

Consultation on the proposal to expand Osborne School by 60 places from September 2027

Osborne School, Winchester and Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to expand the school by an additional 60 places (secondary age 11-16) for children with learning difficulties across all three sites with 50 phased onto the Eastleigh satellite site from September 2027, utilising the former Aviary Children's Centre and Hampshire County Council Offices in Eastleigh.

Children with learning difficulties often face challenges with core academic skills like reading, writing, and numeracy due to cognitive processing issues affecting memory, attention, and problem-solving. They benefit from structured teaching, repetition, and personalised support. In Special School settings, small class sizes, differentiated learning, and targeted interventions help develop independence, confidence, and life skills. Many also require support with communication, social interaction, and emotional regulation alongside academic progress.

Please note that this consultation relates specifically to the proposal and principle to establish the satellite SEN provision. Further consultation will be held in relation to planning and building works when details are known and if approved to proceed.

The consultation will run from 20 October – 24 November 2025

Why do you need to expand Osborne School?

Hampshire County Council has a duty to make sure there are enough school places within the county for those children and young people who have complex special educational needs that cannot be met within a mainstream school setting.

The need to provide school places in Special Schools across Hampshire has been increasing. Hampshire County Council is committed to expanding successful provision where possible to meet demand. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational accommodation to meet current and future demand.

Osborne School is successfully meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and the opportunity to expand the site through utilising the former Aviary Children's Centre and Hampshire County Council Offices provides an opportunity to do this.

What is a Special School Satellite Provision?

A special school satellite is a provision operated by a Special School but located away from the main site. These satellites are designed to extend the reach of the Special School, allowing it to support pupils in different geographical areas while maintaining the same level of specialist expertise and oversight.

Pupils attending a satellite provision remain on the roll of the Special School and receive the same tailored curriculum, therapeutic support, and staffing ratios as they would at the main site. The satellite may be housed in a separate building or facility and is fully managed by the Special School's leadership team. This model helps meet local demand for specialist places, reduces travel time for pupils, and enables more children to access high-quality special education closer to home.

What building works will be taking place?

In order to create a new SEN provision at the former Aviary Children's Centre and Hampshire County Council Offices site run by Osborne School, capital works will be required to update and reconfigure internal accommodation, provide specialist areas, ensure safeguarding for pupils and staff and create an appropriate parking and pick up/drop off area. Detailed feasibility work will be undertaken subject to the recommendations in this report being approved. Required works will be funded from the Children's Services Capital Programme and will be reported at a later date.

When will the building works start?

It is planned that the building works, to create the facilities at the former Aviary Children's Centre and Hampshire County Council Offices site, will be complete for September 2027.

Health and safety of children, 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 developed.

What will be the impact on pupils at Osborne School?

The expansion would help meet local demand for specialist places and allow pupils to access high-quality special education closer to home. Further school staff will be employed meaning that pupils will benefit from staff sharing knowledge and building on their continuous professional development.

The established satellite provision for 40 pupils at Kings' School, Winchester, will remain unchanged by this proposal.

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

Osborne 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 20 October to 24 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 17 November 2025 between 3:30pm and 6pm at the former Aviary Children's Centre and Hampshire County Council Offices (SO50 9JW).**

If you are unable to email or visit the above website and wish to make a comment, then please email sendcommissioning@hants.gov.uk or 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 24 November 2025.

How can my views be heard?

We will consider all responses received:

- In person at the drop in date Monday 17 November 2025 between 3:30pm and 6pm at the former Aviary Children's Centre and Hampshire County Council Offices (SO50 9JW).
- Via e-mail sendcommissioning@hants.gov.uk
- Via letter

The closing date for responses is 24 November 2025.