



Proposal to open a Cognition and Learning Unit at The Buckingham School

Open date: 16 March 2026

Close date: 26 April 2026

Name: School Commissioning

Email: BuckinghamSchoolSENDunitconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Overview

With the support of the School Governors of The Buckingham School, we want to hear your views on our proposal to open a Cognition and Learning Unit at The Buckingham School.

The unit would have eight places for children with Cognition and Learning needs as detailed in their Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Only children whose EHCP states they need support from a unit would be admitted and admissions would be controlled by the SEND team. Parents would not be able to apply directly to the school for a place in the unit.

These eight places would be in addition to the school's mainstream places. If agreed, the unit would open in January 2027.

Increasing need for Cognition and Learning support

Over the last five years in Buckinghamshire there has been a:

- 48% (1901 pupils) increase in the number of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabled (SEND) with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- 30% increase in the number of secondary aged pupils with Cognition and Learning needs

Over the next five years in Buckinghamshire we are expecting:

- a further 51% increase in the number of EHCP pupils
- the number of secondary aged pupils with Cognition and Learning needs to continue to rise

As part of our SEND Education Sufficiency Strategy the Council sought expressions of interest from schools interested in opening a secondary age inclusion unit. The Buckingham School submitted an expression of interest to open a unit to meet the demand for places and we are therefore proposing to open a Cognition and Learning Unit.

What this proposal would mean for pupils and staff at the school

A key aim of the unit is to allow pupils to access a mainstream curriculum, whilst accessing specific specialist support. Pupils attending the Unit would:

- spend most of their time based within the Unit (self-contained with its own outside play area)
- be able to join in with parts of the school day, where appropriate

Specialist teachers would be employed to manage the new unit:

- staffed by teachers and learning support assistants
- additional professionals to support pupils – including a speech and language therapist, occupational therapist and play therapist
- further professionals would be employed depending on the needs of the children
- all staff in the unit would be trained to support pupils who have Cognition and Learning needs

How the unit would be funded

The new unit would be accommodated in an existing drama room which would be refurbished to provide a dedicated classroom, a therapy room and a calm room.

In order to compensate for the loss of the existing drama room, the old lecture theatre will be refurbished to create a new multipurpose performance/drama space. The unit will have its own outdoor courtyard which would be refurbished as part of the planned works.

The cost of the planned works would 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 proposed that the works would commence on the unit during the summer 2026 and complete by the end of the year such that the new provision would

open from January 2027. Pupil numbers would be gradually increased each year – until reaching the total capacity of eight.

Related documents

Before you respond to this activity, please have a look at the following documents available at yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com:

- The Buckingham School Cognition and Learning Unit consultation letter

All documents and updates are also available on the school website

www.buckingham-school.org

Event to find out more

We are hosting a drop-in session for parents, families and any other interested parties to find out more about the proposals and discuss them with representatives of the school and local authority.

- **Public drop in event on Wednesday 25 March 2026 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm**
 - at The Buckingham School, London Road, Buckingham, MK18 1AT

How to have your say

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

- complete the online survey at yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com
- complete, and return, a printed version of the survey below
- email us at BuckinghamSchoolSENDunitconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

If you have any questions about this consultation, or require this information in another format or language, please email us at

buckingham-school-send-unit-consultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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

What happens next

With The Buckingham School Governing Board, we will consider all the responses we receive and take a decision on whether to proceed to the next stage and publish a statutory notice to open a Cognition and Learning Unit.

Statutory notice and representation period

If a statutory notice is published, there is a four week period in which you can make any further representations. If the decision is taken to proceed, we would expect the representation period to run from 20 May to 16 June 2026.

Final decision

The Leader of Buckinghamshire Council, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, would take into consideration any representations made before making a decision on the final outcome. We would expect this decision to be made in summer 2026.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. Survey responses will be analysed using Microsoft products including Copilot, Excel and Word. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

Printed survey

Opening a Cognition and Learning Unit at The Buckingham School

1. Do you agree with the proposal to open a Cognition and Learning Unit at The Buckingham School?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

2. Do you understand why the proposal to open a Cognition and Learning Unit at The Buckingham School has been made?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

Further comments

3. If you think there is anything we haven't considered when developing the proposal to open a Cognition and Learning Unit at The Buckingham School, please tell us here:

4. If you have any other comments about the proposal to open a Cognition and Learning Unit at The Buckingham School, 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 The Buckingham School
- I work at The Buckingham School
- I am a Governor for The Buckingham School
- I am a student at The Buckingham School
- I live near The Buckingham School
- 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.

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. 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

12. 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

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

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please return your completed survey by 11:59pm on Sunday 26 April 2026. You can:

- email it to
buckinghamsschoolsendunitconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- post it to The School Commissioning Team, Buckinghamshire Council, 1st Floor Walton Street Office, Aylesbury, HP20 1UZ