

Statutory Notices

Proposal to expand Woodlands
School onto an additional site at
Cranmere Primary School

June 2025

School Organisation Statutory Notice

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, that Surrey County Council, intends to make a significant change to Woodlands School by expanding onto an additional ('satellite') site at Cranmere Primary School

Local Authority Details:

Local Authority	Surrey County Council
Address	Victoria Gate Chobham Road Woking Surrey GU21 6JD

School Details:

Name of School	Woodlands School
Category of School	Community Special School
Age Range	2 to 19
URN	125469
Address	Fortyfoot Road, Leatherhead, Surrey
Postcode	KT22 8RY

Introduction

This paper outlines a proposal by Surrey County Council, in cooperation with the Governing Body of Woodlands School, to expand the school onto an additional 'satellite' site located at Cranmere Primary School, Arran Way, Esher, Surrey, KT10 8BE. There would be up to an extra 28 places for pupils with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties: all pupils would have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The statutory process and timescales for the establishment of the new provision are detailed below.

Proposal

In agreement with the Headteachers and Governing Bodies of both Woodlands School and Cranmere Primary School, Surrey County Council is proposing to expand Woodlands School onto an additional site located at Cranmere Primary School to create up to an additional 28 places for pupils with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. Each pupil would have an EHCP specifying the specialist provision within the school as an appropriate placement to meet their individual needs.

Proposed timeline

The proposed establishment of proposed expansion would come into effect from September 2025 onwards.

Phase	Date
Statutory notices	27/06/25 – 05/09/25
Lead Cabinet Member Decision	September 2025
Implementation	October 2025

It is proposed that:

1. Woodlands School be expanded onto a satellite site to provide a total number of 28 places for pupils with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties.

Making Representations, Objections and Comments

2. This is a four-week consultation which starts on Friday 27 June 2025 and concludes on Friday 5 September 2025.
3. Any person can make comments, agree, or object to the proposal by sending representations to the Local Authority through the following channels:

Website	www.surreysays.co.uk
Email	schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk
Post	Education Place Planning Surrey County Council Victoria Gate Chobham Road Woking Surrey GU21 6JD

Background

4. Both Woodlands School and Cranmere Primary School are community schools in the east of Surrey. At their respective most recent Ofsted inspections, Woodlands was assessed to be outstanding and Cranmere Primary School to be good.
5. Woodlands School has an existing capacity of 83 pupils with temporary provision currently allowing an additional 16 pupils to be educated on the main school site. Cranmere Primary School is built to accommodate 3 forms of entry (630 pupils) but has been operating at 2 forms of entry for some time due to falling demand for places – primarily as a result of falling birth numbers in line with the national picture. This means that the school has space to accommodate pupils at Woodlands School once the designated spare part of the building has been adapted appropriately.

Rationale

Table 1 shows the latest projections for pupils with EHCPs in Surrey who have severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties identified as their primary need. The projections show a roughly 10% increase (45 pupils) in numbers from 2024/25 to 2029/30.

Table 1. Forecasts pupil numbers (SLD/PMLD as primary need)

2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
496	512	514	525	533	541	531	525	524

The proposed Woodlands School satellite site at Cranmere Primary School would create up to 28 specialist school places. Should these pupils be required to attend an education provision in the independent sector, costs would equate to around £1.484m per year every year, based on an average unit cost of £53k per pupil per annum for independent sector provision. This is compared to the average cost for state-maintained specialist places at £23k per pupil per annum and equivalent costs for 28 places of £644k. Provision of the additional state-maintained specialist school places would therefore potentially generate an approximate saving of £840k per year.

This data clearly shows that sustained use of the independent sector in the future would constitute an inefficient use of limited resources and severely impact Surrey's ability to deliver services and support for children, young people, and families, whilst remaining financially sustainable.

Surrey's ambition for children and young people who have additional needs and disabilities is to develop high quality fit for purpose local state-maintained specialist school provision that enables better long-term outcomes. This in turn ensures that Surrey resident pupils are educated closer to home, more connected to local communities and local support services, and have increased opportunities to enter employment in the future.

Tables 2 and 3 show the current specialist provision for pupils with SLD/PMLD as their primary need in Surrey.

Table 2 Current specialist provision with SLD/PMLD designation

School	District	Planned Places	Age Range	Planned Expansion
Woodlands School	Mole Valley	83	4-19	By 40 to 123
Manor Mead School	Spelthorne	83	2-11	By 60 to 143
Portesbery School	Surrey Heath	125	2-19	By 25 to 150
The Ridgeway School	Waverley	109	2-19	0
Walton Leigh School	Elmbridge	90	11-19	By 60 to 148

Table 3. Current specialist provision with dual designation of Complex ASD and SLD

School	District	Planned Places	Age Range	Planned Expansion
Brooklands School	Reigate & Banstead	153	2-11	By 36 to 189
Pond Meadow Academy	Guildford	149	3-19	By 40 to 190
Clifton Hill School	Tandridge	85	11-19	N/A

Key outcomes and benefits

Expanding outstanding sufficient and sustainable specialist school provision for Surrey resident primary age pupils in Elmbridge would provide the following benefits as stated in the [Developing local Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Provision](#) report to Cabinet on 25 January 2022:

1. Benefits realisation ensures Surrey's maintained specialist education provision is fit for purpose and creates additional employment/supported internship opportunities for residents around areas of expansion.
2. Children, young people, and families can access the same level of high-quality support wherever they live in Surrey. We have a good, shared understanding of our children and young people who have SEND in Surrey and our support offer matches their identified needs.
3. Expanding Surrey's specialist provision aligns with the Preparation for Adulthood programme and strategy for Post-16 to create local further education and employment

pathways such as apprenticeships and supported internships. This enables young people who have SEND to make a successful transition to adulthood and secure employment.

4. Capacity created locally would also make certain that SEND home to school transport distance and costs are reduced so that pupils attend their closest most appropriate school with shorter journey times. Opportunities for developing independent travel skills can be maximised as a result of children and young people being educated closer to home. This would also address local congestion around school sites as well as traffic flow around the county, which would be of benefit to Surrey's Green Agenda.
5. The distribution and occupancy of current Specialist Schools and SEN Units in mainstream schools clearly illustrates that there is insufficient provision of Autism and Communication & Social Interaction Needs, Moderate Learning Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties and Social Emotional Mental Health Needs Special places.
6. The approved remodification and expansion programme will ensure that additional places are matched appropriately to need type, phases of education and geographic locations.

An Equality Impact Assessment is being completed and will be published as part of the Lead Cabinet Member Decision meeting.

Implementation plan

Finance and resourcing

The school would receive funding per pupil per year for each agreed planned place commissioned. The school would also receive a "top up" sum for each pupil on roll at the SEN unit, appropriate to the needs of individual children.

Staffing

Staff at the satellite site responsible for the Woodlands School pupils there would be employed in the normal way by Woodlands School. The school would deploy sufficient and appropriate members of staff to meet the needs of the pupils in the same way it does for pupils at its main site.

Capital planning and buildings

The accommodation at Cranmere that would be used to expand Woodlands School is currently set up for mainstream use so would need to be adapted to meet the needs of the different cohort of pupils. These works are in the process of being planned and would be completed during the summer holidays should this proposal be approved.

Growth model

It is not anticipated that all of the 28 new places would be filled immediately for October 2025, rather there would be a period of growth as numbers reach capacity over time. That growth will be planned with the school and will take into account available resources, staffing and demand for places.

Approvals and Timescales

1. It is proposed that the changes commence from September 2025. The proposed changes require, following the publication of Statutory Notices, this proposal and a period for people to make representations, the agreement of Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Learning before they can proceed.
2. The proposal has been developed following thorough consultation with both Woodlands School and Cranmere Primary School.
3. The publication of statutory notices to accompany this proposal means there is now a four-week period from Friday 27 June 2025 to Friday 5 September 2025. This opens a formal opportunity for consultees to make their views known to the local authority before a final decision is taken. At the end of the four-week period officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning.

What happens next?

You can make representations, objections and comments using the online form at www.surreysays.co.uk. Alternatively, you can respond by email or post at the addresses given in the section [Making Representations, Objections and Comments](#).