

Consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of The Waterloo School, Waterlooville by providing additional places at Woodcot Primary School, Gosport

Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to increase the capacity for The Waterloo School. To accommodate the increased number of places, the proposal is to increase the capacity of the school from 74 to 82 places by providing provision at Woodcot Primary School.

We are running a consultation from 9 September until the 7 October 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 (SEMH) difficulties in this area of the county. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational capacity to meet this increased need.

The Waterloo School is currently a 74-place special school for 5-11 year old pupils with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties. The County Council is proposing to increase the capacity of the school by adding an additional 8 places by providing these at Woodcot Primary School.

What building works will be taking place?

To accommodate the increased number of places, it is proposed that building alterations are undertaken to the former nursery building to create the facilities needed for the new pupils. As a result, there will be the need to relocate the existing activities that take place in this accommodation to the school's main building.

The space would be ideal accommodation for a small group of children. These are children who are not able to be placed at The Waterloo school and so would otherwise have to either travel long distances to another school or continue to struggle in their current schools, without the specialist help they require.

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 facilities at the Woodcot Primary School site will start in early 2020 and be completed later that term.

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 Woodcot Primary School and Waterloo School?

The area proposed to be used by The Waterloo School will provide the necessary facilities for pupils to receive the appropriate education with a teaching space, toilets, small group or individual quiet space, storage and an outdoor space.

The children using the space on the Woodcot Primary School site would be on roll at The Waterloo School and be looked after at all times by The Waterloo School staff. They would also have timetabled use of some of the other areas in the school. There would be 8 children in the class, with a teacher and learning assistants from Waterloo School. There will also be timetabled senior staff from Waterloo School supporting the class.

This will provide much needed additional teaching space for some very vulnerable children and also gives the opportunity, through close liaison between the staff at both schools, for Woodcot School to further enhance their wellbeing offer to all children.

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

The Waterloo School will receive additional funding based around the increase in number of pupils on their roll. This will provide the additional staffing and resources required. Woodcot Primary School will receive revenue for the use of the space.

What happens after this consultation?

This consultation will run from 9 September until the 7 October 2019. Officers will then take into consideration all 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 Hampshire County Council's intent to increase the capacity of the school. It is anticipated that this will be published in November 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 December 2019.

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

A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss the proposals with Hampshire County Council officers is planned for the **25 September 2019 from 3pm to 5:30pm at Woodcot Primary 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, Ell Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by the **7 October 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 7 October 2019.