

## **Consultation on the proposal for a new Resourced Provision for pupils with Autism (AS) at The Henry Cort Community College, from academic year 2027/28**

The Henry Cort Community College and Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to create a new 15 place Resourced Provision for pupils with autism at The Henry Cort Community College opening in phases in the academic year 2027/28 at the new Whiteley site.

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 22 June – 20 July 2026.**

### **Why do you need to develop a Resourced Provision for pupils with autism at the school?**

Hampshire County Council is committed to meeting the demands of an increasing and growing need to provide specialist support for pupils with autism. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational accommodation to meet current and future demand. The proposal will add up 15 pupils to the current number on roll at The Henry Cort Community College.

The school is already meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and has 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?**

Specific classroom spaces are required as a base for the Resourced Provision and additional spaces have been designed into the new school accommodation to provide specialist internal and external spaces.

It is planned that the building works, to create the facilities at The Henry Cort Community College site, will be complete for academic year 2027/28.

### **What will be the impact on pupils at The Henry Cort Community College?**

The pupils who will attend the Resourced Provision 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 provision will give the opportunity for The Henry Cort Community College 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.

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

Yes, The Henry Cort Community College 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 22 June to 20 July.** 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 Provision. 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 will be made in late autumn 2026/Spring 2027.

### **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 13 July between 3:30pm and 6pm at The Henry Cort Community College** (current school site PO15 6PH).

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:

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**All comments must be received by 20 July 2026.**