

## Amalgamation of Starhurst School (community special school) with Chart Wood School (community special school)

### **Statutory proposal for the closure of Starhurst School (community special school)**

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that Surrey County Council intends to discontinue **Starhurst School** with effect from 31 August 2017. This proposal is related to the local authority's proposal to make the following prescribed alterations to Chart Wood School in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alternations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

- to increase the total pupil numbers at Chart Wood School to 105 pupils from September 2017
- to transfer all pupils to a new site at RH5 4DB (the current Starhurst Site), anticipated to be from September 2019 once the capital scheme has been completed.
- Once the transfer to a new site is complete there will be a reduction of residential places to 24.

The closure of Starhurst School reflects one half of the process of amalgamating the two schools, with the enlargement of premises and increase in pupil numbers at Chart Wood reflecting the other essential step in this respect.

#### **Contact details**

##### **Name and address of local authority publishing the proposal:**

Surrey County Council, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DN

##### **Name, address and category of school proposed to be discontinued:**

Starhurst School (community special school), Chart Lane South, Dorking, RH5 4DB

##### **Contact details during statutory representation period:**

Julie Beckett, School Commissioning team, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2DN  
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#### **Implementation**

##### **Date on which it is proposed to close the school:**

31 August 2017

##### **Reason for closure**

Surrey County Council, in partnership with the governing body of the School, is proposing that Starhurst School and Chart Wood School amalgamate to become one special school based across two sites from September 2017.

It is proposed to implement the amalgamation through the closure of Starhurst School (community special school) and a prescribed alteration by enlarging the premises to increase the number of pupils at Chart Wood School (community special school).

All children on roll at either school as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 will automatically continue to have a place at Chart Wood School.

### **Pupil numbers and admissions**

#### **The numbers for whom provision is currently made at the school:**

Starhurst School currently has 50 planned places for young men with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties from Years 7 to 11 (aged 11 to 16). In addition to day school places the school also has residential provision available on the site. Appropriate pupils will continue to access the day and residential provision at Chart Wood School using the current processes for pupils with Education Health Care Plans.

### **Displaced pupils**

This proposal forms part of an amalgamation, and therefore no pupils at the school will be displaced. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017, pupils currently at Starhurst School will have places at Chart Wood School.

However, the current Starhurst school site is subject to a new building programme to develop a purpose built special school for 105 places for pupils with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, together with 24 residential spaces. This newly built school will accommodate pupils that are currently attending both the Starhurst and Chart Wood sites. The newly built Chart Wood School is scheduled to be completed in September 2019. In the interim period pupils currently attending the Starhurst site will be 'decanted' to another site, either Chart Wood or an alternative site in the Redhill or Reigate location, which is over 3 miles from the Starhurst site.

### **Impact on the community**

Starhurst and Chart Wood Schools provide for similar special educational needs provision and serve a similar geographic area. It is anticipated that there will not be any adverse impact on the communities.

### **Special educational needs provision**

The aim of the amalgamation is to create one outstanding special school for pupils with SEMH needs based in the south-east quadrant of Surrey but accessible to pupils from across the county. Currently both schools offer provision to pupils with this type of need and are located relatively close to each other.

Upon the retirement of the previous headteacher at Starhurst the existing headteacher at Chart Wood has been acting as an Executive Head across both schools. Starhurst School is one of the smallest specialist schools in Surrey and has been undersubscribed, leading to vacant places and latent unused capacity which has caused significant financial challenges in sustainability, alongside providing resources to develop outstanding provision.

Rationalising the arrangements would combine the good practice from both schools into one larger school, which is more sustainable in the longer term. This would be supported by a capital investment programme to develop outstanding accommodation in which to support the good educational outcomes for this disadvantaged group of pupils.

### **Travel**

Both schools are located relatively close to each other in the South East quadrant of Surrey. Many pupils already travel into both schools by taxi and this is likely to continue. The amalgamation may provide an opportunity to seek more effective transport solutions in the future.