

School Organisation Consultation

Expansion of Philip Southcote School

March 2021 (update to February 2021 version)



Introduction

1. The [Surrey Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Partnership Strategy 2019 - 2022](#) includes an action to create additional school places in Surrey for children with SEND, both in special schools and in specialist provision in mainstream schools. This will reduce travel time, enable pupils with SEND to be more a part of their local community, and help to increase their progress, attainment and outcomes.
2. On 24 September 2019, Cabinet approved a 10 year [Strategy for Specialist Placements](#), including a four year plan to provide an additional 883 specialist school places in Surrey¹. Subsequent capital investment approved by Cabinet in 2020 and 2021 totals a combined SEND capital investment of £79.6m which will create over 1,500 additional specialist school places in Surrey towards the total projected demand.
3. In January 2021, Cabinet approved the use of £36m out of the combined capital investment as part of Phase 2 to permanently expand existing maintained specialist provision by an additional 213 places, which will come online between 2021-2022.
4. Cabinet also agreed the use of £11.5m of the total approved funding for a programme of adaption and refurbishment of Surrey County Council (SCC) owned assets and maintained schools in Phase 3 of the SEND capital programme to create 400 additional specialist school places in Surrey for September 2021.²
5. SCC is consulting on one of the specific projects listed in the 2020/21 strategy: the proposal to expand Philip Southcote School in Addlestone Moor, North West Surrey.

Background

6. Philip Southcote School is a specialist school in Addlestone Moor for pupils ages 11-19. The school provides highly specialist teaching and support primarily for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD). This DfE school designation is known locally in Surrey as Learning and Additional Needs (LAN). The school has a 'Good' Ofsted rating from the most recent inspection on 13 July 2018.
7. The school currently admits two forms of entry (20 pupils) into each year group in National Curriculum Years 7 to 11 and 30 pupils across National Curriculum Years 12 to 14.
8. In recent years, SCC has needed to ask the school to accommodate temporary bulge classes of pupils in order to meet demand for specialist school places. This means that two of the school's five year groups currently have an additional form of entry (a further 10 pupils per year), with additional pupils also in Year 7.
9. The school currently has a total planned place number of 156.

¹ Cabinet papers dated 24 September 2019, item 152/19, "School Place Planning: Strategy for Specialist Placements" and associated annex containing list of projects.

² Cabinet papers dated 26 January 2021, item 15/21, "Placement Value and Outcomes: Developing Local Special Educational Needs and Disability (Send) Provision to meet Demand in September 2021"

The proposal

10. The proposals below supersede the proposals outlined in the previous consultation paper, issued on 22 February 2021.
11. SCC is proposing that Philip Southcote School is expanded to permanently accommodate a total of 150 pupils on the main site by providing an additional 50 places in National Curriculum Years 7 to 11. The main point of intake will be at Year 7. The expansion will utilise space on the school's current site.
12. Part of this proposal is to also relocate the current sixth form provision and permanently increase capacity to accommodate a total of 60 pupils by providing an additional 30 places in National Curriculum Years 12 to 14. The sixth form would be located as a split-site at the former Meads building, adjacent to Chertsey High School.
13. Initial proposals in the previous consultation paper considered establishing a satellite Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) centre at Jubilee High School. After discussions between SCC, Philip Southcote School and Bourne Education Trust, it is now proposed that this centre is located at Chertsey High School instead.
14. The rationale behind this proposed change is detailed below:
 - Chertsey High School is located adjacent to Philip Southcote School so will provide easy access for pupils and staff.
 - Chertsey High School is a new building which is fully accessible and would require significantly less capital investment to create suitable accommodation.
 - Jubilee High School already has a specialist centre providing for pupils with Communication and Interaction Needs (COIN). This would therefore provide a better balance between the two schools.
 - This proposal would support Bourne Education Trust's vision to align the academic provision between the two schools and offer opportunities for further collaboration.
15. In addition to the above, it is now also proposed that another satellite SEND centre is established at Kings International College, Camberley, in partnership with the Governing Body of the school.
16. Our ambition is that the introduction of more specialist centres and/or special school satellite sites in secondary schools would also be an opportunity for schools to strengthen local partnerships and their inclusion offer to all children and young people; therefore being of benefit to both the local authority and the school populations.
17. Both centres will provide for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), broadly in line with the current offer at Philip Southcote School. The total capacity of each centre will be 20 places, 4 pupils per year group, overall creating a further 40 places across National Curriculum Years 7-11.
18. All pupils, regardless of the site they attend, will be on the roll of Philip Southcote School and will have this setting named in Section I of their EHCPs.
19. The school currently has provision for hearing impaired/deaf pupils with additional SEND needs, which will remain unchanged as part of the above proposals.

Rationale

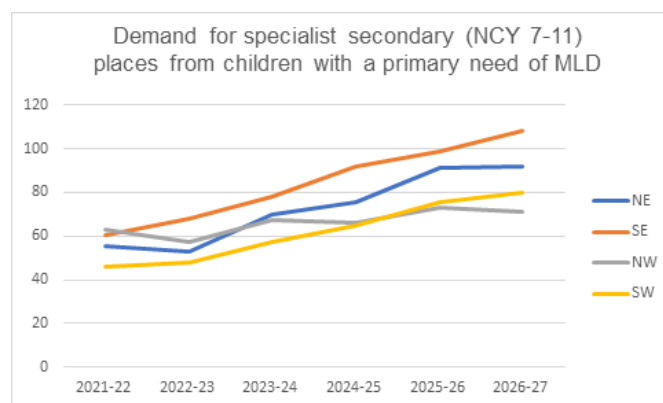
20. This expansion is proposed to meet the increased demand for specialist placements, in particular for pupils with a primary need of Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD). The demand for maintained specialist school places in Surrey has grown significantly over the past 4 years from 2,859 planned places in 2017-18 to 3,477 planned places in 2020-21 and increasing again to 3,513 in 2021-22.
21. Developing and maintaining high quality specialist provision in Surrey is vital to ensure appropriate placements for the county's most vulnerable children and young people who have complex SEND and require specialist educational provision.
22. Since 2015, the number of children with an EHCP who live in Surrey and require a specialist school place has increased by 73%. This is in comparison to a growth of just 5% in the five years from 2010 and can potentially be attributed, in part, to the increase in the birth rate, the changes brought about by the Children and Families Act and the SEND Regulations in 2014, the 0-25 SEND Code of Practice in 2015, and the improvements to earlier identification and diagnosis of need.
23. The demand for maintained specialist school places in Surrey for children and young people with SEND has grown significantly over the past 4 years from 2,859 planned places in 2017-2018 to 3,513 in 2021-2022. As the county's specialist estate has not expanded at the same rate as the demand, this in turn has increased reliance on the independent sector to ensure all pupils are able to access suitable full-time education.
24. The Department for Education's 2019-2020 High Needs Benchmarking Tool identifies Surrey as an outlier with 4.4 per 1000 of the 2-18 population of children and young people with SEND placed in the independent sector; almost twice as many as compared to an average of benchmarking counties including Hampshire, Essex, Kent, East Sussex and Hertfordshire who have 2.25 per 1000. This results in approximately £71.5m cost on the current cohort of 1,350 pupils educated in non-maintained independent provision per year.
25. Surrey currently has approximately 1,600 EHCPs for children and young people with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) identified as their primary need. Approximately 28% of these pupils attend specialist provision.
26. Across Surrey, EHCP growth for MLD has increased year on year between 2018-2020:

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Grand Total
2020-2021	17	14	22	8	5	7							73
2019-2020	28	25	21	10	12	21	9	20	14	31	28	19	238
2018-2019	28	19	9	6	17	17	13	21	12	10	10	26	188

27. EHCP growth for MLD in the North West of the county has increased from 40 new EHCPs in 2018-2019 to 57 in 2019-2020. Around 34% were for pupils in in National Curriculum Years 7 to 11.

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Grand Total
2020-2021	2	2	2			4							10
2019-2020	13	8	3		2	6	2	4		6	4	9	57
2018-2019	3	3	3	1	4	5	1	7	3	1	3	6	40

28. Children and young people who are placed at special schools usually have a combination of increasingly complex needs, which means they require more highly specialist teaching and support than is ordinarily available in a mainstream school or SEND Unit.
29. Across the areas of Surrey that Philip Southcote is likely to serve, latest projected sufficiency modelling for academic years 2021-2027 indicate increasing demand for secondary age Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD) special school provision. This is referred to locally as Learning and Additional Needs (LAN).
30. The most recent projected secondary demand demonstrates an overall increase in demand across the county. The North West quadrant in particular is projected to increase by approximately 25% over the next 5 years, with peaks anticipated in 2023 and 2026.



31. Projections also show increases in demand in the North East quadrant. Philip Southcote School and Chertsey High School are both located close to the quadrant border and are therefore likely to serve parts of this area. Kings International College is also likely to serve parts of the South West quadrant due to its location. Projections for this area show a sharp increase in demand.
32. Unlike mainstream schools, specialist placements are considered based on more than just the distance from a pupil's home. Philip Southcote School is therefore likely to admit pupils outside of the immediate surrounding area and, as such, will serve a wider community based on need-type and phase of education, whilst still taking a pupil's home residence into consideration.
33. As part of the Strategy for Specialist Placements, SCC is proposing to expand Philip Southcote School because the school has a strong and established special school offer, experience of supporting pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and a desire to meet growing demand for additional places. The expansion will enable SCC to offer more pupils and their families local, high-quality MLD provision.

Pupil placement

34. It is proposed that:
- The expansion on the existing school site will provide 50 additional permanent places across Years 7 to 11, with the additional places phased in between September 2021 and September 2023. The main intake point will be Year 7 and numbers will grow incrementally although, where there are

spaces and demand, new children may be accepted in other year groups, where appropriate.

- The sixth form relocation and expansion will provide 30 additional permanent places across Years 12 to 14, with the additional places phased in between September 2021 and September 2023. Numbers will grow incrementally but will also take into account the three bulge classes currently moving through the main school.
- The new satellite centre at Chertsey High School will provide 20 additional places across Years 7 to 11, with the additional places phased in between September 2021 and September 2025. Numbers will grow incrementally, but it has been agreed for some additional pupils to be accepted into other year groups.
- The new satellite centre at Kings International College will provide 20 additional places across Years 7 to 11, with the additional places phased in between September 2021 and September 2025. Numbers will grow incrementally, but it has been agreed for some additional pupils to be accepted into other year groups.

35. School places are allocated in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014, which requires the Local Authority to take into account the pupil's special educational needs, parental request for schools, and the formal view of the schools requested before making a decision. Places will be allocated based on parental requests wherever possible, unless:

- the school is unsuitable for the child's age, ability, aptitude or SEN
- the placement would be incompatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom your child would be educated, and
- the placement would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources.

36. Further details on the admissions process for SEND specialist provision in Surrey can be found here: [Applying for a school place for children pre-16 with SEND \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/education-advice/SEND/apply-for-a-school-place-for-children-pre-16-with-sen)

37. The table below shows the expected growth of the main school and sixth form as the additional places move through each academic year, alongside the school's current place numbers. It should be noted that numbers in the sixth form are not always uniform and will need to take into account the bulge classes currently moving through the main school, therefore allowing for some flexibility. However, for the purposes of this model, sixth form numbers are assumed to be 20 per year group and already factor in the bulge classes.

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
2021/22	30	30	30	20	20	20	10	10	170
2022/23	30	30	30	30	20	20	20	10	190
2023/24	30	30	30	30	30	20	20	20	210
2024/25	30	30	30	30	30	20	20	20	210
2025/26	30	30	30	30	30	20	20	20	210

38. The table below shows the expected growth of the satellite centre at Chertsey High School as the new places move through each academic year. It also shows the additional pupils to be accepted into other year groups, allowing the centre to expand at a faster rate.

	7	8	9	10	11	Total
2021/22	4	2	2	0	0	8
2022/23	4	4	2	2	0	12
2023/24	4	4	4	2	2	16
2024/25	4	4	4	4	2	18
2025/26	4	4	4	4	4	20

39. The table below shows the expected growth of the satellite centre at Kings International College as the new places move through each academic year. It also shows the additional pupils to be accepted into other year groups, allowing the centre to expand at a faster rate.

	7	8	9	10	11	Total
2021/22	4	2	2	0	0	8
2022/23	4	4	2	2	0	12
2023/24	4	4	4	2	2	16
2024/25	4	4	4	4	2	18
2025/26	4	4	4	4	4	20

Building work

40. Subject to the outcome of this consultation, new permanent accommodation would be provided on the existing school site. This would be subject to the requirements for planning permission and building control, which can be commented on separately to this education consultation.

41. The relocated sixth form does not require any additional building work but will undergo refurbishment to create suitable permanent accommodation.

42. The satellite centres at Chertsey High School and Kings International College will utilise space already on the schools' sites, therefore not requiring any additional building work, but some refurbishment work will be required.

Finance and resourcing

43. Philip Southcote School will receive additional revenue funding to cover the costs of the future expansion and the increased number of pupils in the expanded provision. This includes a sum of £10,000 per additional place, Top Up funding based on the published band rates and Individual Pupil Support Budgets (IPSB) where appropriate. Existing funding and provision for pupils currently attending the school will remain the same.

44. Philip Southcote School will recruit additional staff for the expanded school on the main site and the sixth form, as well as for the centres at Chertsey High School and Kings International College.

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

45. The proposal is that Philip Southcote School expands at the main site, sixth form at The Meadows, and Key Stage 3 and 4 at Chertsey High School and Kings International College from 1 September 2021. 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.
46. The first stage of consultation will be informal and opens on 22 March 2021. During this period, Surrey County Council will share its proposals with key stakeholders. This will include head teachers and chairs of governors, trade and teaching unions, parent representatives, partner agencies, local residents, and the staff, young people and parents of Philip Southcote School, Chertsey High School and Kings International College.
47. Following the five-week informal consultation period, it is proposed to publish a Statutory Notice for a four-week period. This is when the local authority formally states the changes that it intends to make. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known. Following this, the feedback will be summarised and reported to the Cabinet Member for All-age Learning. A Lead Cabinet Member decision is due on 6 July 2021.

Have your say

Surrey County Council and Philip Southcote School would like to know what people think about the proposal. The consultation opens on 22 March 2021.

You can respond by:

- a) Using the online survey. You can access the consultation online on the '[Surrey Says' website](#) by searching for "Philip Southcote" or by scrolling through the list of open consultations.
- b) Completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document and emailing it to schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk with the subject "FAO Philip Southcote School Expansion"
- c) Printing and completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document and sending it back to the address below:

Philip Southcote School expansion
Education Place Planning - FAO Lauren Comer
Quadrant Court
35 Guildford Road
Woking
Surrey GU22 7QQ

All responses must be received by midnight on **Monday 10 May 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, it is open to all. If you would like to attend, please email schoolorg@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 **Thursday 22 April at 7pm**. 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.

Please register your interest for the online event by **5pm on Wednesday 21 April**.

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

Consultation response form Proposal to expand Philip Southcote School

Please give us your views. Please tick the box that best shows what you think about the proposed expansion 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 expand Philip Southcote School from September 2021?

Agree

Don't know

Disagree

2. Your comments:

3. Please tick the box(es) that apply to you

A parent/carer of a child at the school

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

4. If possible, please provide your postcode

5. Please tick if you have also written comments on a separate sheet

Please return to:

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