



Consultation on a proposal to open a Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) Unit at Broughton Community Schools

Proposal to open a Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) Unit at Broughton Community Schools

Buckinghamshire Council, with the support of the Governing Board of Broughton Community Schools, are seeking your views on our proposal to open a 16 place Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) Unit at Broughton Community Schools.

Over the last five years, the number of Special Educational Needs and Disabled (SEND) pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) has increased by 48% (1901 pupils). Current projections forecast a further 51% increase in the number of EHCP pupils over the next five years. The number of children with EHCPs for SEMH needs have nearly doubled in the last 5 years and demand is forecast to rise further.

As part of our SEND Education Sufficiency Strategy the Council sought expressions of interest from Schools interested in opening a primary age inclusion unit for children with Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) needs. Broughton Community Schools submitted an expression of interest to open a Unit to meet the demand for places and we are therefore proposing to open a SEMH Unit. This would be a 16 place Unit for pupils with SEMH needs as detailed in their Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). Only children whose EHCP stated they needed support from a unit would be admitted and admissions will be controlled by the Council's SEND team; parents would not be able to apply directly to the school for a place in the Unit. The 16 pupils would be in addition to the school's current Published Admission Number of 60.

What this means for pupils and staff at the school

A key aim of the Unit is to enable pupils to access a mainstream curriculum, whilst accessing specific specialist support. Pupils attending the Unit would spend most of their time based within the new Unit. The new Unit will be self-contained with its own outside play area. Pupils in the Unit will be able to join in with parts of the school day, where appropriate. Specialist teachers would be employed to manage the new Unit. All staff working in the Unit will have received specialist training on supporting children with SEMH needs. The Unit will be staffed with specialist teachers and learning support assistants; additional professionals will support the children depending on the needs of the children, such as a speech and language therapist, play therapist, an art therapist etc.

How the unit will be funded

The new Unit will be accommodated in the existing Year 4 classrooms at the front of the school. The existing classrooms will be remodelled to make them suitable for a Unit and the Unit will have its own dedicated entrance and outdoor play area. The Year 4 classrooms will be re-provided through the building of two new classrooms within the school site.

The cost of the refurbishment/new classrooms will be funded using government funding that has been made available for providing new/expanding existing SEND provision across the county.

Additional revenue funding would be provided to fund the Unit. It would therefore not have a detrimental impact on the school's existing revenue budget or impact on provision for pupils.

It is anticipated that works will commence on the Unit during Autumn 2026 and complete in August 2027. It is proposed that the Unit will open in September 2027 but for the first half of the autumn term the school will undertake outreach to the pupils to begin a process of familiarisation ahead of the pupils attending the Unit.

Opportunity to meet with us to discuss these proposals

We appreciate that this letter may raise questions for you relating to this proposal. A consultation briefing for parents/carers will be held on Thursday 26th March at 2.15pm in the Junior hall, where any questions can be raised.

Following this meeting parents/carers, local residents and any other interested parties are welcome to attend a drop-in session on Thursday 26th March 5-6.30pm to view the proposed plans for the building. Representatives from the Local Authority will be present at the meeting.

Timetable for these proposals

The proposed timetable below, which may be subject to change, sets this timeline and next steps out:

Start Date	End Date	Description
16 March 2026	26 April 2026	Six week informal public consultation
26 March 2026 2.15 pm		Parent briefing at the school
26 March 2026 5- 6.30pm		Drop-in session for all interested parties to view the plans
27 April 2026	15 May 2026	Consultation responses assessed and decision taken by Buckinghamshire Council and the Governing Body of Broughton Community Schools whether to propose opening a SEMH Unit.

20 May 2026	16 June 2026	Subject to the decision above: Publication of Statutory Notice and formal 4 week representation period
17 June 2026	11 August 2026	Buckinghamshire Council and School Governing Body review the responses from the consultation. Leader of Buckinghamshire Council in consultation with Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services takes a decision on the final outcome
Autumn 2026	August 2027	Works commence/complete on site.
1 September 2027		Subject to the outcome above, the SEMH Unit will open.

How to have your say

We want to hear your views on this proposal. The views of parents, pupils and the wider community will be considered by the Governing Body and Buckinghamshire Council when determining whether to publish a Statutory Notice.

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey at <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/>
- complete, and return, a printed version of the survey below
- email us at Broughton Community Schools SEND Unit Mailbox: BroughtonschoolsSENDconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

All documents and updates will also be available on the school website: [Home | Broughton Community Schools](#)

Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on 26 April 2026.

1. Do you agree with the proposal to open a Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) Unit at Broughton Community Schools?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

2. Do you understand why the proposal to open a Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) SEND Unit at Broughton Community Schools has been made?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If 'No' or 'I don't know', please tell us why:

3. If you think there is anything that has not been considered when developing the proposals to open a Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) SEND Unit at Broughton Community Schools, please tell us here:

4. If you have any other comments about the proposals to open a Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) SEND Unit at Broughton Community Schools please tell us here:

About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

5. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I am a parent or carer of a student at Broughton Community Schools
- I work at Broughton Community Schools
- I am a Governor for Broughton Community Schools
- I am a student at Broughton Community Schools
- I live near Broughton Community Schools
- I work at another local school in the area
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

6. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Letter from the school
- School staff briefing
- Local media (newspaper, radio, TV, website or newsfeed)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, Nextdoor or LinkedIn)
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Email or newsletter from Buckinghamshire Council
- Buckinghamshire Council staff or other professionals
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Poster or leaflet
- Friend or family member
- Local community or special interest group
- Councillor, town/parish council or community board

Other (please give details below):

7. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?

Please tick (✓) one option

As an individual (go to question 9)

On behalf of an organisation

On behalf of an organisation

8. Please provide the following details:

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation

More about you

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal information.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

9. What is your postcode?

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

10. What is your age?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

11. Are you:

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

12. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long-term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

13. How would you describe your ethnicity?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below

- Black - African
- Black - British
- Black - Caribbean
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below

- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below

- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller
- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below

- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below

- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

End of the survey

Your comments are important as we do not simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view when considering representations made on proposals.

Please email this questionnaire to:

BroughtonschoolsSENDconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Or post to:

The School Commissioning Team

Buckinghamshire Council

1st Floor Walton Street Office

Aylesbury

HP20 1UZ

before the closing date of 11:59pm on 26 April 2026