



CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSALS TO INCREASE CAPACITY AND ESTABLISH SPECIALIST RESOURCED PROVISION AT ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Introduction

This consultation is being undertaken to advise you of proposals concerning St John's Primary 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 school's Governing Body. The proposal is:

- 1) To increase the capacity of St John's Primary School by 210 pupils. This would mean St John's Primary School would move from a one form entry (1FE) primary school (210 pupils) to a two-form entry (2FE) primary school (420 pupils)
- 2) To establish educational provision for children with special educational needs in the form of resourced (specialist) provision for up to 14 primary aged pupils with Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) needs at St John's Primary School.

Background

Current and proposed housing development in Kenilworth Town is forecast to increase reception cohorts and applications to other year groups over the next five years. It is proposed to increase the number of primary places in Kenilworth to meet forecast demand through the expansion of St John's Primary School from one form entry (210 places) to two form entry (420 places).

In order to meet forecast demand and build on the local offer of specialist resourced provision (SRP), the local authority is continuing the development of SRP's across the county whereby pupils, 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.

There are currently 16 SRP's attached to mainstream primary provision in Warwickshire – 2 in North Warwickshire, 5 in Nuneaton & Bedworth, 5 in Rugby, 1 in Warwick and 3 in the Stratford on Avon area.

The Proposal

1) To increase the capacity of St John's Primary School by 210 pupils.

St John's Primary School is currently a 1FE primary school, with an Ofsted rating of Good, with 210 places for children aged 4-11. The school also have a 22 place nursery providing places for children aged 3-4 years.

It is proposed to increase the number of places for children aged 4-11 from 210 to 420 places.

In recent years, St John's Primary School have accommodated several additional temporary reception and in year classes within their existing accommodation at the request of Warwickshire County Council to alleviate the pressure on school places in the local area. It is proposed to build on this existing capacity and increase the number of permanent places at the school to 420.

The Published Admission Number would increase from 30 to 60 pupils on entry at Reception. If approved, it is proposed to gradually increase the number of places at the school from 30 to 60 from Reception in September 2024.

2) To establish specialist resourced provision at St John's Primary School.

Warwickshire County Council is proposing to establish an SRP for up to 14 primary aged pupils diagnosed with Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) needs at St John's Primary School. All pupils attending the SRP will have an Education, Health and Care Plan. These pupils will benefit from accessing education at a mainstream primary school, where appropriate, through a flexible approach, tailored and adapted to their needs.

Admissions to the SRP follow a different procedure from that operating for the rest of the school and places will be allocated through the Warwickshire County Council High Needs Provision Panel.

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. At present children are either at risk of not attending school, as a special school is not appropriate for them, or they are being transported to independent specialist provision out of county which results in young children being transported great distances each day.

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 SRP will be skilled and trained practitioners in supporting children with SEMH 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 SRP to and from the school site will be minimal.

Building consequences

Capital works are required to ensure sufficient classroom and ancillary space to support the increase in pupil numbers and to provide a dedicated teaching and learning space for the SRP. This additional classroom space could be achieved through extensions to the existing building. If the proposal is approved, a planning application will need to be submitted to put in place the accommodation requirements.

What is the proposed timetable?

- 8th September 2023: The County Council's Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning gave approval for the proposal to go out for consultation
- 2nd October – 29th October 2023: A 4-week consultation with parents and other interested stakeholders to take into account the views expressed regarding the proposals.
- 14th December 2023: If Cabinet agree to the proposals, the decision will be implemented for academic year 2024/25.

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: Access to Education, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL.

You can request a paper copy of the survey by telephone (01926 742058) 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 **29th October 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