

Report to the Executive Director of Children's Services for decision on a statutory change to Holly Meadows School, King's Lynn

What is the proposal?

It is proposed to establish a 16 place specialist resource base; 8 place early intervention base for Key Stage 1 pupils and an 8 place additional intervention base for Key Stage 2 pupils at Holly Meadows School, Vong Lane, Pott Row, King's Lynn PE32 1BW, from 1 September 2025.

Public notice and representation period

A statutory public notice was issued by Norfolk County Council and published in the Eastern Daily Press on 19 June 2023. Copies were displayed at all the main entrances to Holly Meadows School. The four week representation period came to an end on 14 July 2023. See Appendix 1 for Public Notice and Prescribed Information.

Three submissions were received during the statutory Public Notice period supporting the proposal.

One was from local MP, James Wild's office who said 'James is grateful to you for getting in touch; he is supportive of additional SRB capacity.'

One was from Gayton Parish Council, who said 'Gayton Parish Council fully supports this application due to the need of SEND provision in a rural setting.'

One was from a stakeholder who said 'I would like a to just send a quick email of full support for the proposed SRB at the site of Holly Meadows Primary School. I am a play therapist that has the absolute pleasure of working with the school for 1/2 day a week providing individual play therapy. The head teacher and staff have such a nurturing and supportive outlook and always put the children's needs first. They look at each child as an individual and work extremely hard to help to support those children that find learning difficult. Both with regards to cognition and learning and personal, social and emotional development. The proposal has my full support.'

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

Holly Meadows School was rated Good by Ofsted in July 2019.

This proposal is 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.

Pupils at the 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 peers, with additional support from specialist staff. In addition, the SRB would have access to further resources and expertise from a Specialist Partner and wider professionals.

Norfolk County Council does not have enough local specialist special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision in mainstream schools. Our research has identified the SEND need and the location areas. Specialist Resource Bases in mainstream schools enable all children and young people with SEND to get a consistently high-quality education with the right support for their needs in their local area first.

This proposal builds on the 31 specialist resource bases attached to mainstream schools across Norfolk, many established during the Phase 1 SRB programme/ expansion started in 2019, with some still in development. They provide a total of 411 specialist places, across five different SRB specialisms;

- Learning and Cognition (LCN)
- Speech, language and communication (SLCN)
- Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH)
- Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC)
- Deaf (hearing impaired)

We have identified further priority areas for new or expanded SRBs, as part of Phase 2, including an early intervention base and an additional intervention base in Kings Lynn which can be provided by Holly Meadows School.

This proposal ensures that needs can be met locally, avoiding the need for children and young people to spend unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away.

Equal opportunities issues

This proposal supports the presumption of mainstream education for children with special education needs under the Children and Families Act 2014. It also provides further choice for families of children with special educational needs whose preference is for their child to be supported in a mainstream school.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the proposals to establish SRBs in Norfolk Schools. This identified the following actions;

	Action	Lead	Date
1.	Consultation on SRB accommodation designs with SRB project group, specialist providers, educational psychologists, current and proposed SRBs to maximise opportunities for the building to be accessible and appropriate for the groups of children with SEND they cater for	NCC Capital Team	Completed

	Action	Lead	Date
2.	Tender specifications to include Equality Act 2010 compliance and ensure due regard to BB104 guidance to ensure accessibility and SEND specific considerations are catered for in building projects	NCC Capital Team	May 2023 – February 2024
3.	Schools to update their SEND information reports to include the SRB as part of the school's local offer	SENCO	From opening
4.	SRB schools to review their own equality and accessibility action plans	SRBs	From opening
5.	SRB schools to make reasonable adjustments for any SRB pupils with a disability so they can play an equal part in whole school life	SRBs	From opening

Actions 3 – 5 will be incorporated in the planning meetings with schools, in preparation for the SRB opening in their school.

Community cohesion

The County Council has considered that there are no specific community cohesion issues that arise from the school organisation change being proposed. The provision will promote inclusion of pupils with SEND in mainstream settings.

Travel and accessibility

This proposal offers parents access to more specialist resource bases in west Norfolk, reducing the travel time for children and young people living locally. It is not anticipated that there will be a significant increased impact on peak time traffic at the school, as the pupil numbers in the SRB are low and some pupils may arrive onto the school site by taxi.

Funding

All capital costs for the new purpose built accommodation will be funded from Norfolk County Council's Local First Inclusion SEND Improvement Programme, to ensure there is the appropriate accommodation. Target opening is September 2025. 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.

There were no objections to the proposal during the statutory Public Notice period.

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 proposal to establish a 16 place specialist resource base; 8 place early intervention base for Key Stage 1 pupils and an 8 place additional intervention base for Key Stage 2 pupils at Holly Meadows School, from 1 September 2025.



Proposed significant change to Holly Meadows School, King's Lynn

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 establishing a 16 place Specialist Resource Base at Holly Meadows School, King's Lynn, from 1 September 2025.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/srb-2023> ; emailing schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk or by writing to the School Organisation Team, Children's Services, Lower Ground Floor, 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, Lower Ground Floor, 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: 19 June 2023

Statutory Proposal to establish a Specialist Resource Base (SRB), for 16 places, at Holly Meadows School, King’s Lynn, from 1st September 2025

1. Local Authority details

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

2. School details

Name	Holly Meadows School
Type	Community School
Address	Vong Lane, Pott Row, King's Lynn PE32 1BW
Age Range	5 - 11 years
Capacity	175 pupils; Numbers on roll 1 June 2023 = 134
Ofsted	Last Ofsted; July 2019 Rating; Good

3. What changes are proposed?

It is proposed to establish a 16 place specialist resource base; 8 place early intervention base for Key Stage 1 pupils and an 8 place additional intervention base for Key Stage 2 pupils at Holly Meadows School, from 1 September 2025.

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 Specialist Resource Base (SRB) can support children to overcome barriers to learning, to learn strategies to enable them to successfully participate in a mainstream school setting, in which they can flourish.

This proposal is 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 proposal will also be supported by a funding agreement to support an increased staffing structure.

The SRB places will be allocated through Norfolk County Admissions processes and the base will grow up to full capacity from 1 September 2025.

4. What is a specialist resource base

A Specialist Resource Base (SRB) is a bespoke accommodation base, providing an enabling environment for learners, 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 the 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 peers, with additional support from specialist staff. In addition, the SRB would have access further resources and expertise from a Specialist Partner and wider professionals.

The SRB will be managed by the Headteacher and Governors at Holly Meadows School.

5. 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 does not have enough local specialist special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision in mainstream schools. Our research has identified the SEND need and the location areas. Specialist Resource Bases in mainstream schools enable all children and young people with SEND to get a consistently high-quality education with the right support for their needs in their local area first.

This proposal builds on the 31 specialist resource bases attached to mainstream schools across Norfolk, many established during the Phase 1 SRB programme/ expansion started in 2019, with some in development. They provide a total of 411 specialist places, across five different SRB specialisms;

- Learning and Cognition (LCN)
- Speech, language and communication (SLCN)
- Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH)
- Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC)
- Deaf (hearing impaired)

We have identified further priority areas for new or expanded SRBs, as part of Phase 2, including early and additional intervention bases in King's Lynn which can be provided by Holly Meadows School.

Norfolk County Council and the Governors of Holly Meadows 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 supports 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.

6. 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 Holly Meadows School Early Intervention Base, for Key Stage 1 pupils
- Enable 8 pupils to benefit from the specialist education and support provided by Holly Meadows School Additional Intervention Base, for Key Stage 2 pupils
- Increase the number of places for children with co-occurring needs in King's Lynn, 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. Holly Meadows School was inspected in July 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 SEND.

This proposal offers parents access to more specialist resource base places in Norfolk, 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 mainstream schools who are currently waiting for additional support.

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

The Specialist Resource Base will be located within the site of Holly Meadows School. It will be a new building, creating an enabling environment for SRB learners in a bespoke accommodation base.

All capital costs for the new purpose built accommodation will be funded from Norfolk County Council's Local First Inclusion SEND Improvement Programme, to ensure there is the appropriate accommodation. Target opening is September 2025.

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

9. 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 from 1 September 2025.

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	19 June 2023
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	19 June – 14 July 2023
Decision required, no later than	14 October 2023
If approved, SRB starts	1 September 2025