

Consultation on the proposal for new Resourced Provisions for pupils with Autism (AS) at Rowner Infant School and King's Academy Rowner, starting in academic year 2027/28

Rowner Infant School, King's Academy Rowner and Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to establish autism Resourced Provisions for up to 9 pupils at Rowner Infant School and for up to 12 pupils at King's Academy Rowner, opening in phases in the 2027/28 academic year.

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 attend local schools.

The consultation will run from 22 June to 20 July.

Why do you need to develop Resourced Provisions for pupils with Autism (AS) at the schools?

Hampshire County Council is committed to meeting the demands of an increasing and growing need to provide specialist support for pupils with autism. Currently the need to provide school places for pupils with autism in this area of the County is a priority. Hampshire County Council and senior leadership at Rowner Infant School and King's Academy Rowner are keen to provide this additional provision for pupils and feel this in-house provision will have a benefit for many pupils at the schools. The proposals will add up 9 pupils to the current number on roll at Rowner Infant School and 12 for King's Academy Rowner.

Rowner Infant School and King's Academy Rowner are already meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and have the sites 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?

Both schools propose to repurpose existing surplus accommodation as the base for the Resourced Provisions. This will require minor adaptations, safeguarding measures, IT, and furniture, alongside the development of a secure outdoor play area. These enhanced inclusion spaces will form part of the wider school and will be accessible to other pupils where appropriate. Consideration will also be given to staff parking and pupil drop-off and pick-up arrangements. SEN High Needs Provision capital funding is available to support these works.

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

It is planned that the building works, to create the facilities at Rowner Infant School and King's Academy Rowner sites, will be complete for the 2027/28 academic year.

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

What will be the impact on pupils at Rowner Infant School and King's Academy Rowner?

The pupils who will attend the Resourced Provisions will attend mainstream classes as appropriate to suit their needs and also spend time in the Resourced Provision areas for individual and/or small group support.

The new provisions will give the opportunity for Rowner Infant School and King's Academy Rowner 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 schools will use the funding, facilities and resources that the Resourced Provision has to benefit both the Resourced Provision pupils and pupils already at the schools. Also, the schools can access relevant continuous professional development for staff across the school as well as knowledge being shared by staff within the Resourced Provision.

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

Yes, Rowner Infant School and King's Academy Rowner will receive additional revenue funding based on the increase in number of pupils on their roll as well as specific funding linked to the Resourced Provision. This will provide the additional staffing and resources required.

What happens after this consultation?

This consultation will run from 22 June – 20 July.

For Rowner Junior School, Officers will then consider the consultation responses, received in writing, before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If approved, a statutory public notice will be published, setting out the Local Authorities intent to increase the capacity of the school and introduce the new Resourced Provisions. It is anticipated that this will be published in autumn 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 Local Authority will decide whether to proceed with the proposal. Any final approval could be made in late autumn/ early spring 2027.

For King's Academy Rowner, a submission will be made to the Department for Education (DfE) for final approval to be considered as an academy school following the consultation period.

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

A joint drop-in session where you will be able to discuss both proposals with Hampshire County Council officers and senior leadership of both schools will take place on **Wednesday 8 July at King's Academy Rowner (PO13 0BN) 3:15pm – 5:30pm** (in the school hall. Please access the hall from the first hall door as you approach the building from the car park).

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:

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All comments must be received by 20 July 2026.