

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND****STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PUPILS AT  
SUNNINGDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL****Local Authority Proposals and Contact Details**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Sunderland City Council, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN to:

- Increase the number of pupils at **Sunningdale Primary School, currently located at Shaftoe Road, Sunderland, SR3 4HA** from 108 places to 120 places with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

Sunningdale Primary School is a special primary school maintained by Sunderland City Council.

The current school building is based at Shaftoe Road, Sunderland. The school accommodates 108 primary aged children and has a 16-place nursery.

Sunningdale Primary School is proposed to relocate to a new school building in September 2022. The new building will be based at a site at the junction of Doxford Way and Silksworth Road in the St Chad's Ward, Sunderland. It is proposed that the new building will have the capacity for 120 primary aged children and 16 nursery children. As the proposed new school site is within two miles of the current site there are no statutory school organisation requirements associated with the proposal to relocate the school.

This proposed increase of capacity for primary aged children at the new school represents an increase in excess of 10% of the current capacity. However, it should also be noted that the current Sunningdale buildings are operating above capacity.

**Reason for the Enlargement / Increased Capacity at Sunningdale Primary School**

Sunningdale Primary School is operating above capacity in all year groups. Building Bulletin 104 identifies that classes for primary aged children with Severe Learning Difficulties should accommodate between 6 and 8 children. The demand for special educational needs places, from within the city and neighbouring authority areas, has led to a gradual recruitment above that number, with the school currently operating class sizes of between 9 and 11 pupils. Based on current estimations the school is five class bases short of the capacity required to meet the needs of those currently on roll at the school.

In addition to this, demand for primary Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) provision continues to grow. As an outstanding school parental demand for places at Sunningdale Primary School is particularly high. However, given the current school building is operating over capacity, the Council has neither the capacity nor additional support resources within Sunderland to support this ongoing oversubscription.

This proposal seeks to expand Sunningdale Primary School, at a new site at the junction of Doxford Park Way and Silksworth Road. The new school will have the capacity to accommodate those currently on roll in appropriate class sizes, will increase the support resources for the pupils at the school and will increase the capacity of the setting by a further 12 pupils in order to meet the demand for local placement of a greater number of local pupils.

### **Effect on other Schools, Academies and Educational Institutions in the Area**

Sunningdale Primary School is the city's sole SLD/ PMLD/ Physical Disabilities (PD) provision for primary aged pupils in Sunderland. The current oversubscription, and consequential inability to place any additional children at the school has led to a small number of pupils remaining in their mainstream school place while they wait for a vacancy to arise at Sunningdale. While Sunderland's schools and academies endeavour to meet the needs of all pupils it is recognised that those with high levels of needs cannot always have their need fully met within a mainstream setting, even with enhanced support. Increased capacity at Sunningdale will reduce the time it takes to place children. This will reduce the pressure on other, non-specialist mainstream schools and academies and enable the more appropriate allocation of resources in those settings.

### **Project Costs**

The costs associated with the increased capacity at Sunningdale Primary School are contained within the wider £13.6m project budget allocated towards the provision of a new school building at the site at the junction of Doxford Way and Silksworth Road.

### **Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

The proposal will increase the capacity at Sunningdale Primary School by 12 places in the primary year groups. There will be no change to the nursery capacity.

There will be no change to the existing admissions criteria at Sunningdale Primary School post expansion. Within Sunderland places will continue to be commissioned through existing Education Health and Care Plan processes.

### **Displaced Pupils**

There will be no pupil displacement because of this proposal. Pupils currently attending Sunningdale Primary School will continue on roll at the current school while the new school is developed and, once complete, will move to the new school site.

### **Impact on the Community**

The city will benefit from the availability of increased specialist primary school places. This will result in more parents and carers within the city benefiting from the opportunity to access a specialist primary school place at an outstanding school.

### **Balance of Denominational Provision**

There will be no impact on the balance of denominational provision as the school does not have a religious character.

### **Special Educational Needs Provision (SEND)**

Sunningdale Primary School is designated as a primary SEND provision for children with Severe Learning Difficulties, Multiple and Profound Learning Difficulties and Physical Disabilities. This proposal will increase the capacity of the school, and therefore the city's capacity in the above areas.

### **Travel**

The Council has considered the impact of travel within this proposal. Most children who attend Sunningdale Primary School, and who will attend the new school site, are eligible for home to school transport and will continue to access this support.

### **Consultation**

An informal (pre-publication) consultation upon the proposals took place during the period 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The consultation included both questions specific to the submission of a planning application for the new school building and questions specific to the school organisation requirements associated with the proposal to increase the capacity of a special school setting by 10% or greater.

This proposal addresses the increase of capacity at the provision and therefore consideration is limited to responses relating only to school organisation. Responses associated to the design of the building and site layout are included within the full planning application for the new school building, submitted in December 2020.

Consultees recommended in the relevant statutory guidance were consulted via a Consultation Document that was made widely available on the Council's website and the website of Sunningdale Primary School. Consultees included parents, staff, pupils, the local ward councillors, local residents and staff representatives (unions).

The wider consultation received 40 responses. Of those 36 responded to the question 'Do you agree with the proposal to increase the capacity of Sunningdale Primary School from 108 to 120 places'. 89% of the responses agreed with the proposal.

## **Submission of Objections and Comments on Proposal**

A copy of this proposal can be viewed on the Sunderland City Council website at

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13038/School-organisation-consultations>

It can also be requested via:

E-mail: [alan.rowan@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:alan.rowan@sunderland.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0191 5611372

Post: Retained Education Functions Lead, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN.

Within four weeks of the Publication Date below, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations:

*By e-mail to: -*

[schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk)

*Or by post to: -*

*Alan Rowan*

*Retained Education Functions Lead*

*Civic Centre*

*Burdon Road*

*Sunderland*

*SR2 7DN*

Signed: Patrick Melia,  
Chief Executive,  
Sunderland City Council.

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