

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS:

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, that Surrey County Council, intends to make a significant change to **Freemantles School** by expanding the school to 270 places.

School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Freemantles School
Smarts Heath Road
Mayford Green
Woking
GU22 0AN

School type: Community special school

Surrey County Council, Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking, GU22 7QQ

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

The proposals are planned to be implemented from 1 September 2021. The number of pupils on roll will increase incrementally each year, with 9 additional places available from 1 September 2021. It will reach its full capacity of 270 places by September 2028.

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
 - (a) the date by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
 - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

This is a four week consultation, which begins on 13 May 2021 and concludes 17

June 2021. Any person may agree, object to or make comments on the proposals by sending representations to Surrey County Council (SCC).

The consultation and online response form can be accessed through SCC's Surrey Says website:

www.surreysays.co.uk

Alternatively, written representations can be sent via email or post, as below:

Email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

FAO Lauren Comer, Education Place Planning Team, Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking GU22 7QQ

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and, in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

Surrey County Council is proposing that Freemantles School expands to 270 places from September 2021. The school is currently set up to operate in Reception Year to Year 11 with 9 pupils in each year group or equivalent to one form of entry at the school. In Years 12 to 14, 8 pupils are in each year group. This makes a notional permanent capacity on that basis of up to 132.

To meet the demand for places in agreement with the County Council the school has admitted additional pupils at reception into a bulge classes for a number of years. This proposal formalises temporary bulge classes already in place at primary level (Years R to 6), where the school is currently operating at 18 pupils in each year group in two classes. The enlargement will enable the school to accommodate two classes or two form of entry classes totalling 18 pupils at secondary and sixth form level (Years 7-14), allowing pupils to transition through the school.

The proposal will provide an additional 72 places at secondary level, that is, 9 in two classes for each year group from Years 7 to 14. This will provide overall permanent accommodation for 270 pupils. The main point of intake will remain at Reception year and the expansion will utilise space on the school's current site.

Freemantles School works with children and young people with Complex Social Communication Needs and / or Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC).

Alongside a comprehensive induction, CPD and INSET training programme, the school has developed in-house trainers and experts in key, evidence based interventions. They are able to:

- support pupil well-being and promote learning
- train, mentor, and role model the intervention to staff, parents and interested people within the community
- be on hand to support with questions issues or difficulties that staff have with the intervention.

This enables all staff across the school to feel more fulfilled in their work

The key interventions that the school supports in this way are:

- Behaviour
- Intensive interaction
- Structured teaching
- Augmented communication
- Attention Autism
- Social Stories and Comic Strip conversations

The school mission is for Freemantles School and the community, especially parents and carers, to work together to challenge each individual pupil to achieve as much as they can in their:

- Emotional wellbeing
- Communication
- Social understanding
- Independence
- Functional academic progress

in order that they are able to live contented lives participating actively in society.

The curriculum is based upon achieving this mission. The school offers access to the range of National Curriculum subjects, whilst also focussing on this broader curriculum. A key feature is the learning in the community that is offered, which helps develop the ability to generalise the skills learnt in school into practical situations in the community.

The school has access to a wide range of facilities:

Indoor

- Primary soft play
- Primary sensory room
- Swimming / training pool
- School hall
- Food Technology room
- Sensory circuit room
- A small room and external space exclusively for the use of each class base
- Design Technology / Science room
- Art room
- Individual learning spaces for children and young people not coping with the classroom space at the current time

Outdoor

- Trim trail
- Multi-use games area (MUGA)
- Cycle track
- Outdoor gym and sensory equipment
- School field
- Environmental area
- Music playground
- Forest Schools Village area
- Animal Care area

- Horticulture area
- 4 larger playground areas
- 12 Minibuses

The curriculum is designed based on individualising learning for pupils. Therefore, the curriculum is designed from the child's starting point. Pupils have access to Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) on site regularly.

Some pupils may find being part of a class challenging, so a range of different approaches and strategies are put in place to ease these difficulties. Sometimes these pupils can be taught separately for a period of time with the goal of working towards reintroducing them back to the class.

Freemantles works exceptionally closely with parents and families to support the children at home as well as at school and to communicate closely with them, together with the EHCP to inform our target setting, assessments and reviews of progress through individual education plans, annual reviews, teacher reports and assessments of expectations

Freemantles is committed to working closely in partnership with all other professionals in the best interests of the children and families they support. This is achieved through completing (challenging and escalating, if necessary) referrals, organising invitations to or attending the appropriate meetings.

Freemantles has a hugely successful Outreach Service into all Surrey primary schools in the west of the county, currently supporting over 1,000 children, and more recently also supporting into Early Years providers too. The school also co-runs a specialist centre provision with a local primary school.

The school offers a wide range of training, developmental programmes, and conference speakers to parents and professionals who wish to access this service. They also run an annual Autism conference, bringing internationally renowned speakers into the locality.

The proposed alteration would mean that:

- Freemantles School would be able to continue to provide outstanding education to the children and young people currently attending the school, and to the additional pupils from September 2021 onwards.
- The school would continue to have vital outdoor facilities that could be offered to all these pupils.
- There would be the opportunity for access to more soft play and sensory facilities for the primary-aged pupils.
- There would be significant improvement to the offer of secondary and FE pupils with access to:
 - An opportunity to create the bigger step of 'moving' to the next school and having new expectations, still in a nurturing way
 - Separate transport and turnarounds
 - Separation of the secondary and FE provision
 - There would be opportunities to offer training on site – accessed without disruption to pupils and for twilight training sessions.

School capacity

5. (1)

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Current capacity:

Freemantles School offers all-through education from Years R to 14. The school currently admits 9 pupils into each year group in Years R to 11, with 8 pupils into each year group from Years 12-14. This gave a total planned place number of 132.

Proposed capacity after the alteration:

From 1 September 2021, it is proposed that the school admits 18 pupils into each year group across all national curriculum years (Reception to Year 14). This will give the school a new planned place number of 270.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The school currently admits 9 pupils per year group in Year R to 11 and 8 pupils in Years 12 to 14.

For September 2021, the school will admit 18 pupils in Year R. The other existing year groups will remain as they currently are, as detailed above.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

The table below shows the growth of the school each academic year until the new full capacity of 270 is reached. Numbers at the expanded school will grow incrementally and will take into account the additional pupils already attending the school in the temporary bulge classes at primary level (Years R to 6). It is expected that the expanded school will reach its new full capacity of 270 by September 2028.

Years	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Totals
2020/21	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	198
2021/22	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	207
2022/23	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	9	9	9	9	9	9	216
2023/24	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	9	9	9	9	9	225
2024/25	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	9	9	9	9	234
2025/26	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	9	9	9	243
2026/27	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	9	9	252
2027/28	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	9	261
2028/29	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	270

(d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not applicable

(2) A statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

Year Group	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
	18	18	18	18	18	18	17	9	8	9	10	6	10	7	6	190

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

The statutory proposal would be determined by Surrey County Council and implemented by the Governing Body of Freemantles School. The building works to enable this proposal will be delivered by Surrey County Council.

Additional Site

7.— (1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No additional site is required in order to facilitate these proposals.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or

leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not Applicable

Changes in boarding arrangements

8. (1)

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

Not Applicable

- (b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

Not Applicable

- (c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

Not Applicable

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

Not Applicable

(2)

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

Not Applicable

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

Not Applicable

Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

The school will remain on its existing site.

(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

Not Applicable

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

Not Applicable

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

Not Applicable

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site;
and

Not Applicable

(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

Not Applicable

Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

The proposal to expand the school is in response to the increased demand for specialist placements for pupils with a primary need of ASC. The demand for maintained specialist school places in Surrey has grown significantly over the past 4 years from 2,859 planned places in 2017-18 to 3,477 planned places in 2020-21 and increasing again to 3,513 in 2021-22.

The expansion of Freemantles School will help to meet the longer term projected demand for this type of need.

Developing and maintaining high quality specialist provision in Surrey is vital to ensure appropriate placements for the county's most vulnerable children and

young people who have complex SEND and require specialist educational provision.

SCC's Cabinet has approved a total SEND capital investment of £79.6m which will create 1,600 additional specialist school places in Surrey towards the total projected demand. This proposal is just one of the projects named in the strategy to meet the increased demand for specialist places across the county.

Consultation

- 11.** Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
 - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
 - (c) the views of the persons consulted;
 - (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
 - (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

An explanatory consultation document has been made available to the public via the Council's website: www.surreysays.co.uk

All appropriate parties have been made aware of this proposal, inclusive of the Governing Body of the school. A public meeting was held at virtually via Microsoft Team on Tuesday 16 March 2021.

The following people have been made aware of the proposals: parents/carers of children attending the school; employees and Governors of the school; relevant unions; local residents; other local schools; local borough and county councillors; and the School Admissions Forum.

The consultation received 38 responses, with 33 agreeing with the proposal, 3 disagreeing and 2 stating that they don't know.

Project costs

- 12.** A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The capital investment approved by Cabinet in September 2019 for this project is £9.9m and will be funded through Surrey County Council's SEND Capital Budget.

- 13.** A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State and/or local education authority that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

[Surrey County Council - Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 26 January 2021, 2.00](#)

[pm \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](http://pm.surreycc.gov.uk)

PLACEMENT VALUE AND OUTCOMES: DEVELOPING LOCAL SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) PROVISION TO MEET DEMAND IN SEPTEMBER 2021 (Item 12) RESOLVED:

1. That the strategy is agreed and the use of £11.5m of the total approved SEND Capital Funding of £79.6m be approved in principle for a programme of adaption and refurbishment of SCC owned assets and maintained schools in Phase 3 of the SEND capital programme to create 400 additional specialist school places in Surrey for September 2021.

2. That delegated authority to agree individual projects and resources is given to the Cabinet Member for All Age Learning and Cabinet Member for Resources, subject to a detailed business case for each scheme.

Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

Not Applicable

Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

(a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

Not Applicable

(b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

Not Applicable

(c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

Not Applicable

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

Not Applicable

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

Not Applicable

Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

Not Applicable

- (b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

The increase in post 16 numbers amounts to 30 students. This will bring the school's post 16 provision in line with the rest of the expanded school. The increase in pupil numbers will increase the capacity in the area for young people with Complex Social Communication Needs and / or Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) aged 16 to 19 years.

- (c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

Not Applicable

- (d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

54 places across Years 12 to 14 (18 places per year group)

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

Not Applicable

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

Freemantles School provides special educational provision for pupils aged 4-19 years who have complex ASC and an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This school designation is known locally in Surrey as Complex Social and Communication Needs (CSCN).

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

The expansion will provide:

- Additional soft play and sensory rooms
- A new Food Technology room
- Creation of a creative arts space
- A new life skills room
- A new common room

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

The proposed expansion will provide a total of 72 additional places of which 9 will be available from September 2021.

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

The proposed additional places will be funded through the Local Authority allocation of High Needs Block (HNB) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Current place funding is £10,000 per place plus Top Up funding and Individual Pupil Support Budgets (IPSB) where appropriate. Existing funding and provision for pupils currently attending the school will remain the same.

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

Not Applicable

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

The expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated school budget which will include the additional funding the school will receive as a result of admitting additional pupils, except for therapies which are funded from a centrally managed DSG budget.

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

Not Applicable

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

Not Applicable

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

Not Applicable

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

Not Applicable

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

Not Applicable

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

Not Applicable

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

Not Applicable

20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

Not Applicable

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

Not Applicable

(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

Not Applicable

(c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

Not Applicable

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

(a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

Not Applicable

(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

Not Applicable

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school’s extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

Not Applicable

Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

(a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Since 2015, the number of children with an EHCP who live in Surrey and require a specialist school place has increased by 73%. Latest projected sufficiency modelling indicates increasing demand across all age groups for ASC special school provision. For North West Surrey, projections show a 25% increase in demand over the forecast period up to 2027.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

Not Applicable

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

Not Applicable

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

Not Applicable

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Not Applicable