

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SPECIALIST RESOURCED PROVISION AT ABBEY CofE INFANT SCHOOL

Introduction

This consultation is being undertaken to advise you of proposals concerning Abbey CofE 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 educational provision for children with special educational needs in the form of resourced (specialist) provision for up to 8 primary aged pupils, principally in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, with communication and interaction needs at Abbey CofE Infant School

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, who are cognitively able to access the curriculum, can have their needs met and benefit from being located on site alongside a mainstream school environment. The main growth and investment has been 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, with the level of demand anticipated to be highest in Nuneaton & Bedworth and Rugby.

There are currently 12 resourced provisions attached to mainstream primary provision in Warwickshire – 2 in North Warwickshire, 3 in Nuneaton & Bedworth, 3 in Rugby, 1 in Warwick and 3 in the Stratford on Avon area.

The Proposal

Warwickshire County Council is proposing to establish a specialist provision for up to 8 primary aged pupils, principally in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, diagnosed with communication and interaction needs at Abbey CofE Infant School. If approved, the provision would be implemented for September 2023.

Abbey CofE Infant School is a 2FE infant school, with an Ofsted rating of 'Outstanding', with 180 places for children aged 4-7 years.

The specialist resourced provision at Abbey CofE Infant School will support pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan whose primary needs are communication and interaction. These pupils will benefit from accessing education at a mainstream primary school through a flexible approach, tailored and adapted to their needs.

The build proposal is to refurbish a classroom space by extending the existing square footage by removing the partition to the side of the room and installing a full height partition to extend the existing space to incorporate a kitchen / nurture area.

The work will also include installing a new door to the rear of the classroom for easier access to outdoor spaces. There will also be a new sensory room built to provide a calm space for pupils.

Admission and Pupil Numbers

The proposal is for the specialist resourced provision to cater for up to 8 pupils initially. This number may be reviewed in the future.

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 180 across Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

What is the proposed timetable?

- 14th April 2023: The County Council's Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning gave approval for the proposal to go out for consultation
- 26th April – 24th May 2023: A 4-week consultation with parents and other interested stakeholders to take into account the views expressed regarding the proposals.
- 15th June 2023: If Cabinet agree to the proposals, the decision will be implemented during academic year 2023/24.

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
- 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) and return it to the postal address above. You can also request an alternative format this way.

Deadline for comments is **24th May 2023**.

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 or contact our Customer Service Centre on 01926 410410