

# Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire  
County Council

## Austen Academy

Accountable officer: Glenn Parkinson

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Department: Children's Services

Date of  
assessment: 06/06/2019

## Description of current service/policy

Austen Academy is a new special needs school that will cater for 125 children aged 5-16 years who have social and communication difficulties. The school is being procured and delivered by Hampshire County Council on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) as part of the national Free Schools programme.

Geographical impact: Basingstoke &  
Deane

## Description of proposed change

The school is required to meet the future demand for places for pupils with a social communication need/autistic spectrum disorder in this area of Hampshire. This facility will reduce the need to place pupils in non-county establishments and avoid transport costs by providing the places close to the area of need. A planning application was submitted in May 2019 and the school is planned to open in Spring 2021.

## Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

## Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

Pre-planning consultation took place between 7 January and 4th February 2019 with relevant consultees including:

- Neighbouring schools and governors
- Children's Services
- Local County Councillor
- Local District Councillors
- Local Residents
- Local Member of Parliament
- Local Dioceses
- Trade Union Representatives

Comments received were considered as part of the pre-planning process prior to the submission of the planning application.

<b>Statutory considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Age:</b> Positive	Austen Academy will allow more opportunities for 5-16 years who have social and communication difficulties to gain a place at a local special school.	
<b>Disability:</b> Positive	Austen Academy will allow more opportunities for 5-16 years who have social and communication difficulties to gain a place at a local special school.	
<b>Sexual orientation:</b> Neutral		
<b>Race:</b> Neutral		
<b>Religion and belief:</b> Neutral		

<b>Gender reassignment:</b> Neutral		
<b>Gender:</b> Neutral		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership:</b> Neutral		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity:</b> Neutral		
<b>Other policy considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Poverty:</b> Neutral		
<b>Rurality:</b> Neutral		

**Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)**

**Any other information**