

## **Consultation on the proposal for a new Resourced Provision for pupils with Autism (AS) at Poulner Junior School, from September 2026**

Poulner Junior School and Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to create a new 12 place Resourced Provision for pupils with autism at Poulner Junior School opening in phases from September 2026.

Autism is a lifelong condition that affects how people learn, communicate, and interact with others. The school already supports a number of children with autism and having this provision will enhance the in-house support available across the school. It has been identified that there are an increasing number of children in the local area who are being diagnosed with autism, and we are therefore working towards expanding our offer of support to these children to attend local schools.

**The consultation will run from 13 October – 17 November 2025.**

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

The County Council is committed to developing and maintaining provision, where possible, to meet demand. Currently the need to provide school places for pupils with autism in this area of the County is a priority. The County Council and senior leadership at Poulner Junior School are keen to provide this additional provision for pupils and feel this will have a benefit for many pupils at the school.

### **Why do you need to enlarge the school?**

The County Council is committed to expanding successful provision wherever possible to meet demand. There is an increased and growing need to provide specialist support for pupils with autism in the New Forest. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational accommodation to meet current and future demand. The proposal will add a total of up to 12 to the current number on roll at the school.

The school are already meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and have the site available and leadership expertise to expand this specialist provision to encompass catering for pupils with autism in a safe and secure environment.

### **What building works will be taking place at the school?**

The school proposes to utilise existing surplus accommodation to become the base for the Resourced Provision, only minor adjustments, safeguarding measures, IT and furniture will be required. High Needs Provision capital will be agreed with the school 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 the Poulner Junior School site, will be complete for September 2026 with the majority of works undertaken in the school holidays.

Health and safety of children, staff and visitors is paramount. The school would ensure a detailed health and safety plan is drawn up in advance of any works.

### **What will be the impact on pupils at Poulner 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.

The new provision will give the opportunity for Poulner Junior School to further enhance their inclusion and wellbeing offer to all pupils as this should positively impact pupils across the school and not just those placed in the Resourced Provision. The school will use the funding, facilities and resources that the Resourced Provision has to benefit both the Resourced Provision pupils and pupils already at the school. Also, the school can access relevant continuous professional development for staff across the school as well as knowledge being shared by staff within the Resourced Provision across the school.

### **Will the school receive additional funding due to the numbers increasing?**

Poulner Junior School will receive additional revenue funding related to the Resourced Provision and also 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 13 October 2025 to 17 November 2025.** 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 County Council's intent to increase the capacity of the school. It is anticipated that this will be published in Spring 2026.

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 County Council will decide whether to proceed with the proposal. It is anticipated that a decision will be made in Spring 2026.

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

A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss the proposal will take place on **Monday 20 October between 3:30pm and 6pm at Poulner Junior School.**

If you are unable to email or visit the above website and wish to make a comment, then please email [sendcommissioning@hants.gov.uk](mailto:sendcommissioning@hants.gov.uk) or write to:

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

**All comments must be received by 17 November 2025.**

### **How can my views be heard?**

We will consider all responses received:

- In person at the drop in date Monday 20 October 2025 3:30pm – 6pm.
- Via e-mail [sendcommissioning@hants.gov.uk](mailto:sendcommissioning@hants.gov.uk)
- Via letter

**The closing date for responses is 17 November 2025**