



Hampshire
County Council

Pre-planning Consultation – Proposal to build a new 125 place Special School at Boorley Gardens, Hedge End, Eastleigh.

Hampshire County Council proposal to submit a planning application for a new special school on a new housing development at Boorley Gardens, Hedge End, Eastleigh.

This consultation will run from **Monday 8 July to Monday 5 August 2024.**

Why is a new school being built?

The new school is proposed to address a shortfall in SEND places within the area. There is an increased and growing need to provide support for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) in the south of the county. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational accommodation to meet current and future demand.

Who will run the new school?

Following a competitive presumption route application process, Solent Academies Trust were appointed as the academy sponsor for this new school. More information can be found at [Solent Academies Trust - Home \(solent-trust.net\)](https://www.solent-trust.net). They continue to work closely with Hampshire County Council to finalise the plans and design for the new school together with opening and placement arrangements.

What about the impact on traffic due to the new school?

The County Council appreciates that local residents will be concerned about potential traffic implications due to the new special school at Boorley Gardens. By planning to create school places on an accessible site, as close as possible to where children live, we create the best chance for those children to travel to school in an active, sustainable way, using means of travel other than the car.

This is supported through the production of a Framework School Travel Plan, to be submitted as part of the planning application. The Framework School Travel Plan will set out a range of tools and measures to enable staff, families, pupils and visitors to make informed decisions about how they travel to and from school. The Travel Planning Team at Hampshire County Council will work with the school before and after opening to put these measures in place and help minimise any impact on the environment and local community that the school run may cause.

Once the school is open and operating a travel plan steering/working group will be established to develop a Full School Travel Plan. This group will include members of staff, pupils, parents/guardians, governors and any other interested partners, and be supported by the Travel Planning Team.

The Full School Travel Plan is a long-term document to look at how children, parents, staff and visitors travel to and from school, and sets out measures to;

1. Encourage and enable pupils, parents/guardians, staff and visitors to walk/wheel, scoot and cycle to school. Where this is not possible, to consider public transport, car sharing or the use of any Park and Stride facilities which may be made available.
2. Encourage and provide educational programmes relating to active, sustainable travel and how this links to the environment, safety and health.
3. Improve safety.

The development and ongoing review of the school travel plan by the steering/working group will involve;

- Surveying pupils, parents and staff to find out how they travel, if they encounter any barriers preventing them from choosing active modes of travel and suggestions as to improvements.
- Consulting with the local community and other key partners to identify any issues relating to school travel that are felt by the wider community.
- Working with the various key stakeholders to develop an action plan which addresses these barriers and issues and seeks ways to increase sustainable, safe travel to school.

As the proposed school is for pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities, many of whom will be travelling to school on County Council provided transport, Hampshire County Council has incorporated into the design a car park and drop off facility that will enable vehicles for the school run to come onto the school grounds for safe pick up and drop off. The size of the car park also recognises the additional numbers of staff required for an SEMH school, and cycle parking is also provided for staff to encourage sustainable travel where possible.

How will construction traffic be managed?

A construction traffic management plan will be developed to ensure safe and considerate movement of vehicles around the site during the construction period.

Will I have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and ask questions?

A public meeting has been arranged and will provide an opportunity for parents/carers/stakeholders to discuss the proposals with Hampshire County Council officers. The public meeting will be held on **Monday 22 July 2024** between **4pm and 6pm** at **Boorley Green Community Centre, 121 Wallace Avenue, Boorley Park, SO32 2RQ**. A small car park is available on site with additional parking available behind the sports pavilion across the road.

If you wish to make a comment on the new special school proposal, please write to Mark Saunders, Senior Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG or by email to: strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by **Monday 5 August 2024**.

What happens after this consultation?

This consultation will run until 5 August 2024. Officers will then take into consideration all the consultation responses, prior to the submission of the planning application.