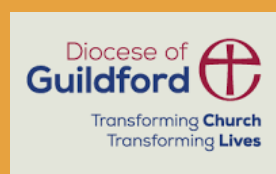




Consultation on a proposal to establish a specialist base at Send C of E Primary School



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Local authority details

Local Authority	Surrey County Council
Address	Woodhatch Place 11 Cockshot Hill Reigate Surrey RH2 8EF

School details

Name of School	Send C of E Primary School
Category of School	Primary
Type of School	Voluntary Aided
URN	125218
Address	Send Barns Lane, Send, Woking, Surrey
Postcode	GU23 7BS

Consultation on the proposed establishment of a specialist base at Send C of E Primary School

We are consulting you about a proposal to establish a specialist base for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) at Send C of E Primary School.

If the proposal was agreed, it would mean that a specialist base would be opened in January 2027 at Send C of E Primary School. It is proposed that there would be 28 places for pupils with autism from Year R to Year 6. All pupils on roll in the unit would have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). There are no changes to the school's current mainstream arrangements or places needed because of this proposal.

Background

Surrey context

Between 2026 and 2029, SCC anticipates sustained growth in the number of children and young people with EHCPs across all educational settings. Surrey has the highest use of non-maintained independent (NMI) placements compared to statistical neighbours. The need to create additional specialist places is driven by a need to reduce the number of pupils without a school place or who have to travel out of county and/or to an NMI provision.

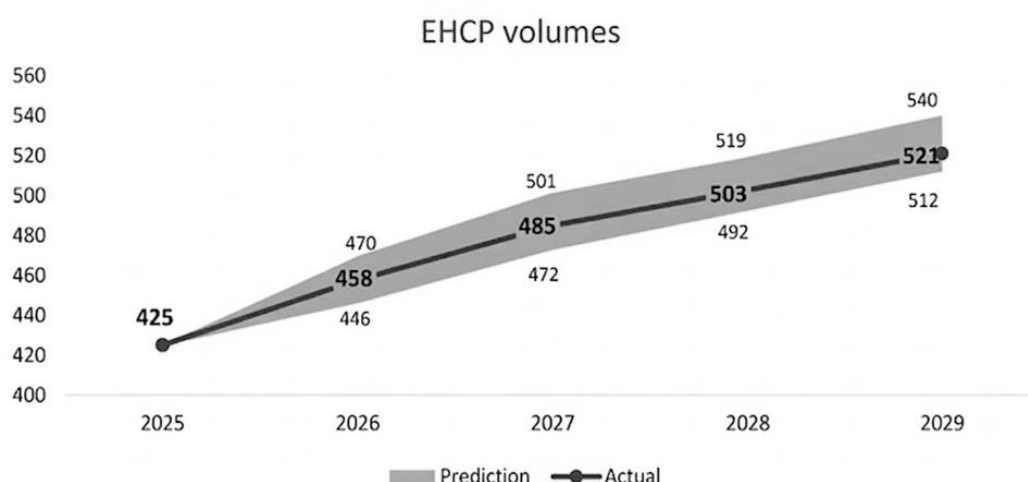
On 24 February 2026, Surrey County Council approved the use of Surrey's 2025/26 High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) Grant, totalling £16.14 million, to deliver projects that will create at least 220 new specialist places with 123 available for the 2026/27 academic year. The refocusing of the SEND & AP Capital Programmes were endorsed at the meeting with an aim to meet immediate demand and increase specialist places by working with education settings to create additional specialist provision using unoccupied spaces in mainstream schools. The establishment of a specialist base at Send C of E primary school was one of the projects approved for funding on 24 February, subject to the outcome of this consultation and Cabinet Member decision.

Surrey County Council continues to face significant pressure on SEND sufficiency despite substantial capital investment in recent years. As of January 2026, the specialist education estate is operating above capacity, with maintained and academy special schools at over 105% occupancy.

DfE national policy direction places increased emphasis on inclusive practice and improved capacity within mainstream schools which includes resourced provisions and units and, in the future, inclusion bases. "*SEND reform: putting children and young people first* - GOV.UK" proposes to introduce inclusion bases to replace the current terms SEN unit, resourced provision, and pupil support unit.

Mid-range forecasts project that the number of pupils with an EHCP who need a place at a specialist base in a mainstream school in West Surrey is expected to rise by 23%, from 425 pupils in 2025 to 521 pupils in 2029. Of these, 45% of the pupils have Autism (ASD) recorded as the primary need in their EHCP.

Graph 1 – forecasted number of EHCPs in West Surrey from 2025 to 2029



Alongside this, it is predicted there will be a 16% increase in the number of pupils attending maintained specialist schools and a 33% increase in the reliance on non-maintained and independent schools. Creating additional specialist school places and establishing specialist bases in mainstream schools will seek to reduce the reliance on non-maintained and independent schools.

Send C of E Primary School

Send C of E Primary School is currently a two-form entry (2FE) primary school in the borough of Guildford in Surrey. The school's 'Good' rating was confirmed by Ofsted following an ungraded inspection in November 2024. The school currently provides a mainstream education to pupils aged 4 to 11 and has recently consulted to reduce its mainstream Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 60 to 45, as there are fewer mainstream pupils requiring places in the local area; which will take effect from September 2027. Table 1 shows the number of pupils currently on roll in each year group across the school.

Table 1: Number of pupils on roll at Send C of E Primary School

Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
44	40	53	46	52	53	46	334

Source: Send C of E Primary School, 9 June 2026

How would this proposal work?

The proposed provision would be known as a **specialist base**. This follows recent Department for Education (DfE) guidance which replaces the term 'SEN unit' to provide greater clarity for parents and carers. A specialist base is a dedicated space within a mainstream setting, specifically commissioned by the local authority to provide targeted, specialist support for pupils with EHCPs.

It is proposed that a new specialist base would be established at Send C of E Primary School to provide a total number of 28 places for pupils aged 4 to 11 years with autism. There would be no change to the mainstream published admission number (PAN) of 45 as the 28 pupils within the new specialist base would be admitted above the mainstream published admission number (PAN).

All pupils placed at the specialist base by Surrey County Council would have an EHCP specifying the school as an appropriate placement to meet their individual needs. Further details on the admissions process for SEND specialist provision in Surrey can be found on the [Surrey Local Offer website](#).

The school would receive funding per pupil per year for each agreed planned place commissioned. The school would also receive a “top up” sum for each pupil on roll at the specialist base, appropriate to the needs of individual children.

Table 3: Proposed growth model for specialist base at Send C of E Primary School

Academic year and intake		Key stage one (Years R, 1, 2)	Key stage two (Years 3, 4, 5 ,6)	Total
2026/27	January 2027	8	8	16
2027/28	September 2027	10	10	20
2028/29	September 2028	12	16	28

The specialist base is proposed to open in January 2027 with an initial intake of 16 pupils, increasing up to 20 places in September 2027, and reaching its final intended capacity of 28 places by September 2028. While the table outlines an indicative balanced split across the primary phases, it should be noted that the final number of places allocated per year group or key stage may vary. This allows the intake to be adapted responsively based on localised demand and the specific needs profile of pupils.

What does this proposal mean for children?

The proposed new specialist base is designed to complement and enhance the existing school community, ensuring no detriment to the educational provision, resources, or accommodation available to current mainstream pupils. The entire school population will benefit from a more inclusive and diverse learning environment, fostering greater social awareness and empathy among peers. Furthermore, the co-location of specialist staff will facilitate the sharing of expertise, specialised pedagogical strategies, and professional development opportunities across the wider school. This collaborative approach will enrich quality-first teaching practices, thereby benefiting mainstream pupils, particularly those with additional learning needs in mainstream classrooms.

For children with an EHCP who are allocated a place within the provision, the base will offer a dual benefit: access to a highly specialist, tailored curriculum alongside meaningful integration into mainstream school life. Pupils will receive targeted, individualised support in a dedicated, communication-friendly environment staffed by specialist practitioners. Simultaneously, structured opportunities for partial integration into mainstream lessons, assemblies, and social activities will be provided in accordance with each child’s assessed needs and developmental milestones. This model ensures that pupils with more complex needs receive the appropriate intervention required to achieve their outcomes, while remaining active members of their local school community, reducing home-to-school travel times, and enabling them to attend school alongside local peers.

What does this proposal mean for staff?

The new provision would be run and overseen by a SEND Manager. Each class will have a teacher and be supported by Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) and Learning Support Assistants (LSAs). The school would recruit according to its usual recruitment processes and procedures.

Would there be any changes to the school buildings?

The proposed specialist provision will be accommodated on the ground floor of the existing teaching block located in the south-west corner of the school site. This location allows the specialist base to operate as a dedicated, self-contained space with its own direct access to external areas, while remaining fully integrated with the main school. The project requires no new construction; instead, it will involve the internal refurbishment and reorganisation of existing spaces to meet specialist design guidelines. Dedicated drop-off arrangements and site access will also be established via the south-east corner of the site, with all internal and external works subject to the relevant planning and highways permissions.

It should be noted that the reorganisation of space for the specialist base does not compromise the school's ability to accommodate a full 2FE mainstream intake should local demand increase in the future.

What happens next?

This is a public consultation on the proposal to establish a specialist base at Send C of E Primary School from January 2027.

The consultation begins on 22 June and will end on 20 July 2026.

There are a number of ways you can respond to the consultation, and these are set out below. We will also hold a public meeting for families, local communities and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and get your input and feedback. Anyone who wishes is welcome to attend the meeting, and you do not have to have a child at the school to attend.

The meeting will take place at the school on:

Thursday 2 July 2026 at 6:30pm

A number of organisations are also available locally to support families of children who have special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND) and young people who have SEND to share their views. Please see [Information, Advice and Support – SEND Advice Surrey](#).

The Council will consider all the views put forward during this consultation period before publishing specific proposals, or 'Statutory Notices', that are required by law. This is a further period for comments or representations, which lasts for 4 weeks during school term time, and a final decision would then be taken by Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning. The anticipated timeline for this proposal is shown in the table below (dates may be subject to change).

Timeline

Date	Event
22 June to 20 July 2026	Consultation on proposal
2 July 2026	Public meeting at the school
1 September to 29 September 2026	A statutory notice is published for a 4-week term-time representation period
October 2026	Responses to the consultation and Statutory Notices are considered by the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning and a final decision on the proposal is made
4 January 2027	Resource Base at Send C of E Primary School is opened

How do I respond to this consultation?

You can respond:

- Online at [Consultation on a proposal to establish a specialist base at Send C of E Primary School](#)

or

- by completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document. You can either:
 - email the form to schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk
 - print it, complete it and send it back to:

Send C of E Primary SEND Proposal
Education Place Planning
Woodhatch Place
11 Cockshot Hill
Reigate
RH2 8EF

All responses must be received by 5pm on 20 July 2026.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please email schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk.