

School Organisation Consultation

Expansion of Woodfield Secondary School

January 2021



Woodfield
SECONDARY SCHOOL
Opening Doors to Success



SURREY

Introduction

1. As part of the [Special Educational Needs and or Disability \(SEND\) Transformation Plan and SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2020-2025](#) which was approved by Cabinet in 2019 there is a recommendation to increase the specialist provision in mainstream specialist centres, special academies and maintained special schools in Surrey in order to reduce the reliance on Non-Maintained and Independent Specialist provision and out of county Independent provision. The recommendations are aligned with the local area's 2030 Community Vision which received Full Council unanimous approval to support the aspiration that everyone achieves their full potential, contributes to their community and no one is left behind so that children and young people who have SEND and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are educated in their nearest most appropriate setting and closer to home.
2. Woodfield Secondary School is a community special school located on Sunstone Grove, Merstham (Postcode: RH1 3PR) in the borough of Reigate and Banstead. The school provides secondary education to children and young people aged 11-19 with Learning and Additional Needs (LAN). A significant number of pupils have language and communication difficulties, and an increasing number present with a broader complexity of needs. Woodfield Secondary School currently has a permanent capacity of 100 places for pupils from Year 7-11 (i.e. ages 11-16) and offers an additional 20 places for post-16 pupils. The school has a 'Good' Ofsted rating (last inspection date October 2016).

The Proposal

3. Surrey County Council is proposing that Woodfield Secondary School is expanded to provide an additional 60 places for children who have Learning and Additional Needs (LAN) and who require a specialist placement. It is proposed that the expansion will take place at the existing school site.

Rationale

4. The proposed expansion is to meet the increased demand for specialist placements for children with Learning and Additional Needs. Surrey's current Learning and Additional Needs (LAN) 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 secondary-aged children. On average, specialist independent schools are more expensive than state-funded schools and often not local to the child's home.
5. Surrey County Council are proposing to expand Woodfield Secondary School because the school has a strong and established special school offer, experience of supporting children with Learning and Additional Needs and a desire to meet growing demand for specialist secondary provision. The expansion will enable Surrey County Council to offer more secondary children and their families local, high-quality specialist provision.

Pupil Placement

6. To meet an increasing demand and to enable children to be placed locally, Surrey County Council have placed additional pupils aged 11-16 in four of the last five years at Woodfield School. Pupils have been accommodated through the short-term restructuring of existing space and some temporary accommodation. In 2016 a further ten places were also introduced in a separate flexi teach provision providing additional support to pupils with very complex needs. Until now funding for this flexi teach provision has been reviewed on an annual basis. With all of these additional pupils the school currently has a total of 140 pupils on roll in Years 7-11. This proposal incorporates the additional places.

Numbers on roll Dec 2020	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total 7-11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Total 7-14
	27	29	21	32	31	140	5	9	2	156

7. It is proposed that the school will be expanded by a total of 60 places as follows:
- 50 places for pupils from Year 7 to Year 11, offering approximately 10 places per year group;
 - 10 places in the school's separate flexi-teach provision are made permanent.
8. As is currently the case for Woodfield Secondary 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](#).

Building work

9. Subject to the outcome of this consultation, further work will be required to the existing site to make it suitable for the 60 additional permanent pupils. It is anticipated that this would involve adaptations to the interior of the buildings and an extension to increase classroom and resource space. Any further works would be subject to the requirements for planning permission and building control.

Finance and Resourcing

10. Woodfield Secondary School will receive additional funding to cover the costs of the expansion and the children in the expanded provision. Further details of funding for special schools can be found on the [SCC website](#).
11. Woodfield Secondary School will recruit additional permanent staff for the expanded school including teachers, teaching assistants and a member of staff to support pastoral care. Some staff are currently employed on a temporary basis to support the additional classes provided during the last five years.

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

12. The proposal is that Woodfield Secondary School expands from 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.
13. The first stage of consultation will be informal and opens on **4th January 2021**. During this period Surrey County Council will share its proposals with local 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 Woodfield Secondary School. A list of stakeholders is provided in a separate document.
14. Following informal consultation, 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 2021.

Have your say

Surrey County Council and Woodfield Secondary School would like to know what people think about the proposal. The consultation opens on 4th January 2021.

You can respond by:

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

Education Place Planning Team
35 Quadrant Court
Guildford Road
Woking GU22 7QQ

All responses must be received by **noon on Friday 12th February 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, anyone who wishes to may 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 **Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 6pm**, there will be a short presentation followed by questions and answers.

Please come and share your views. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. You do not have to have a child at the school to come to the meeting. Please note the deadline to register your interest to attend the meeting is **5pm** on Monday 25th January 2021.

At the end of the consultation period, Surrey County Council will review all responses received and share these with the school and publish details on the Surrey Says website.

Subject to the views expressed, if the proposal is to proceed, the next stage would be for Surrey County Council 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 **on 13th April 2021**.

