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 places will be located in the Children Centre teaching space, based at the school. This is next to the current SRB. There is a refurbishment programme planned which will be funded by Norfolk County Council.

Long term value for money will be achieved as there is greater capacity to meet the needs of children with SEN 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 February 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](mailto: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.

<b>School organisation process</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public Notice published	7 November 2019
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	7 November – 5 December 2019
Decision required, no later than	31 January 2020
If approved, change of age starts	1 February 2020



## **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.**

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

### The proposal;

To increase the number of places at the Complex Needs Specialist Resource Base (SRB), from 10 places to 18 places at Sprowston Infant School, Norwich, from 1 February 2020.

Reason for the proposed change	This proposal will enable more pupils to benefit from the consistency of and access to complex needs SRB provision for children 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. The proposal is in line with Norfolk County Council's SEN Sufficiency Strategy, April 2019 which shows there is a need to increase the number of places available to meet demand and to enable children to attend a local school suitable to their special education needs.
Consultation details	An informal consultation was held from 9 September to 18 October 2019. 281 consultation documents were distributed to parents, governors, staff and key stakeholders. Two public meetings were held at the school on 16 September and 25 September. 1 member of the public attended.
Number of responses	41 responses were received. 37 people strongly agreed (90%) and 2 people agreed (5%) 2 people strongly disagreed (5%)
Summary of views expressed in favour of the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More spaces are needed for children with complex needs in the area.</li> <li>• Need for these places increases each term and mainstream classes are finding it more and more difficult to cope with less and less support staff. The fact that the SRB has been working well for some years now and that the space is already there makes this an ideal solution.</li> <li>• Our school already runs full intake within the SRB. We always hear about the many applications that sadly have to be turned away. This opportunity would be great for those families as well as the community in the near future.</li> <li>• There is a vital need to support the most vulnerable children in the education system. This proposal will be part of enabling this and growing the capacity in Norfolk.</li> <li>• Would be fantastic for the school and community and also for the SEN Children to be able to attend a mainstream school.</li> <li>• Sprowston Infant has an excellent reputation for the SRB. All the staff and management understand fully what is needed to deliver high quality care and education and support to children and parents. There really is no better place to expand places than in Sprowston.</li> <li>• It makes perfect sense for this newly vacated space to be used to increase the amount of support offered and enable more children to access such a valuable service.</li> <li>• As a parent with an ASD child I feel very strongly that each child needs support according to their individual needs.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will provide more capacity within Sprowston, which is especially important as the town continues to grow in size.</li> </ul>
Summary of views expressed against the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase of traffic in the area, as a safety risk</li> <li>Inconsiderate parking across resident's driveways</li> </ul>
Commentary	The response rate is low, but there is strong support for the proposal.
Resource implications	Funding has been secured by Norfolk County Council to undertake a refurbishment programme. It is proposed to additional places will be located in the Children's Centre, based at the school, situated next to the current SRB.
Recommendation	To proceed to the statutory Public Notice stage, to increase the number complex needs SRB places from 10 places to 18 places at Sprowston Infant School, Norwich.

I give permission for a public notice to be issued on the proposal to increase the number complex needs SRB places from 10 places to 18 places at Sprowston Infant School, Norwich. This will appear in the Eastern Daily Press on 7 November 2019.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Executive Director of Children's Services)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_