

Consultation on proposals to open new Specialist Resources Bases for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities and expand existing provision at Specialist Resource Bases in Norfolk, from 1 September 2020.

Introduction

This proposal is made by Norfolk County Council and Evolution Academy Trust, KWEST Academy Trust, Inspiration Academy Trust, Rightforsuccess Academy Trust and Wensum Academy Trust.

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. One of our objectives through the Norfolk Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision Transformation Programme is to create more than 500 extra school places for children with special education needs and disabilities in Norfolk. Our proposal is part of this investment. Specialist Resource Bases are a key part of Norfolk's Local Offer for children with special educational needs and their families and has been identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy as a priority for development.

What is a Specialist Resource Base (SRB)?

Specialist Resource Bases (SRB) are part of mainstream schools, whereby children access classes and whole school life as their individual needs allow. For the rest of the time they are taught in smaller groups with additional staffing.

For Autistic Spectrum Disorder SRBs children join the roll of the school, for other types of SRB, children stay on the roll of the home school and attend the SRB for anywhere between 2 and 4 terms and reintegrate back to home school full time on an agreed plan.

Our plans to develop the Specialist Resource Base provision in Norfolk

The Norfolk SEND Sufficiency Strategy has identified the following gaps in provision and priority areas for development:

- A new primary Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) SRB is required in West Norfolk.
- A new secondary Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) SRB is required in West Norfolk.
- A new primary Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) SRB is required in South Norfolk/Breckland
- A new secondary Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) SRB is required in South Norfolk/Breckland
- A new secondary Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) SRB is required in East Norfolk
- A new primary Learning and Cognition needs (LCN) SRB is required in West/North Norfolk.
- New primary Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) SRBs in Norwich
- A new primary Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) SRB in East Norfolk
- A new primary Social, Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) SRB in Breckland
- Expansion of the Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) SRBs from 10 places to 16 with a Key Stage 2 offer where possible.

What are we proposing to change

To meet this need and demand for specialist resource base places, Norfolk County Council has been working with governors and senior leaders from schools across Norfolk, including local authority maintained schools and Academy Trusts. This is to establish the right provision in the right place to ensure improved access to SRB provision in Norfolk, for children, young people and their families.

Norfolk County Council is looking to establish new SRBs or expand existing SRBs in the following Local Authority maintained schools and Academy Trusts, from 1 September 2020;

Breckland

- New 16 place ASD SRB at Redcastle Family (Community) School, Thetford
- New 20 place ASD SRB at Thetford Academy, Inspiration Trust
- Change the existing 'POD' provision to a 16 place ASD SRB at Drake Primary (Community) School, Thetford

Norwich

- New 16 place SEMH SRB at Arden Grove Infant & Nursery School, Wensum Trust
- New 16 place SEMH SRB at Edith Cavell Academy & Nursery, Rightforsuccess Trust
- New 16 place SEMH SRB at Wensum Junior Academy, Evolution Academy Trust

East Norfolk

- New 16 place SEMH SRB at Caister Infant & Nursery (Community) School and Caister Junior (Community) School Great Yarmouth

North Norfolk

- Expand the 10 place SEMH SRB at Mundesley Junior (Community) School by adding a further 6 places to the SRB at Mundesley Junior School

West Norfolk

- New 16 place ASD SRB at Greyfriars Academy, King's Lynn, KWEST Trust
- New 16 place LCN SRB at Hillcrest Primary (Community) School, Downham Market

We appreciate that the above proposals do not address all the gaps in provision or priority areas, but there are plans to address these and we will consult on these proposals in due course.

Please note:

The implementation date of 1st September 2020 is subject to the availability of suitable accommodation and recruitment of staff.

The SRB places will be allocated through Norfolk County Admissions processes and may not be full from 1 September 2020, but will grow up to full capacity through this admissions process. It is therefore expected that some SRBs will open with a lower number of places initially.

What are the benefits of this proposal

Norfolk County Council and the governors and senior leaders of the schools and Academy Trusts involved in these proposals, feel these changes would benefit children and young people because it will;

- Support children with special education needs and disabilities to be educated in their local school and community
- It provides consistency of and access to Specialist Resource Base provision for children and young people and families across Norfolk
- It ensures that needs can be met locally avoiding the need for children to spend unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away. This is better for children and young people and saves the tax payer money in transport costs.
- There is an increase of places to meet the needs of children with SEND
- These SRBs would be part of a county wide network of SRBs providing opportunities for partnership working, professional development and training.
- It addresses identified geographical and age and phase gaps in SRB provision as identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy
- It will increase inclusion and enhance education for all pupils at these schools.

Norfolk County Council takes into account several considerations when proposing changes to the organisation of schools. This includes 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 that any change is in the best interest of children's education and achievement.

Capital costs

All capital costs for refurbishment and/or new builds will be funded from the SEND and Alternative Provision Transformation Programme to ensure there is the appropriate accommodation.

How can you have your say

Individual schools and academy trusts will be holding drop-in events where you can come and find out more about these proposals. Please see the dates overleaf for each proposal. If you unable to attend these events but would like to comment on our proposals you can have your say by;

- Completing the attached form and handing it to your school office
- Writing to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, Floor 8 (Bay 34), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH
- Emailing schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
- Accessing our online survey <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/srbprovision>

We need all responses by Tuesday 4 February 2020.

What happens next

For LA maintained schools, Norfolk County Council will review the results of the consultation and present the findings to the Executive Director of Children's Services who will decide whether to proceed to the statutory public notice stage with these proposals.

For Academy Trusts, each Trust will complete a business case and send it to the Regional Schools Commissioner for a decision.

Consultation Events

Breckland

School/Academy Trust	Consultation event details
Drake Primary School , Fairfields, Thetford IP24 1JW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 10 January 2020, 9 – 10am at Drake Primary School • Thursday 16 January 2020, 5 – 6pm at Drake Primary School
Redcastle Family School , St Martins Way, Thetford, IP24 3PU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 10 January 2020, 2.30 – 3.30pm at Redcastle Family School • Wednesday 15 January 2020, 5.30 – 6.30pm, Redcastle Family School
Thetford Academy , (Inspiration Trust) Croxton Road, Thetford IP24 1LH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 15 January 2020, 3 – 4pm, Thetford Academy • Monday 20 January 2020, 6 – 7pm, Thetford Academy

East Norfolk

School/Academy Trust	Consultation event details
Caister Infant & Nursery School, Caister Junior School , Kingston Avenue, Caister-on-sea Great Yarmouth NR30 5ET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 16 January 2020, 2.30 – 3.30pm at Caister Infant School • Tuesday 21 January 2020, 6 – 7pm, Caister Junior School

Norwich

School/Academy Trust	Consultation event details
Arden Grove Infant & Nursery School , (Wensum Trust), Arden Grove, Hellesdon NR6 6QA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 16 January 2020, 6 -7pm at Arden Grove Infant & Nursery School • Friday 17 January 2020, 9 – 10am, Arden Grove Infant & Nursery School
Edith Cavell Academy & Nursery (Rightforsuccess Trust) Duckett Close, Norwich NR1 2LR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 13 January 2020, 9 – 10am, Edith Cavell Academy • Wednesday 22 January 2020, 3 – 4pm, Edith Cavell Academy
Wensum Junior Academy (Evolution Academy Trust), Turner Road Norwich NR2 4HB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 16 January 2020, 9 – 10am, Wensum Junior Academy • Thursday 23 January 2020, 6 – 7pm, Wensum Junior Academy

North Norfolk

School/Academy Trust	Consultation event details
Mundesley Junior School , Trunch Road, Mundesley NR11 8LE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 14 January 2020, 2.15 – 3.15pm at Mundesley Junior School • Monday 20 January 2020, 5 – 6pm, Mundesley Junior School

West Norfolk

School/Academy Trust	Consultation event details
Greyfriars Academy (KWEST Trust) London Road, King's Lynn PE30 5PY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 14 January 2020, 2.30 – 3.30pm at Greyfriars Academy • Wednesday 29 January 2020, 5.30 – 6.30pm at Greyfriars Academy
Hillcrest Primary School , Hillcrest Downham Market PE38 9ND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 15 January 2020, 3 – 4pm, Hillcrest Primary School • Thursday 30 January 2020, 5 - 6pm, Hillcrest Primary School