

School Organisation Consultation

Re-designation of Clifton Hill School



SURREY

Introduction

1. As part of the [Special Educational Needs and or Disability \(SEND\) Transformation Plan and SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2020-2025](#) which was approved by Cabinet in 2019 there is a recommendation to increase the specialist provision in mainstream specialist centres, special academies and maintained special schools in Surrey in order to reduce the reliance on Non-Maintained and Independent Specialist provision and out of county Independent provision. The recommendations are aligned with the local area's 2030 Community Vision which received Full Council unanimous approval to support the aspiration that everyone achieves their full potential, contributes to their community and no one is left behind so that children and young people who have SEND and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are educated in their nearest most appropriate setting and closer to home.

Background

Clifton Hill School, Caterham is a Surrey community special school in the borough of Tandridge for children and young people aged 11-19 with severe and profound learning difficulties and disabilities (SLDD), and autism. The school has a Good Ofsted rating (June 2019).

The Proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to change the Special Education Needs and Disabilities designation at Clifton Hill School from a secondary Severe Learning Difficulty and Disability (SLDD) school to a split designation of Secondary SLDD and Complex Social and Communication Needs (CSCN). This model is already reflected in some non-maintained and independent specialist provision across the county. The school capacity of 85 places will not change.

2. This proposal will support Clifton Hill to develop a CSCN pathway through the school from Year 7 to Year 11 with the plan that students will either stay at Clifton Hill School for post-16 education or move to a local college.

Rationale

3. The change to designation is to meet the increased demand for specialist placements and children with a primary need of Complex Social and Communication Needs (CSCN). This new proposal would meet the needs of the local community, match emerging forecast demand over the next five years and support the future sustainability of the school.
4. As an SLDD secondary school, Clifton Hill School has been under capacity (85) for the last four years. The school report challenges in planning for a variable intake of students at Year 7 and leavers at Year 14.

5. Clifton Hill School's main intake is now from Brooklands School, Reigate. A significant number of Year 6 students at Brooklands School are placed in LAN (Learning and Additional Needs) or CSCN schools. Surrey County Council recently expanded Brooklands School by 70 places to support the increasing need for CSCN primary provision and those students will subsequently need CSCN places for Key Stage 3.

Location

6. Clifton Hill School has limited capacity for expansion on their site. An extensive capital build is not an option. By making a change to the category of designation, to offer both SLDD and CSCN places, Clifton Hill School could offer maintained specialist provision for additional pupils within their current capacity and accommodation in Caterham.

Pupil Placement

7. Following a review by the school on their projected intake and leavers over the next six years from 2021, between 12 and 18 places each year would be available within the existing capacity. Children with a primary need of CSCN could therefore be placed at Clifton Hill School from September 2021 onwards.
8. Clifton Hill School propose that by developing a CSCN pathway from Year 7 to Year 11, post-16 pupils can either remain at Clifton Hill or move to a local college whichever setting is the most appropriate. Available places could then be filled flexibly between Surrey students with SLDD, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) and CSCN to meet the changing need of the local community year on year, with some flexibility in year group capacity.
9. As is currently the case for Clifton Hill School, appropriate pupils for the provision would be identified using the SEND admissions process. Further details on the admissions process for SEND specialist provision in Surrey can be found on the [Surrey Local Offer website](#).

Financing and Resourcing

10. Clifton Hill School could offer maintained specialist provision for the additional CSCN pupils within their current funded capacity of 85 places. This includes the appropriate staffing.

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

11. The proposed changes require a period of consultation, the publication of Statutory Notices and the agreement of Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for All-age Learning if the proposal is to proceed.
12. The first stage of consultation will be informal and will open on **Monday 23rd November 2020**. During this period Surrey County Council will share its proposals with schools including head teachers and chairs of governors, with unions, parent representatives, partner agencies, local residents and other Local Authorities (within 3 miles) and with the staff and parents of Clifton Hill School.
(Further details of stakeholders can be found on a separate document).
13. Following the informal consultation period it is proposed to publish a Statutory Notice for a four week period. The publication of Notices is when the Local Authority formally states the changes that it proposes to make. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken. Following the consultation periods, officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for All-age Learning. A decision is due on 13th April 2021.

Have your say

Surrey County Council and Clifton Hill School would like to know what people think about the proposal. The consultation will open on **Monday 23rd November 2020**.

You can respond by:

- a) Accessing the consultation online on the [Surrey Says website](#) and searching for the school's consultation (school name or post code), or by scrolling through the list of open consultations.
- b) Completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document. You can email the form or print it, complete it and send it back to the address below:

Clifton Hill School Re-designation
Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road Woking. GU22 7QQ
Email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk with the subject: FAO. Education Place Planning Team

All responses must be received by noon on **Friday 15th January 2021**

What happens next?

We will hold an online public meeting for parents and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and to hear the views that people have. As a public meeting, anyone who wishes to may attend, please email school.org@surreycc.gov.uk to register your interest and you will be sent a link to the online event. The online event will be held on **Wednesday 9th December 2020**, there will be a short presentation followed by questions and answers.

Please join to share your views and ask questions. You do not have to have a child at the school to join the meeting.

At the end of the consultation period, SCC will review all the responses received and share these with the school and publish them on the Surrey Says website.

Subject to the views expressed, if the proposal is to proceed the next stage would be for SCC to publish a Statutory Notice. This will be in a local newspaper, a copy available at the school and on the Surrey Says website stating our intention to change the designation. There will be a statutory consultation period of four weeks for further representations to be received by the council.

All representations will be reviewed before a final decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for All-age Learning meeting on 13th April 2021.

Consultation Response Form

Proposal for the re-designation of Clifton Hill School

Please give us your views. Please tick the box that best shows what you think about the proposed designation and also give us any comments you have. You can write on the other side of this sheet if you want more space to write comments.

1. Do you agree with the proposal to re-designate Clifton Hill School from September 2021		
Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Your comments: 		

3. Please tick the boxes that apply to you.

- A parent/carer of a child at the school
- A parent/carer of a child in an Early Years setting
- A parent/carer of a child at another school
- Someone who works at the school
- A Governor of the school
- Some other link to the school
- A local resident
- Someone else with an interest – please give details

3. If possible, please provide your postcode

4. Please tick if you have written comments on the other side

Please return to:
Debbie Watson – Commissioning Assistant (email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)
Or write to:
Education Place Planning Team - Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking. GU22 7QQ
(Further comments can be continued on the blank sheet).

