



## **CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SPECIALIST RESOURCED PROVISION AT BRIAR HILL INFANT SCHOOL**

### **Introduction**

This consultation is being undertaken to advise you of proposals concerning Briar Hill Infant School and to invite you to tell us what you think of the proposals. This is part of a statutory consultation process that Warwickshire County Council is managing in partnership with the Governing Body. The proposal is:

- To establish specialist resourced provision at Briar Hill Infant School from September 2024.

### **Background**

In order to meet forecast demand and build on the local offer of specialist provision the local authority is continuing the development of specialist resourced provision across the county whereby pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP), who are able to access a mainstream curriculum, can have their needs met and benefit from being located within a mainstream school environment.

The main growth and investment continues to be in specialist provision for pupils with communication and interaction needs and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties. The demand for specialist educational provision is expected to continue to rise.

Warwickshire has 16 SEND resourced provisions connected to mainstream primary schools, with two in North Warwickshire, five in Nuneaton and Bedworth, five in Rugby, one in the Warwick/Leamington area, and three in the Stratford upon Avon area.

### **The Proposal**

#### **Why are the governors and Warwickshire County Council proposing this?**

Warwickshire County Council have identified a need for specialised provision across the county, that offers a bridge between mainstream and specialist provision, and have targeted sites that can widely serve the community to provide support to children.

The specialist resourced provision at Briar Hill Infant School will support pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) whose primary needs are communication & interaction. These pupils will benefit from accessing education at a mainstream primary school through a flexible approach, tailored and adapted to their needs.

Currently, Briar Hill Infant School operate a specific internal SEND provision for up to 4 pupils. In conversations with Warwickshire County Council, the governing body have decided to formalise this provision through a statutory process to establish a



specialist resourced provision from September 2024 and extend the number of places to 8 from September 2026.

### **What impact will this provision have on the education of the children currently at the school?**

There will be no impact on the children of the school, their learning and lessons will not be affected. Additional staff will be employed, and the staff of the specialist resourced provision will be skilled and trained practitioners in supporting children with communication and interaction needs.

### **Will there be increased traffic at the beginning and end of the school day?**

The provision's day will start later and end earlier than that of the main school so the impact of any additional traffic from the specialist resourced provision to and from the school site will be minimal.

### **How will the specialist resourced provision be accommodated in the school?**

The proposal is to utilise an existing space within the school to house the specialist resourced provision which will require no further capital investment.

The new specialist resourced provision space and surrounding area will allow for the provision to be located on the main school site and provide a safe and secure learning space for this cohort of learners.

### **How will the specialist resourced provision work?**

The proposed resourced provision would cater for primary aged pupils who have significant additional needs requiring specialist support, but who have the cognitive ability to benefit from a mainstream curriculum.

The intention is that children would initially be supported full-time in the base before accessing increasing amounts of time in the main school.

WCC are also in discussions with the Governing Body regarding establishing specialist resourced provision at St Margaret's CE Junior School to further support the transition from year 2 to year 3 for pupils in the provision.

## **Admission and Pupil Numbers**

The proposal is for the specialist resourced provision to cater for up to 5 pupils in a temporary space until the permanent accommodation (currently occupied by a bulge class) becomes available in September 2026, at which point the specialist resourced provision will increase its numbers to 8 places.

Admissions to the specialist resourced provision follow a different procedure from that operating for the rest of the school. Admissions into the specialist resourced provision will be through the Warwickshire County Council High Needs Provision Panel.



The establishment of the specialist resourced provision will not impact on the school's current total capacity of 270 pupils across Reception to Year 2.

### What is the proposed timetable?

- **1<sup>st</sup> March 2024:** The County Council's Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning gave approval for the proposal to go out for consultation
- **11<sup>th</sup> March – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024:** A 6-week consultation with parents and other interested stakeholders to take into account the views expressed regarding the proposals.
- **9<sup>th</sup> May 2024:** If Cabinet agree to the proposals, the decision will be implemented for September 2024.

### Have Your Say...

As an integral part of this process, we are inviting you to take part in this consultation. We welcome your views on the proposed changes raised and all viewpoints will be taken into account as part of the decision-making process

Feedback can be given in the following ways:

- Online: by completing the consultation survey <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/>
- By Email: [schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk)
- In writing: School Organisation & Planning, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL.

You can request a paper copy of the survey by telephone (01926 745101) or email ([schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk)) and return it to the postal address above. You can also request an alternative format this way. Deadline for comments is **19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

*Following the end of the consultation we shall publish the results and this may include quotes of comments which will be anonymous. If you reply to an anonymous survey then no personal details will be captured. If you would like further information, visit our website: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy) or contact our Customer Service Centre on 01926 410410*