

School Organisation Consultation

Expansion of Brooklands School

Version dated 13 January 2020



SURREY

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 children 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. Surrey County Council (SCC) is consulting on one of the specific projects listed in the strategy: the proposal to expand Brooklands School in Reigate.

The Proposal

3. Brooklands School is a specialist primary school with 83 pupil places in Reigate. The school provides for children with Severe Learning and Development Difficulties (SLDD). Children attending the school have a range a SEND needs, the most common being Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The school has a 'Good' Ofsted rating (last inspection date June 2018).
4. Surrey County Council is proposing that Brooklands School is expanded to provide an additional 70 places for children who have a primary need of ASD and who require a specialist placement. The expansion will use a separate site and will cater for a range of ASD needs wider than only those typically associated with SLD and SLDD provision.

Rationale

5. The expansion is to meet the increased demand for specialist placements, in particular for children with a primary need of ASD. In Surrey, numbers of primary-aged children with ASD named on their Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) increased by 98% between January 2016 and December 2019 (from 701 to 1391). The forecasts suggest that numbers will continue to grow over the next 4 years. Currently, just over half (745) of the primary-aged children with an EHCP naming ASD are in specialist provision.
6. Surrey's current ASD provision is operating at capacity and children are increasingly often placed in specialist independent provision because Surrey case officers are unable to find a suitable available placement in Surrey. This demand is particularly acute for primary-aged children. In December 2019, there were 178 primary-aged Surrey children with a primary need of ASD in specialist independent provision. On average, specialist independent schools are more expensive than state-funded schools and often not local to the child's home.
7. As part of the Strategy for Specialist Placements, SCC are proposing to expand Brooklands School because the school has a strong and established special 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.

offer, experience of supporting children with ASD needs and a desire to meet growing demand from local parents for primary ASD provision. The expansion will enable SCC to offer more primary children and their families local, high-quality ASD provision.

Location

8. Brooklands School is located on Wray Park Road (Postcode: RH2 0DF), northeast of the centre of Reigate. There is not space to expand the school as proposed on the existing site. It is proposed that the school expands by using a site located on Alexander Road (Postcode: RH2 8ED), south of the centre of Reigate. Brooklands School would become a split-site school, located at both Wray Park Road and Alexander Road. The sites are less than 2 miles apart.
9. The site at Alexander Road is available to use and has previously been used as a school. It was previously used as a mainstream infant school and more recently as a specialist secondary school. The Brooklands cohort of children (i.e. primary children with ASD needs) will be different to the cohort the site previously catered for. It is proposed that the expansion will make use of the existing school building on Alexander Road but that the building will be adapted to be fit for purpose and suitable to the needs of the Brooklands pupils.
10. Pupils of Brooklands will be placed either at the Wray Park Road site or at the Alexander Road site. Any proposal for Brooklands pupils to move between sites or to spend some time at one and some time at the other would only be agreed in discussion with parents.

Pupil Placement

11. It is proposed that:
 - The expansion on the new site will be for up to 70 children with a broad range of ASD needs, from Reception up to Year 6 (i.e. ages 4 – 11 years).
 - The main intake point will be Reception although, where there are spaces and demand, new children may be accepted in the school in other year groups.
 - Class sizes will typically be 8 – 10 and pupils will be grouped according to individual needs and learning styles.
 - As is currently the case for Brooklands 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](#).
12. Numbers at the expanded site will be built up over a period of 3 to 4 years, starting from September 2020. While the expanded school is filling up there will be an intake point in Year 3 as well as in Reception. Class sizes will start at 8 and build up to 10.
13. To meet demand and to enable children to be placed locally, SCC have placed a bulge class of 8 Reception-aged children with EHCPs at Brooklands School on the new

Alexander Road site from January 2020. This bulge class was listed as a separate project in the Strategy for Specialist Placements and is independent of the overall decision to permanently expand the school.

Building work

14. Some work has already taken place on the Alexander Road site for the January 2020 bulge class: to make sure there are appropriate teaching spaces; associated facilities available and that the site is safe and secure for the pupils and staff.
15. Subject to the results of this consultation, some further works may be required to the building and the site to make it suitable for up to 70 pupils. It is anticipated that this would primarily involve adaptations to the interior of the existing buildings, but may also include a single storey extension of 1 – 2 class rooms behind the main block onto the playground. Any further works, if appropriate, would be subject to the requirements for planning permission and building control.

Finance and Resourcing

16. Brooklands will receive additional funding to cover the costs of the expansion and the children in the expanded provision. The funding and provision for children at the existing site will not be reduced. Further details of funding for special schools can be found on the [SCC website](#).
17. Brooklands School will recruit additional staff for the expanded school. The senior leadership team of Brooklands School will be expanded to enable them to cover both sites and there will be operational leaders at both sites to uphold the Brooklands ethos and values.

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

18. The proposal is that Brooklands School expands from 1 September 2020. 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.
19. The first stage of consultation will be informal and opens on Monday 13 January 2020. During this period the Surrey County Council will share its proposals with schools including head teachers and chairs of governors, with unions, parent representatives, partner agencies, local residents, other Local Authorities (within 3 miles) and with the staff and parents of Brooklands School. A list of stakeholders is provided in a separate document.
20. 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 in April 2020.

Have your say

Surrey County Council and Brooklands School would like to know what people think about the proposal. The consultation opens on Monday 13 January 2020.

You can respond by:

- a) Using the online survey. You can access the consultation online on the ['Surrey Says' website](#) by searching for "Brooklands School" 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 Brooklands School Expansion"
- c) Printing and completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document and sending it back to the address below:

Brooklands School Expansion
SCC Education Place Planning
Room 326
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames KT1 2DN

All responses must be received by **Friday 14 February 2020**

What happens next?

A public meeting for parents and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and to hear the views that people have will be held:

**on Wednesday 5 February at 5.30 – 6.30pm
at Brooklands School, 27 Wray Park Road, Surrey, RH2 0DF**

Please come and share your views. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting and there is no need to pre-register. You do not have to have a child at the school to come to the meeting.

At the end of the consultation period, SCC will review all of 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, available at the school and on the Surrey Says website stating our intention to expand. There will be a four week statutory consultation period 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 in April 2020.

Consultation Response Form

Proposal to expand Brooklands 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 Brooklands School from September 2020?

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 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

4. If possible, please provide your postcode

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

Please return to:
Brooklands School Expansion (email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)
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(Further comments can be continued on a separate sheet).