

**Statutory Proposal to increase the number of places at the  
Complex Needs Specialist Resource Base (SRB), from 18 places to  
26 places, at Sprowston Infant School, Norwich from 1<sup>st</sup> February  
2024**

**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 March 2023 = 143
<b>Ofsted</b>	Last Ofsted; February 2020      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 2024.

**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;

- supports more students with special education needs and disabilities to be educated and thrive in their local school and community;
- enhances students' progress by effectively meeting their individual complex needs;
- helps facilitate better access to the curriculum and support students to achieve their potential;
- 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;
- addresses identified geographical, and age and phase gaps in SRB provision as identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy;

- supports the sharing of complex need expertise and good practice as part of our school.

An informal consultation was held between Monday 20 February and Friday 31 March 2023. During that period, one public meeting was held at the school on 9 March 2023. No members of the public attended.

The consultation document is attached at Appendix A. An informal consultation was held from 20 February to 31 March 2023. 315 consultation documents were distributed to parents, governors, staff and key stakeholders. A public meeting was held at the school on 9 March. No one attended. 280 consultation documents were distributed and 6 responses were received. Of those who responded, all 6 people strongly agreed with the proposal. 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's Specialist Resource Base
- Increase the number of places for children with complex needs in the north of Norwich, as part of the Local Authority's Local First Inclusion programme.

Norfolk County Council's policy is to expand schools that are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Sprowston Infant School was inspected in February 2020 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 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 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.**

There is a refurbishment programme planned which will be funded by Norfolk County Council, to expand the existing complex needs SRB to create a new 50sqm space. This will be achieved by extending the front of the school. The new space will include a new accessible pupil toilet and a corridor to the existing secure outdoor play area. In addition, there will be a new lobby to the main school entrance and two additional car parking spaces.

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 February 2024.

**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, Lower Ground Floor, 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	25 April 2023
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	25 April – 23 May 2023
Decision required, no later than	23 July 2023
If approved, change of age starts	1 February 2024



**Consultation on a proposal to increase the number of places from 18 places up to 26 places, at the complex needs Specialist Resource Base at Sprowston Infant School, Norwich from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.**

**Our proposal**

Norfolk County Council would like to hear your views on our proposal for Sprowston Infant School, Recreation Ground Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 8EW to **add 8 places** to the complex needs Specialist Resource Base (SRB) from 1 February 2024.

We appreciate that children and young people with complex needs can struggle to engage with learning and cope in a classroom without additional strategies and interventions. A Resource Base can support children to overcome their barriers to learning, to be better able to cope and to be re-integrated into a mainstream setting, in which they can achieve their potential.

We are very keen to provide this support in Norfolk schools. Our Specialist Resource Base will be expanded to cope with the additional places and will still have an enabling environment for SRB learners in a bespoke accommodation base. The Base will be managed by the Headteacher and governing body at Sprowston Infant School.

The local authority, Norfolk County Council is responsible for all admissions to Specialist Resource Bases. Referrals are considered by a County panel, and placements of pupils with or without an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are made using eligibility criteria for pupils with an ASC profile and assessing these against needs and appropriateness of referral.

**What are the benefits of this proposal**

The main driver for Norfolk County Council and the governors at Sprowston Infant School, is to meet the increased demand for specialist educational provision within our area, to best meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners. We feel our proposal would benefit children and young people because it will:

- support more students with special education needs and disabilities to be educated and thrive in their local school and community;
- enhance students' progress by effectively meeting their individual complex needs;

- help facilitate better access to the curriculum and support students to achieve their potential;
- ensure 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;
- increase the availability of places to meet the needs of students with SEND;
- address identified geographical, and age and phase gaps in SRB provision as identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy;
- support the sharing of complex need expertise and good practice as part of our school.

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 existing complex needs SRB to create a new 50sqm space. This will be achieved by extending the front of the school. The new space will include a new accessible pupil toilet and a corridor to the existing secure outdoor play area. In addition, there will be a new lobby to the main school entrance and two additional car parking spaces. Capital costs will be covered by Norfolk County Council.

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

We will be holding a drop-in event where you can come and find out more about this proposal and look at the proposed plans for the capital project:

- 2 – 3pm, Thursday 9 March, 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 email [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)
- or access our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/sprowstonsrb>

**We need all responses by 31 March 2023.**



**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 18 places up to 26 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
- Emailing [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)
- Accessing our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/sprowstonsrb>

**This consultation ends on 31 March 2023**

**The proposal;**

To increase the number of places at the Complex Needs Specialist Resource Base (SRB), from 18 places to 26 places at Sprowston Infant School, Norwich, from 1 February 2024.

Reason for the proposed change	This proposal (attached at Appendix A) 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 SEND 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 20 February to 31 March 2023. 315 consultation documents were distributed to parents, governors, staff and key stakeholders. A public meeting was held at the school on 9 March. No one attended.
Number of responses	6 responses were received. 6 people strongly agreed (100%)
Views expressed in favour of the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sprowston Town Council believes these facilities should be provided locally, especially with the planned increase in Sprowston's population</li> <li>• We desperately need such provision across the whole of Norfolk (Diocese of Norwich)</li> <li>• The need is huge and there is not enough places. It is highly specialised provision.</li> <li>• There are not enough SEN spaces for all the children who need a specialised education. Any plans to expand provision will always be not only welcomed, but absolutely necessary.</li> <li>• There is a great need for SRB places in Norfolk and they provide great settings for children with additional needs to provide a safe and secure place for the children to learn.</li> </ul>
Views expressed against the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no views expressed against this proposal</li> </ul>
Commentary	The response rate is low, but of those who responded there is strong support for the proposal, including from two key stakeholders; Diocese of Norwich and Sprowston Town Council.
Resource implications	Funding has been secured by Norfolk County Council to undertake a refurbishment programme to expand the existing complex needs SRB to create a new 50sqm space. This will be achieved by extending the front of the school. The new space will include a new accessible pupil toilet and a corridor to the existing secure outdoor play area. In addition, there will be a new lobby to the main school entrance and two additional car parking spaces.



Recommendation	To proceed to the statutory Public Notice stage, to increase the number complex needs SRB places from 18 places to 26 places at Sprowston Infant School, Norwich.
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I give permission for a public notice to be issued on the proposal to increase the number complex needs SRB places from 18 places to 26 places at Sprowston Infant School, Norwich. This will appear in the Eastern Daily Press on 25 April 2023.

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

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