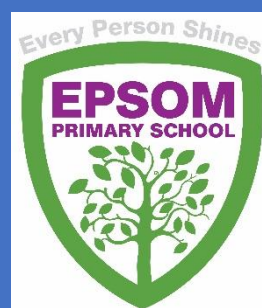


School Organisation Consultation Questions and Answers

Proposal to create a SEN (Special Educational Needs) Unit at Epsom Primary and Nursery School for Autistic pupils and those with Communication & Interaction Needs

April 2022



Background:

Epsom Primary and Nursery School is a two-form entry primary school in the borough of Epsom & Ewell in Surrey. The school was rated 'good' by Ofsted in July 2019.

Surrey County Council and The Governing Body of Epsom Primary and Nursery School are proposing to create a 21 place SEN Unit with a designation of ASD¹ at Epsom Primary and Nursery School. The SEN Unit will be provided onsite at Epsom Primary and Nursery School utilising existing classroom space within the school.

This document is a Question and Answer document addressing questions that have been asked during the consultation period.

	Question	Response
1.	Where in the school is the proposed unit?	The SEN Unit will utilise existing rooms within school.
2.	What building work would be needed and what grounds would be lost?	A feasibility study is in progress with scope for some internal changes to repurpose classrooms and re-provide office space elsewhere in the school. The SEN Unit will be part of Epsom Primary School & Nursery so no part of the site or grounds would be lost. The school has had three additional classrooms for a bulge class that is due to leave the school in July 2021.
3.	Will it have an impact on the current teaching space for music lessons? If so, what is the plan for addressing this?	Due to repurposing of the current staff room, music lessons will now take place in a more suitable and larger room which will be dedicated to Art, Music and DT.
4.	How many qualified, experienced SEN teachers and TA's will be recruited to best meet the additional needs of these children?	A Head of Centre will be recruited, alongside an additional class teacher and Teaching Assistants. The number of Teaching Assistants employed will increase as the numbers grow.
5.	Unstructured time can often be the most challenging for ASD students to feel regulated, safe, happy and have positive interactions with peers and staff. What specific actions will be put in place to	The nature of the staffing and provision means that each child will have their own tailored approach to ensure that interactions and communication with other pupils is managed effectively. Staff from the SEN centre will accompany children to their mainstream class and support strategies that will help them access the teaching successfully at their

¹ Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the term used for the school designation that meets the needs of autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs.

	integrate these children into the mainstream environment and also vice versa - enabling neurotypical children to gain greater understanding of neurodiversity?	own pace which may also support others within the classroom. Inclusion is already embedded within the school and pupils will learn even more about the range of ways in which children learn and flourish.
6.	How will the proposed unit impact upon the previously stated goal of EPS to achieve Outstanding status from Ofsted? How much do Ofsted take into account SEN data when they review pupil progress and value added data to arrive at their judgement?	<p>The DfE guidance Making Significant Changes advises that additional new places should only be provided at schools that have an overall Ofsted rating of “good” or “outstanding”.</p> <p>In proposing a SEN Unit in a mainstream school the local authority is proposing additional places to support pupils with SEND to improve the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for those children.</p> <p>When making judgements Ofsted take a range of evidence into account, including official national data; discussions with leaders, staff and pupils; questionnaire responses; and work in pupils’ books/folders/sketchbooks and so on.</p> <p>Paragraph 367 to 371 of the school inspection handbook gives guidance on applying the Education Inspection Framework in special schools and mainstream schools with provision for pupils with SEND. “Because of the often vastly different types of pupils’ needs, inspectors will not compare the outcomes achieved by pupils with SEND with those achieved by other pupils with SEND in the school, locally or nationally”</p>
7.	Is this to support existing pupils at Epsom primary or will places be given externally via panel?	<p>An SEN unit in a mainstream school will bring resource and expertise into the school that will benefit all pupils.</p> <p>All pupils attending the SEN Unit will have been allocated a place through the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP process). Pupils will be allocated a place at the SEN Unit at Epsom Primary & Nursery by Surrey County Council’s SEND Admissions Team. Please see the School Admissions Guidance for children with an EHCP for more information.</p> <p>Pupils attending the SEN unit will split their time mainstream classes and the SEN Unit. The SEN Unit will be part of the school and pupils will be on roll at Epsom Primary & Nursery School.</p>
8.	Will parents of a child with SEN in the mainstream school	Parents of pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) should follow the admissions

	<p>be able to apply for a place in the unit?</p>	<p>guidance for children with an EHCP, which is available on the Surrey County Council website.</p> <p>Pupils will be allocated a place at the SEN Unit at Epsom Primary & Nursery by Surrey County Council's SEND Admissions Team.</p> <p>Parents of pupils with communication & interaction needs identified in their EHCPs who are currently in the mainstream school would not automatically be able to be placed in the SEN Unit. If, following an annual review, a change of placement to a high coin unit is deemed appropriate then providing there is space, and following the admissions criteria, a child from the mainstream may be able to transition to the Unit.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Will this be a base for pupils with Autism (ASD) or Developmental Language Disorder (DLN)?</p>	<p>The SEN Unit will be for autistic pupils and those with social communication and interaction needs as their primary need.</p> <p>Pupils who are placed at the school will have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that identifies the SEN Unit as the appropriate placement.</p> <p>Pupils with Speech & Language needs identified through the EHCP process will have access to a Speech & Language therapist at the school whether they attend the SEN Unit or are fulltime in mainstream classes.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Will parents of a child with SEN in the mainstream school be able to apply for a place in the unit?</p>	<p>Parents of pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) should follow the admissions guidance for children with an EHCP, which is available on the Surrey County Council website.</p> <p>Pupils will be allocated a place at the SEN Unit at Epsom Primary & Nursery by Surrey County Council's SEND Admissions Team.</p> <p>Parents of pupils with communication & interaction needs identified in their EHCPs who are currently in the mainstream school would not automatically be able to be placed in the SEN Unit. If, following an annual review, a change of placement to a high coin unit is deemed appropriate then providing there is space, and following the admissions criteria, a child from the mainstream may be able to transition to the Unit.</p>

11.	Will the overall number of pupils in the school increase? How will this be managed?	<p>The SEN Unit pupils will be in addition to the current mainstream PAN and those numbers will be considered in the building feasibility.</p> <p>The school may consider reducing the mainstream PAN in the future but this would be subject to a separate consultation according to the Schools Admissions Code statutory guidance</p>
12.	How many children will be attending the unit?	<p>The growth model allows us to start small to ensure that we get the provision right for these children. This will mean 12 pupils from KS1 and Reception will start with us in September and then an additional 3 pupils per year will join for the following 3 years to reach the capacity of 21 pupils.</p>
13.	Will the children be in addition to the number already in class? If so how will this work as some classrooms are small already?	<p>At full capacity there will be 3 pupils in each year group in the SEN Unit.</p> <p>ASD SEN Units in Mainstream Schools support autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs whose additional needs are such that they are able to spend approximately 50% of the taught curriculum in mainstream classes with support. The school will organise a timetable for inclusion which ensures all pupils in the school benefit from an inclusive model. The property feasibility will ensure that space is sufficient for meaningful inclusion.</p> <p>Staff from the SEN Unit will be supporting the integration into the mainstream classes along with the children.</p>
14.	The school are converting to an academy and joining The Bourne Education Trust. Will this change impact the SEN Unit?	<p>Epsom Primary & Nursery consulted on their intention to convert to academy status.</p> <p>The creation of a SEN Unit in a mainstream school is a significant change and the decision to approve this proposal will take place before the school converts to an academy.</p> <p>If the proposal to create a SEN Unit at the school is agreed by the Lead Cabinet Member on 26 April 2022 the significant change will be implemented on 1 Sept 2022. The academy conversion would take place at a later date and the school would convert as a mainstream school with an SEN Unit.</p>