

## **Consultation on the proposal to expand The Waterloo School by 70 places from September 2027**

The Waterloo School and Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to expand the school by an additional 70 places for children with social, emotional and mental health needs from September 2027 utilising the former Peel Common Infant School, Gosport.

Children with social, emotional and mental health needs may face challenges in understanding and managing their emotions, building relationships, and coping with everyday situations. They often benefit from consistent routines, nurturing relationships with trusted adults, and access to therapeutic support. With the right interventions, these children can develop resilience, emotional awareness, and positive coping strategies that support both their wellbeing and educational progress.

This consultation is focused solely on the proposal to establish the satellite provision. Any consultation relating to planning permission or building works will be undertaken separately at a later stage.

**The consultation will run from 20 October – 24 November 2025**

### **Why do you need to expand The Waterloo 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.

The Waterloo School is successfully meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and the opportunity to expand the site through utilising the former Peel Common Infant School site 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 its 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 Peel Common Infant School site run by Waterloo 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 Peel Common Infant School 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 drawn up with the school.

### **What will be the impact on pupils at The Waterloo School?**

The expansion would allow the school to admit more pupils into the school from the local area meaning that it helps to better serve the local community. Further school staff will be employed meaning that pupils will benefit from staff sharing knowledge and building on their continuous professional development.

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

The Waterloo 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 2025 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 **Thursday 6 November 2025 between 3:30pm and 6pm at the former Peel Common Infant School (PO13 0QD)**

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 24 November 2025.**

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

We will consider all responses received:

- In person at the drop in date Thursday 6 November 2025 between 3:30pm and 6pm at the former Peel Common Infant School (PO13 0QD)
- Via e-mail [sendcommissioning@hants.gov.uk](mailto:sendcommissioning@hants.gov.uk)
- Via letter

**The closing date for responses is 24 November 2025.**