

Consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Riverside Community Special School, Waterlooville

Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to increase the capacity for Riverside Community Special School.

We are running a consultation from the 25 February until the 25 March 2019.

Why do you need to enlarge the school?

Hampshire County Council is committed to expanding successful provision where possible to meet demand. Currently there is an increased need to provide school places for pupils with social, emotional and mental health difficulties in this area of the county. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational capacity to meet this increased need.

Riverside Community Special School is currently a 105 place special school for 3-11 year old pupils with ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder and MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty. The County Council is proposing to increase the capacity of the school by adding an additional 12 places. This will give a final overall capacity of 117 places at Riverside Community Special School.

What building works will be taking place?

To accommodate the increased number of places, it is proposed that an additional double modular building will be installed on site at Riverside Community Special School. The modular building will be used as teaching accommodation to enable more children to attend the school.

It is planned that the building works will be completed by September 2019.

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 permanent facilities at Riverside Community Special School will commence during the spring 2019. We will provide the school with further details as the design work for the project progresses so the school can keep you informed of progress and inform you of key dates.

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 to include items such as restricting delivery times for materials to avoid the beginning and end of the school day, maintaining safe access routes for pupils, staff and visitors etc.

What will be the impact on pupils within the school?

Riverside Community Special School will continue to operate as normal during the building works. The majority of the work will take place over the summer holiday. Everything will be done to minimise the impact on pupils teaching and learning but we do acknowledge there may be some disruption. The County Council is liaising fully with the Headteacher and governors on the project to ensure that the planning for the building works run as smoothly as possible.

What about the impact on traffic due to the school taking more pupils?

The County Council's Travel Planning team will work with the school to work towards their Bronze Modeshift STARS (Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition for Schools). This process involves identifying a range of activities and initiatives that the school already engages in to promote and enable active, safe and sustainable travel within the school community. It also requires the identification of transport and travel issues and will prompt a school to identify possible solutions to remove or reduce these. This is needed in order to manage the increase in pupil numbers.

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

The funding of schools is based around the number of pupils on roll, so as numbers increase so will the funding.

What happens after this consultation?

This consultation will run until the 25 March 2019. Officers will then take into consideration all the consultation responses before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If so, a statutory public notice will be published, setting out Hampshire County Council's intent to increase the capacity of the school. It is anticipated that this will be published in April 2019.

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 or not to proceed with the proposal. It is anticipated that a decision will be made in May 2019.

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

A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss Riverside Community Special School proposals with Hampshire County Council officers is planned for the **13 March 2019 from 3pm to 5pm at Riverside Community Special School.**

If you are unable to attend this session and wish to make a comment then please write to Claire Campling, SEN Service Manager, Children's Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by the **25 March 2019.**

How can my views be heard?

We will listen to views at the drop-in session.

We will also consider all responses received via e-mail or letter.

The closing date for responses is the 25 March 2019.