

Statutory proposal for making prescribed alterations at Bradwell Village School, Germander Park School, Priory Common School, Southwood School and Romans Field School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) and the ‘[Making significant changes \(‘prescribed alterations’\) to maintained schools – Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers](#)’, January 2023, that **Milton Keynes City Council** proposes to make the changes listed below to five schools in the local authority area.

Schools and local authority details:

Proposer: Access to Education, Employment and Training, Milton Keynes City Council, Civic, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ

School	School status and age range	Ofsted rating	Proposed change and description of alteration
Bradwell Village School Walgrave Drive Bradwell Milton Keynes MK13 9AZ	Community 7 to 11 years	Good (Sept 2023)	Addition of an ASC unit with an eventual capacity to accommodate up to 24 children from September 2024
Priory Common School Scatterill Close Bradwell Milton Keynes MK13 9EZ	Community 4 to 7 years	Good (Dec 2019)	Addition of an ASC unit with an eventual capacity to accommodate up to 6 children from September 2025
Romans Field School Shenley Road Bletchley Milton Keynes MK3 7AW	Community special school 5 to 11 years	Good (Oct 2023)	Change of age range from 5 to 11 years to 5 to 16 years to support a specific secondary pathway for children with ASC from September 2024
Germander Park School 1 Germander Place Conniburrow Milton Keynes MK14 7DU	Foundation 2 to 7 years	Good (June 2023)	Addition of an ASC unit with an eventual capacity to accommodate up to 16 children from September 2024
Southwood School Bryony Place Conniburrow Milton Keynes MK14 7AR	Foundation 7 to 11 years	Good (May 2023)	Addition of an ASC unit with an eventual capacity to accommodate up to 24 children from September 2024

Evidence of demand

Due to an increasing number of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) both locally and nationally, and as a result of analysis carried out and reviewed by a Special School Place Planning Group, various options to manage future demand for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) have been developed and considered within the sector.

Between 2015/16 and 2022/2023 the total number of children with an EHCP has increased by 548. This trend of an increasing number of children with an EHCP is expected to continue. Over 60% of the increase in total EHCPs are for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). The total number of EHCPs for children with ASC has increased by 85% from 2015. As a result of this growth, and continued future projected growth, it was determined that additional ASC places are required in the system. Providing additional ASC capacity in the above schools allows children to access suitable provision more locally, reducing the potential requirement for placement outside of Milton Keynes travelling time helping children to develop alongside peer groups from the local community. Development of unit provisions will enable schools to have more specialist provisions on site, allowing for staff to be better supported to meet the needs of children and young people across mainstream schools.

Objectives

- Delivering additional ASC provision means that the city council will be able to meet current and projected future demand. The schools delivering the additional units are all rated 'Good' by Ofsted in their most recent OFSTED inspection.
- Ensuring that all children have access to local provision to meet their assessed needs.
- Enabling as many children as possible to stay in local provision within Milton Keynes.
- Reduce the need for children to access places outside of Milton Keynes, aiding in reducing the impact on the School Travel Support (STS) budget, supporting to minimise the cost to the High Needs Block and ensuring holistic value for money.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area

Admissions for children with an EHCP are coordinated by the SEND team who place children according to their type of need and age. There are insufficient places available for children with ASC currently and projections indicate that there is a clear need to increase the number of places locally to meet future demand. As such these proposals will not have a negative impact on other educational establishments locally but instead will positively benefit the entire local system by ensuring that children are able to be placed locally in provision that best meets their needs.

Admission arrangements

There will be no change to the admission arrangements and the published admission number (PAN) at Bradwell Village School, Priory Common School, Germander Park School and Southwood School. Children admitted to the unit provision are not included within each school's PAN. Romans Field School is a special school and therefore does not have a published admission number. There will be no change to the admission arrangements of the school.

Project costs and how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The total costs for any changes required to adapt existing accommodation to ensure it is fit for purpose, has been initially explored and any required costs are to be funded through a combination of existing High Needs Provision Capital Allocations and developer contributions.

Ensuring sufficient places for children with ASC means that as many children as possible are placed in provision within Milton Keynes thus reducing costs to the high needs block and School Travel Support and ultimately is better value for tax payers money.

Implementation plan

This statutory proposal ends on 3 June 2024. Following this, officers will consider any comments received and the council's Cabinet Member for Children and Families will take a delegated decision on 2 July 2024 on whether to proceed with the proposal. If the decision is to implement the proposal, Bradwell Village School, Germander Park School and Southwood School will start to admit children to the new provision from September 2024. The age range at Romans Field School will change from 5 to 11 years to 5 to 16 years from September 2024 to support a specific secondary pathway for children with ASC from September 2024. It is expected that Priory Common School will be able to provide additional capacity from September 2025.

How to respond to the statutory proposal

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (7 May 2024) any person may support, object or make comments by completing the online form or by sending an email to sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk or in writing to:

Access to Education, Employment and Training
Milton Keynes City Council
Civic
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Milton Keynes
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