

## PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS:

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, that Surrey County Council, intends to make a significant change to **Sunnydown School** by removing the boarding provision.

### School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Sunnydown School  
Portley House  
152 Whyteleafe Road  
Caterham, Surrey  
CR3 5ED

Community special school

Surrey County Council, Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking, GU22 7QQ

### Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

It is proposed that the removal of boarding will be implemented from the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

### Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
  - (a) the date by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
  - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

This is a four-week consultation, which begins on 28 May 2021 and concludes on 2 July 2021. Any person may agree, object to or make comments on the proposals by sending representations to Surrey County Council (SCC).

The consultation and online response form can be accessed through SCC's Surrey Says website:

[www.surreysays.co.uk](http://www.surreysays.co.uk)

Alternatively, written representations can be sent via email or post, as below:

Email to [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)

Post to Katie Kelly-Weller, Education Place Planning Team, Surrey County Council, Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Rd, Woking GU22 7QQ

### **Alteration description**

4. A description of the proposed alteration and, in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposal is to remove the boarding provision at Sunnydown School from 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021. This is not a statutory provision and the offer of a residential placement is to assist pupils and parents of pupils who attend the school. The provision is not provided to meet any specified educational need and is not a part of the Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) for individual pupils. The school assesses a pupil's access for residential placement based on a number of factors including agreement with parents or carers, the distance from home to school, the medical needs of the pupil and staffing levels.

The proposed alteration would mean that the 23 residential beds at Sunnydown School will be removed and the school will no longer offer a boarding provision. The day provision currently in place at Sunnydown School will remain unchanged, but certain elements of the curriculum may be amended to include the additional learning opportunities currently catered for by the boarding provision.

The curriculum at Sunnydown is a designed bespoke pathway as far as possible for every pupil within the resources available. It is designed to give each student the best possible opportunities for achieving a successful, independent and happy life after leaving Sunnydown and create a pathway for learning so that they can access appropriate Post 16 provision. This is done with consideration for the emotional needs of the pupils and an awareness of the impact of academic expectations on young people.

Sunnydown School also run the Friday Curriculum. This has been designed to give the pupils on roll the extra experiences that the school feel they need to be independent after they leave Sunnydown and to help them to succeed in their next steps. The focus is around the characteristics of Resilience, Independence, Cooperation and Encourage, Enable, and Empower (RICE) and aims to develop these important attributes and achieve their academic potential. In Key Stage 3, the pupils will follow a half termly rotation of activities both on and off site, designed to

achieve the different aspects of RICE and give the pupils access to different opportunities that they may not experience through the more traditional curriculum.

As outlined above, pupils at Sunnydown follow the National Curriculum which is personalised to their needs and their learning will be differentiated to enable them to make progress. The level of support will depend on the child's needs and the school adopt a graduated approach to meeting the needs of students so that students receive the appropriate level of support to ensure progress. Sunnydown students are disapplied from the Modern Foreign Language component of the National Curriculum at Key stage 3. In KS4, students follow an accreditation pathway which is appropriate for their ability. Pupils at Sunnydown School can access a range of GCSE subjects, Entry Levels, Functional Skills and a BTEC course are on offer to pupils. The classrooms can be adapted to meet the sensory needs of individual students.

All staff at Sunnydown School have had training in topics that are directly related to the needs of our students and undergo Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Some teachers, in addition to their teaching qualification, have a second specialist qualification which may be a diploma or a MA in Special Educational Needs. Safeguarding training takes place half-termly for all staff and forms part of an extensive programme of training designed to keep the specialist skills necessary for working with students with special educational needs up-to date. Teaching staff, teaching assistants and care staff have accessed targeted programmes of CPD to develop their skills. All staff receive Positive Options training in order to develop their behaviour management skills. All care staff, on joining, enrol on a National induction programme and follow a Level 3 Diploma for students & Young People's Welfare. Professionals from other agencies including Speech and Language therapy, Educational Psychology, hearing impairment, vision impairment and Occupational Therapy professionals visit the school on a regular basis. As well as supporting individual students, these professionals advise staff around strategies and offer training.

Sunnydown School encourage pupils to engage in their learning through regular meetings with pupils, staff and parents using a variety of formats such as parents' evenings, using home to school diaries and via parent mail. The reporting cycle occurs bi-annually in December and June of each year. Each pupil has an Individual Education Plan, which is reviewed by staff and pupils prior to their annual review.

Sunnydown School contributes to the local offer in Surrey by providing 'Good' education provision to secondary aged male pupils with Communication and Interactions needs, sometimes in conjunction with ASD, in the South East of the county.

## **School capacity**

### **5. (1)**

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The current capacity of the school is 80 places.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group is 16.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Not Applicable

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not Applicable

- (2) A statement of the number of pupils at the school.

There are currently 88 pupils on roll at Sunnydown School.

### **Implementation**

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

The proposal to remove the boarding is determined by Surrey County Council and implemented by the Governing Body of Sunnydown School.

### **Additional Site**

7. (1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No additional site is required in order to facilitate these proposals.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not Applicable

### **Changes in boarding arrangements**

8. (1)

(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

Should the proposal be approved, the boarding provision at Sunnydown School would close, removing the 23 residential beds at the school.

Approximately 27% of the total number of pupils who attend Sunnydown School of the current school population utilise the boarding provision, with the vast majority of boarders not using boarding on a full time basis.

None of the current pupils on roll at Sunnydown School have direct or deemed special educational provision, health provision or social care provision in the form of boarding or that beyond usual school hours specified or quantified in Sections, F, G or H of their Education, Health or Care Plans.

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

Not Applicable

(c) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

There are 23 residential places, with pupils residing on varying numbers of nights. The residential accommodation is on the first floor of a teaching building and provides support to the pupils who are boarding to grow and develop physically, emotionally and socially within the safe, consistent, enjoyable learning environment. The boarding provision allows boarders to take part in additional learning and recreational activities outside of the school day.

(2)

(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

Removing 23 residential beds at the school would in effect remove 23 full time (weekdays) boarding places. There are 24 pupils who currently access boarding in any capacity and the majority of boarders are part time.

(b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

Should the above proposal be agreed, it will be proposed that the number of specialist school places at Sunnydown School is expanded by 20 places from 80 to 100. The expansion will utilise existing space and capacity which is currently used as boarding provision on the site.

This will be subject to a separate consultation process.

**Transfer to new site**

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

(a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

Not Applicable

(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

Not Applicable

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

Not Applicable

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

Not Applicable

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

Not Applicable

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

Not Applicable

## Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

As referenced on Sunnydown School’s website, “the offer of a residential placement is not a statutory or compulsory offer, unless stated on an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and may not be appropriate for all pupils. The school assesses a pupil’s access for a residential placement based on a number of factors including; agreement with parents or carers, the distance from home to school, the medical needs of the pupil and staffing levels.”

There are no pupils placed at the school by Surrey County Council or other local authorities who have boarding specified and quantified in section F (special educational provision), section G (health provision reasonably required by the learning difficulties or disabilities which resulting in a child or young person having SEN) or section H (any social care provision which must be made for a child or young person under 18 resulting from Section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Person’s Act 1970) of their Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Therefore, the current boarding provision is not considered to be an efficient use of resources. Surrey County Council are currently using significant additional revenue funding to support statutory services. The council aims to redeploy the resource more efficiently.

## Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
  - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
  - (c) the views of the persons consulted;
  - (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
  - (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

An explanatory consultation document has been made available to the public via the Council’s website: [www.surreysays.co.uk](http://www.surreysays.co.uk) and was sent to relevant stakeholders.

All appropriate parties have been made aware of this proposal, inclusive of the Governing Body of the school. A public meeting was held virtually on 10 March 2021.

The following people have been made aware of the proposals: parents/carers of children attending the school; employees and Governors of the school; relevant unions; local residents; other local schools; local borough and county councillors; and the School Admissions Forum.

The consultation received 57 responses, with 10 agreeing with the proposal, 44 disagreeing and 3 stating that they don't know. 74% of comments referenced that they were concerned about the impact on pupil outcomes should the boarding provision be removed while 7% raised the impact of home to school transport of those who currently board.

### **Project costs**

**12.** A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

Not Applicable

**13.** A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State and/or local education authority that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Not Applicable

### **Age range**

**14.** Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

Not Applicable

### **Early years provision**

**15.** Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

Not Applicable

how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;



Not Applicable

evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

Not Applicable

assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

Not Applicable

reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

Not Applicable

### **Changes to sixth form provision**

**16.** (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

Not Applicable

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

Not Applicable

(c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

Not Applicable

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

Not Applicable

**17.** Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

Not Applicable

### **Special educational needs**

**18.** Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

Not Applicable

(b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

The proposal to remove the boarding provision at Sunnydown School will allow the school to adapt the current Friday Curriculum and incorporate some of the learning to which only pupils in the boarding provision would have had access. This will enable all pupils on roll at Sunnydown School to engage in this additional learning, allowing pupils to develop social skills, resilience, independence, cooperation, and to help them to succeed in their next steps.

The majority of Surrey Special Schools are 'Good' to 'Outstanding' and manage to deliver a well-rounded curriculum without boarding provision on site. Sunnydown School will consider whether there may be the opportunity for breakfast and after school provision moving forward.

(c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

Not Applicable

(d) details of how the provision will be funded;

Sunnydown School will continue to fund the special educational day provision at the school through revenue costs.

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

Not Applicable

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

Not Applicable

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

Not Applicable

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

Not Applicable

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

There are no proposed changes to the number of pupils on roll at Sunnydown School as part of this proposal.

- 19.** Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—  
(a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

Not Applicable - The boarding provision at Sunnydown School is not statutory special educational provision.

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

Not Applicable

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

Not Applicable

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

Approximately 30% of pupils out of the 88 pupils on roll at Sunnydown School currently access the boarding provision on site. The provision has been underutilised and all of the pupils currently accessing this provision do not have a statutory entitlement to boarding provision specified on their EHCP. Therefore, it is not considered an efficient use of public funds. Surrey County Council are currently using significant additional revenue funding to support statutory services. The council are trying to redeploy the resource more efficiently.

The majority of Surrey Special Schools are 'Good' to 'Outstanding' and manage to deliver a well-rounded curriculum without boarding provision on site.

**20.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

The proposal to remove the boarding provision at Sunnydown School will allow the school to adapt the current Friday Curriculum and incorporate some of the learning

to which only pupils in the boarding provision would have had access. This will enable all pupils on roll at Sunnydown School to engage in this additional learning, allowing pupils to develop social skills, resilience, independence, cooperation, and to help them to succeed in their next steps.

The majority of Surrey Special Schools are 'Good' to 'Outstanding' and manage to deliver a well-rounded curriculum without boarding provision on site. Sunnydown School will consider whether there may be breakfast and after school provision moving forward.

All staff at Sunnydown School have had training in topics that are directly related to the needs of our students and undergo Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Some teachers, in addition to their teaching qualification, have a second specialist qualification which may be a diploma or a MA in Special Educational Needs. Safeguarding training takes place half-termly for all staff and forms part of an extensive programme of training designed to keep the specialist skills necessary for working with students with special educational needs up-to date. Teaching staff and teaching assistants have accessed targeted programmes of CPD to develop their skills. All staff receive Positive Options training in order to develop their behaviour management skills. Professionals from other agencies including Speech and Language therapy, Educational Psychology, hearing impairment, vision impairment and Occupational Therapy professionals visit the school on a regular basis. As well as supporting individual students, these professionals advise staff around strategies and offer training. The access to this will not change should the proposal to remove the boarding provision be agreed.

### Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

Not Applicable

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

Not Applicable

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

Not Applicable

**22.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

Not Applicable

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

Not Applicable

### **Extended services**

**23.** If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

Sunnydown School offers lunchtime clubs for all pupils. Some of the day pupils already access the extended day curriculum. However, there is a charge for this to families and transport has to be arranged by families. These activities will not be affected by the proposal.

The boarding provision allows Sunnydown School to provide additional learning relating to independence and self-care, as well as encouraging the development of social skills from daily after school activities. Should the proposal be agreed, these services will be removed.

Details of any proposed changes to additional activities or extended services as a result of the boarding closure are still to be determined. The intention is for the school to work with Surrey County Council to create social opportunities for pupils and will continue to work closely with colleagues in other schools to learn how they maximise opportunities for socialisation and independence.

In addition, SCC and the wider SEND Partnership are enhancing their Local Offer website and through the county wide All Age Autism Strategy and work with voluntary and charitable organisations, may be in a position to sign-post families to more local social opportunities for the boys.

The Friday Curriculum is designed to allow access to opportunities to develop social skills, resilience, independence, and cooperation for the pupils on roll at Sunnydown School. This is exclusively aimed at enhancing the holistic development of each pupil, offering opportunities as diverse as travelling into Croydon on public transport to buy cooking ingredients, to landscaping, outdoor adventure activities, college, and extended work experience. This day provision is accessed by 100% of the students. The Friday curriculum provides a foundation to enhancing learning for all pupils and will be adapted to incorporate some of the learning to which only pupils in the boarding provision would have had access.

This will ensure that pupils that have used boarding provision are not disadvantaged.

**Need or demand for additional places**

**24.** If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Not Applicable

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

Not Applicable

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

Not Applicable

**25.** If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

Surrey County Council is proposing the removal of the boarding provision at Sunnydown School because the provision is not being utilised efficiently. None of the current pupils on roll at Sunnydown School have direct or deemed special educational provision, health provision or social care provision in the form of boarding or that beyond usual school hours specified or quantified in Sections, F, G or H of their Education, Health or Care Plans.

The school require the boarding provision to operate at a level of 70% occupancy in order for it to remain sustainable. During Covid due to restrictions this has been below 50% and Surrey County Council have been supporting the school to sustain the provision throughout the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, the provision was becoming unsustainable as the minimum 70% occupancy was not reached. If the minimum level of occupancy was not reached, Sunnydown School would need to subsidise the boarding provision with funds from the day provision, reducing the funds available for education.

Parents would need to follow the SEND admissions process to gain a place at Sunnydown School in the usual way.

(b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

The proposal will not be displacing any pupils at Sunnydown School.