

School Organisation Consultation

Expansion of Philip Southcote School

February
2021



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. Surrey County Council (SCC) is consulting on one of the specific projects listed in the 2020 strategy: the proposal to expand Philip Southcote School in Addlestone Moor, North West Surrey.

Background

4. 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), which 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The school currently has a total planned place number of 156.

The proposal

8. SCC is now 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.
9. 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.

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

10. It is also proposed to establish a satellite Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) centre on the site of Jubilee High School in Addlestone, in partnership with Bourne Education Trust. The centre will provide for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), in line with the main school. The total capacity of the centre will be 20 places, 4 pupils per year group.
11. All pupils, regardless of the site they attend, will be on the roll of Philip Southcote School.
12. The school also currently has provision for hearing impaired/deaf pupils with additional SEND needs, which will remain unchanged as part of the above proposal.

Rationale

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. The table below shows the number of new EHCPs issued across Surrey and in the North West of the county, against the number of pupils identified as requiring a specialist placement in a Surrey LAN education setting in the academic year 2019/20:

	Total EHCPs issued	No. requiring LAN provision	Percentage of total EHCPs issued
Surrey	1,598	291	18%
North West Surrey	381	72	19%

17. 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.
18. 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.

19. 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

20. It is proposed that:

- The expansion on the existing school site will provide 50 additional permanent places across Years 7 to 11. 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. 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 Jubilee High School will provide 20 additional places across Years 7 – 11. Numbers will grow incrementally, but it has been agreed for some additional pupils to be accepted into other year groups.

21. 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.

22. 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/apply-for-a-school-place-for-children-pre-16-with-sen)

23. 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

24. The table below shows the expected growth of the satellite centre 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

25. 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.

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

27. The satellite centre at Jubilee High School will utilise space already on the school's site, therefore not requiring any additional building work, but some refurbishment work will be required.

Finance and resourcing

28. 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.

29. Philip Southcote School will recruit additional staff for the expanded school on the main site and the sixth form as well as at Jubilee High School.

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

30. The proposal is that Philip Southcote School expands 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.

31. The first stage of consultation will be informal and opens on 22 February 2021. 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 with the staff and parents of Philip Southcote School.
32. Following the 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 before a final decision is taken. Following this, the feedback will be summarised and reported to the Cabinet Member for All-age Learning. A decision is due in June 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 February 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 **Monday 19 April 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 18 March 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.

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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Woking
Surrey GU22 7QQ

Email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk