

Consultation on the proposal for new Resourced Provisions for pupils with Autism (ASC) at Fleet Infant School and Velmead Junior School, from September 2025

Fleet Infant School, Velmead Junior School and Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to create new Resourced Provisions for pupils with autism at both schools, 9-places at Fleet Infant and 12-places at Velmead Junior School, opening in phases from September 2025.

Children with an autism diagnosis can have difficulties with social interaction, communication and can also have speech and language needs and the school already support a number of children with complex needs associated with autism.

The consultation will run from Friday 8 November to Friday 6 December 2024.

Why do you need to develop a Resourced Provision for pupils with Autism (ASC) at the school?

Hampshire County Council is committed to developing and maintaining specialist provision, where possible, to meet demand. Currently the need to provide specialist support for pupils with autism in this area of the County is a priority. Fleet Infant School and Velmead Junior School explored with the Local Authority the potential to establish a Resourced Provision at their schools.

Why do you need to enlarge the school?

There is an increased and growing need to provide support for pupils with autism in the Hart district of Hampshire. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational accommodation to meet current and future demand.

Fleet Infant School and Velmead Junior School are successfully meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and has the site and space available as well as leadership expertise to expand to encompass catering for pupils with autism in a safe and secure environment.

What building works will be taking place?

Additional classroom space is required as a base for the Resourced Provision. At Fleet Infant School we propose to utilise an existing single modular classroom on the school site. At Velmead Junior School, we propose to install a new modular building. Appropriate IT, furniture, equipment and secure external play space will also be provided.

Costs include all capital works, IT and fixed furniture and equipment. These works will allow the Schools to add Resourced Provisions for 9 places at Fleet Infant School and 12 places at Velmead Junior School in phases from September 2025. The proposed cost of the works is in the region of £150,000 for Fleet Infant School and £500,000 for Velmead Junior School. SEN High Needs Provision capital is available to fund these costs.

When will the building works start and how will you ensure the health and safety of pupils attending the school whilst the works are taking place?

It is planned that the building works, to create the facilities at Fleet Infant School and Velmead Junior School sites, will be complete for September 2025.

Health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors is paramount. The County Council works with construction partners who have significant experience of working on school sites. A detailed health and safety plan will be drawn up with the school.

What will be the impact on pupils at Fleet infant School and Velmead Junior School?

The pupils who will attend the Resourced Provision will be part of a mainstream class and spend some time each day in the Resourced Provision, for individual and/or small group support. When the pupils are in the mainstream classroom, they will receive additional support to ensure that their needs are met.

This will give the opportunity for School staff at Fleet Infant School and Velmead Junior School to further enhance their inclusion and wellbeing offer to all pupils as this will positively impact pupils across the school and not just those in the provision. Whilst the pupils admitted into the Resourced Provision will take priority, Fleet Infant School and Velmead Junior School will be able to use the facilities that the Resourced Provision has to benefit pupils already at the school and support continuous professional development of staff across the school with training and knowledge being shared by staff within the Resourced Provision across the school.

Will the Schools receive additional funding due to the numbers increasing?

Fleet Infant School and Velmead Junior School will receive additional funding based on the increase in number of pupils on their roll. This will provide the additional staffing and resources required.

What happens after this consultation?

This consultation will run from Friday 8 November to Friday 6 December 2024. Officers will then consider the consultation responses, received in writing, before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If so, a statutory public notice will be published, setting out the Local Authorities intent to increase the capacity of the school. It is anticipated that this will be published in February 2025.

After the date of publication, there will be a four-week period in which any representations can be made. After the conclusion of this period, the Local Authority will decide whether to proceed with the proposal. It is anticipated that a decision will be made in June 2025.

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

A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss both proposals will take place on **Wednesday 20 November between 3:30pm and 6pm at Fleet Infant School.**

If you are unable to email or visit the above website and wish to make a comment then please write to:

Claire Campling
SEN Service Manager
Children's Services
1st Floor, Elizabeth II Court West,
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 8UG

- **All comments must be received by Friday 6 December 2024.**

How can my views be heard?

We will consider all responses received:

- In person at the drop in date on Wednesday 20 November between 3:30pm and 6pm at Fleet Infant School.
- Via e-mail sendcommissioning@hants.gov.uk
- Via letter

The closing date for responses is Friday 6 December 2024.