

The proposed addition of Specialist Support
Centres within West Sussex

CONSULTATION

Consultation ends 6th March 2020





Introduction

The County Council has been developing a new Education and Skills Strategy to support the inclusion of all children and young people, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This strategy builds on the SEND strategy for 2016-2019 and the outcomes of the 2018 Ofsted/CQC SEND Local Area inspection.

The new SEND and Inclusion Strategy for West Sussex 2019-2024 has been co-produced during the spring term 2019, with a wide representation of stakeholders, indeed more than 150 people have participated in the development workshops and events. The stakeholders have included parent carers and young people as well as education providers and other professionals from across social care, health and education to ensure it relates to other County Council strategies.

This booklet explains the proposals for the addition of four new Specialist Support Centres (SSC's) and the re-designation of an existing S. WSCC, in its role as commissioner of school places, is working in partnership with the schools by co-ordinating this consultation exercise on their behalf. The individual governing bodies of each of the schools concerned will take the final decision.

We value your ideas and comments on these proposals, urge you to read this document and respond to us with your views by completing the response form at the back of this booklet or on-line via www.westsussex.gov.uk/sscphase2 We will pass your thoughts to the relevant schools for their consideration. Your opinions are important to us all and will influence how and where school places are provided.

Nigel Jupp

**Cabinet Member for Education and Skills (and Deputy Leader)
West Sussex County Council**

Proposals

School	Need	Additional Planned Places from September 2021
Felpham Community College, Bognor Regis	Social Communication Needs	12
Ifield Community College, Crawley	Social Communication Needs	18
Maidenbower Infants, Crawley	Social Communication Needs	12
St Margaret's CE Primary, Angmering	Social Communication Needs	12
West Park CE Primary, Worthing	Re-designation from Additional Learning Needs to Social Communication Needs and expansion with an increase in planned places	4 (Total 14)
Total Additional Places		58

Pupil numbers – a national issue

West Sussex County Council has been closely monitoring the number of pupils across the country and this number has been rising for the last five years including the number of pupils with SEND.

Pupil numbers – the picture in West Sussex

West Sussex is not excluded from this rise and the County Council has been working alongside schools in recent years to expand the number of places available. The needs of children with SEND is becoming more complex. There is a shortage of specialist planned places, locally to meet demand for places.

Depending on the requirements of the Educational Health and Care Plan, children will require a place in a mainstream school, SSC or maintained Special School. In recent years, the requirement for SSC and Special School placements has increased significantly and projections indicate that this trend will continue. Additional capacity is therefore required in both SSCs and Special Schools to enable children to have a school place close to home to reduce revenue costs of Out County placements in the Independent and Non-Maintained Sector and costly home to school transport costs.

The SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019-2024 which sets out how the County Council will support the inclusion of all children and young people, with a particular focus on those with SEND.

The vision is that all children and young people in West Sussex will, irrespective of their learning needs or abilities, gain the skills and confidence to live well in their community. They will be supported and nurtured through an educational system that responds to their circumstances and prepares them for adulthood.

Within the Strategy three priorities have been identified:

- Knowing our children and families well (an inclusive, person centred approach).
- Meeting the needs of our children and young people through our schools, educational settings and services.
- Working together towards solutions (collective responsibility).

As part of the new strategy, a review of existing specialist provision has been undertaken. In addition, the number of children with SEND that are educated in placements out of the county as their needs are not able to be met in maintained schools or academies has also been reviewed. Increasing provision for children and young people with SEND through the creation of additional places in SSCs will assist with the aim of enabling children to attend school locally.

Best Start in Life: the proposal will positively impact on the outcomes for children and young people with SEND and enable them to be educated locally. It is also a key part of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019 - 2024.

The needs of children with SEND are also becoming more complex and this is driving increased financial pressures across the system. There is a shortage of local specialist educational provision to meet need, particularly in relation to Social Communication Needs and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs. This is resulting in the County Council needing to increase the number of children educated in specialist placements with independent providers. There is also an increased demand for top-up funding across all settings.

There is a lack of capacity within mainstream schools to provide a graduated response to additional needs. Many schools are facing financial pressures and therefore do not have the capacity to provide additional support to pupils. As a result, this is driving up the demand for more specialist education services, as children with low level SEND who could potentially attend mainstream schools are being educated in more specialist provision. This is coupled with an increase in the number of pupils being excluded and the need to provide costly alternative provision.

A number of schools were approached to explore opportunities for the development or expansion of SSC places based on geography and identified need; the potential for development (available land) and the interest from the school in having or expanding such facilities.

There has been a positive response to increasing provision for children with SEND from a range of stakeholders including West Sussex Parent Carer Forum during the consultation process undertaken as part of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy in the summer of 2019.

Communication and Interaction (Social Communication Needs)

Within the code of practice (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>), communication and interaction is defined as follows:

Paragraph 6.29

'Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them, or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile for every child with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.'

Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others. Communication and interaction needs could include:

- difficulties with producing or responding to expressive or receptive language
- difficulties uttering speech sounds
- difficulties understanding spoken and other communications from others
- difficulties with understanding age-related social conventions of interaction, such as turn-taking during conversations or appropriate level of physical contact during play.

What is proposed?

Felpham Community College, Bognor Regis



Area of SEND - Social Communication Needs

Number of planned places – 12 places

Felpham Community College is a mixed comprehensive secondary school on the south coast in West Sussex. It is a community school run by the local authority. The school has a commitment to ensure teaching and support staff can identify and respond to unexpected difficulties that students may face. In summer 2017 the school was awarded Level 2 / Gold Award as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. (Excerpt from school website.)

Ifield Community College, Crawley



Area of SEND - Social Communication Needs

Number of planned places – 18 places

Ifield Community College is a mixed comprehensive in the north of West Sussex. It is a community school run by the local authority. The school embraces students from all backgrounds and places importance on teachers to take the time to understand the needs of each student, whether they are already doing well or needing extra support. The school strives to ensure every individual achieves their best. (Excerpt from school website.)

Maidenbower Infant School, Crawley



Area of SEND - Social Communication Needs

Number of planned places – 12 places

Maidenbower Infant School is a three-form infant school for 4-7 year olds in the north of West Sussex. The school is a Rights Respecting School (based on the principles of the UNICEF Rights of the child) and embodies these within their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) curriculum. The school recognises that an educationally inclusive school is one in which teaching and learning achievements, attitudes and well-being of every child matter. The school believes that every child is unique and brings with them a range of skills and abilities. (Excerpt from school website.)

St Margaret's CE Primary School, Angmering



Area of SEND - Social Communication Needs

Number of planned places – 12 places

St Margaret's CE Primary School is a 4-11 mixed primary Church of England voluntary aided school in the south of West Sussex. As an educationally inclusive school St Margaret's is one in which the teaching and learning achievements, attitudes and well-being of every child and adult matters. We take practical steps to promote tolerance and understanding of diversity, thus preparing the child for life in a multi-cultural society. (Excerpt from school website.)

West Park CE Primary School, Worthing



Re-designation from Additional Learning Needs to Social Communication Needs – plus additional 4 places (Total 14)

Number of planned places – 14 places
(This may be available from September 2020)

West Park CE Primary School is a 4-11 mixed primary Church of England controlled school in the south of West Sussex. The school has operated an SSC for additional learning needs. The school values each and every member of its school family. The school places a strong emphasis on achieving the core curriculum and also learning to be creative, independent and adaptable. (Excerpt from school website.)

Who is being consulted?

This consultation booklet is being sent electronically to all parents/carers, school governors, teachers and support staff who work at the schools identified for expansion. Copies are also being sent to headteachers of the neighbouring schools in the localities, local councils, MPs, Church Dioceses, leaders of the early years facilities, community groups, unions and professional associations. Copies will also be available at local libraries.

There will also be a separate consultation about the design of any new buildings particularly with residents local to the school sites as part of the usual planning application procedures.

Following the end of the consultation period on 6th March 2020 responses will be analysed and used to inform the governing bodies of each school for schools to take decisions on whether to proceed.

What would any new buildings look like?

West Sussex County Council has considerable experience of school building and we would expect the architects commissioned to look at best practice across the County and nationally and draw upon the advice of the headteachers, governors and staff at the schools. There will also be opportunities for consultation with parents, pupils and neighbouring residents as part of the planning application process. All schools identified have sufficient site to allow for expansion and every effort will be made to minimise disruption for pupils, parents and neighbouring residents during building works, for instance scheduling as much work as possible during school holiday periods.

Transport implications and safe routes to school

As part of the process, schools will be expected to provide and, if necessary, revise school travel plans. Advice will be given by the Safer Routes to School team (part of the Transport Planning Service at West Sussex) to support the schools. Schools will be fully involved in the process of identifying problems regarding routes to school and potential solutions. Concerns relating to this can be raised as part of the planning process which is subject to a separate consultation at a later date and must take place before planning permission can be granted.

Impact on staff and pupils Expansions of schools do not require in themselves reorganisation of staffing structures. Disruption for existing staff and pupils from any building works will be kept to a minimum and the schools and local authority will try to ensure that staff are supported and retained through the process. Teaching staff and classroom assistants will be recruited as and when required by the schools.

School budgets

School budgets are calculated using a range of factors, the most significant of which is the number of pupils. An increase in pupil numbers would result in an increase of the budget in line with associated costs. Headteachers, governors and the local authority will continue to work together to ensure that schools have the right amount of funding to support the proposed number of pupils. 'Growth funding' is specifically targeted at expanding schools in the first year.

Preferred Options

The options set out in this booklet are the County Council's *preferred* options following full discussions with the schools involved. If you have sound educational reasoning why these options are not the best, please include them in your response.

How to make your views known?

1. Complete the online survey on our 'Have Your Say' website
www.westsussex.gov.uk/sscphase2
2. Contact Oliver Lane-Smith
Email: oliver.lane-smith@westsussex.gov.uk
Tel. 0330 222 3105
3. Complete the response form at the end of this booklet and return via your nearest school or by post to:

School Organisation Team
Ground Floor
Northleigh
Chichester
PO19 1RH

Questions & Answers

If you have any questions you would like answered before responding, please ask directly in school or to Oliver Lane-Smith as above.

Timescales for consultation

The consultation will run from 3rd February January until 6th March. Your comments will be collated and analysed before being passed to the relevant governing body at the end of the consultation. The governing bodies will then consider the responses and make their decisions. A separate planning consultation then takes place to consider build and design.

Due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on school proposals, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses or enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. A list of frequently asked questions will be made available to view online and will be updated throughout the consultation period.

Privacy Statement

The School Organisation Team will use this survey to collect personal or special category data in order to fulfil a statutory duty. The data will be processed in accordance with the 2018 Data Protection Act, the General Data Protection Regulations and any subsequent data legislation. All data will be anonymised and used for statistical analysis before being forwarded to each individual school for further consideration. The County Council will securely store consultation data electronically for a period of up to 5 years before being destroying it appropriately. West Sussex County Council is registered as Data Controller (Reg. No. Z6413427). For further details and information about our Data Controller, please see www.westsussex.gov.uk/privacy-policy.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please insure you have read the consultation document before completing the survey
- Children and young people under the age of 13 need the consent of a parent / carer to participate
- There is a separate section for each of the schools included in this consultation, Survey participants can choose to comment on one school or as many school proposals as they wish
- Please complete the last section (About You), If you do not wish to provide an answer, please select 'prefer not to say'. The County Council asks 'About You' questions to help it monitor the effectiveness of its consultations. The data provided also helps the County Council to meet its Public Sector Equalities Duties under the 2010 Equalities Art.

The results of the survey will be anonymised and summarised to remove any personally identifiable details and made available on the West Sussex County Council website.

1. Please provide your postcode, including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH

2. Are you under the age of 13? If so, you will need parental/carer consent from your parent/carer to participate. Please provide their contact details in the boxes provided below so that we can contact them if we need to:

Name of parent/carer:

Contact telephone number for parent/carer providing consent:

3. Are you responding as....? (please select all that apply)

A parent/carer
Staff member
Governor
Local resident
Student/Pupil
Other

If you are Parent/Carer how many children do you have and how old are they?
Please write in

Pre-school (ages 0-4)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 or more
Primary (ages 4 - 11)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 or more
Secondary (ages 11 -18+)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 or more

Felpham Community College

1 Please indicate whether you are (please tick one box only for each question)

- In support of a new Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school
- Object to the proposed Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school
- Neither support nor object to the Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school

2. How much do you agree this school is centred on the needs of the children and learners?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

3. If you have any further views you wish to express about this school or the issues raised above, please use the space below to do so.

Please provide your postcode, including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH

Ifield Community College

1 Please indicate whether you are (please tick one box only for each question)

- In support of the Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school
- Object to the proposed Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school
- Neither support nor object to the Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school

2. How much do you agree this school is centred on the needs of the children and learners?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

3. If you have any further views you wish to express about this school or the issues raised above, please use the space below to do so.

Please provide your postcode, including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH

Maidenbower Infant School

1 Please indicate whether you are (please tick one box only for each question)

- In support of the Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school
- Object to the proposed Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school
- Neither support nor object to the Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school

2. How much do you agree this school is centred on the needs of the children and learners?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

3. If you have any further views you wish to express about this school or the issues raised above, please use the space below to do so.

Please provide your postcode, including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH

St Margaret's CE Primary School

1 Please indicate whether you are (please tick one box only for each question)

- In support of the Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school
- Object to the proposed Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school
- Neither support nor object to the Specialist Support Centre (SSC) at the school

2. How much do you agree this school is centred on the needs of the children and learners?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

3. If you have any further views you wish to express about this school or the issues raised above, please use the space below to do so.

Please provide your postcode, including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH

West Park CE Primary School

1 Please indicate whether you are (please tick one box only for each question)

- In support of the re-designation of the SSC within the school
- Object to the re-designation of the SSC within the school
- Neither support nor object to the expansion of the school

2. How much do you agree this school is centred on the needs of the children and learners?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

3. If you have any further views you wish to express about this school or the issues raised above, please use the space below to do so.

Please provide your postcode, including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH

About You

The County Council asks the 'About You' questions to help it monitor the effectiveness of its consultations and to help undertake an equalities analysis in order to meet its Public Sector Equalities Duties under the 2010 Equalities Act.

It is only for these reasons that you are asked to provide the information below and the data you provide will be separated from both the respondent details and the response comments.

You do not have to provide this information if you do not wish to. In this case, please choose the 'Prefer not to say' option.

1. How old are you?
 - 12 or under - please do not answer any further questions unless parental consent has been given
 - 13-16
 - 17 - 24
 - 25 - 44
 - 45 - 64
 - 65 plus
 - Prefer not to say
2. Are you?
 - Male
 - Female
 - Prefer not to say
3. Is your gender the same as the assigned to you at birth? Please select one option only.
 - Yes
 - No
 - Prefer not to say
4. Ethnicity – what is your ethnic group?
 - White
 - Mixed/multiple ethnic groups
 - Asian/Asian British
 - Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
 - Other ethnic group
 - Prefer not to say

5. Religion - What is your religion?
- Buddhist
 - Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant)
 - Hindu
 - Jewish
 - Muslim
 - Sikh
 - Any other religion
 - Unknown
 - No religion
 - Prefer not to say
6. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?
- Yes, limited a lot
 - Yes, limited a little
 - No
 - Prefer not to say
7. What is your sexual orientation?
- Heterosexual
 - Bisexual
 - Gay or Lesbian
 - Other
 - Prefer not to say