



Consultation on a proposal to open a Communication and Interaction (Autism) Unit at Iver Village Junior School, High Street, Iver, Buckinghamshire SL0 9QA

Proposal to open a Communication and Interaction (Autism) Unit at Iver Village Junior School, High Street, Iver, Buckinghamshire SL0 9QA

Buckinghamshire Council, with the support of the Governing Body of Iver Village Junior School, are seeking your views on our proposal to open a Communication and Interaction (Autism) Unit at Iver Village Junior School for pupils in Years 3-6 (Key Stage 2).

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 64% (2577 pupils). Current projections forecast a further 32% increase in the number of EHCP pupils over the next five years.

Children and young people with communication and interaction needs is one of the areas of need that has been rising most (1642 or 82% over the last 5 years) with projections forecasting a further increase of 1080 pupils or 30% over the next 5 years.

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 Communication and Interaction (Autism). Iver Village Junior School submitted an expression of interest to open a Unit to meet the demand for places and we are therefore proposing to open a Communication and Interaction (Autism) Unit. This would be an 8 place Unit for pupils with Communication and Interaction (Autism) 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 SEND team; parents would not be able to apply directly to the school for a place in the unit. The 8 pupils would be in addition to the School's current Published Admission Number of 55.

What would this mean 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 Autism. The Unit will be staffed by teachers and learning support assistants; additional professionals will support the children including a speech and language therapist and occupational therapist. Additional professionals will be employed depending on the needs of the children, such as a play therapist, an art therapist etc.

How would the unit be funded?

The new Unit would be accommodated in refurbished rooms at the front of the school. The Unit will have its own outdoor play area in the existing courtyard which will be refurbished as part of the planned works.

The cost of the refurbishment 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 proposed that works will commence on the Unit during the summer 2025 to enable the school to take some additional children under an additional resource provision until such time as a formal decision has been taken in relation to the Unit. If the proposal does not proceed the area will be continue to utilised by the School as a base for children with additional needs who are already at the school. Some of the works need to be undertaken during the holiday period and if these are not undertaken during the summer of 2025 that would mean the Unit would not be able to open until the January 2026.

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 Wednesday 16th July at 3.30pm at the School (Iver Village Junior School, High Street, Iver, Buckinghamshire SL0 9QA) 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 Wednesday 16th July 5-6.30pm at the School (Iver Village Junior School, High Street, Iver, Buckinghamshire SL0 9QA) 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
25 June 2025	5 August 2025	Six week informal public consultation
16 July 2025 3.30pm		Parent briefing at the School (Iver Village Junior School, High Street, Iver, Buckinghamshire SL0 9QA)
16 July 2025 5-6.30pm		Drop-in session at the School (Iver Village Junior School, High Street, Iver, Buckinghamshire SL0 9QA) for all interested parties to view the plans
5 August 2025	31 August 2025	Consultation responses assessed and decision taken by Buckinghamshire Council and the Governing Body of Iver Village Junior School whether to propose opening a Communication and Interaction Unit.
15 September 2025	12 October 2025	Subject to the decision above: Publication of Statutory Notice and formal 4 week representation period
13 October 2025	5 December 2025	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
January 2026		Subject to the outcome above, the Communication and Interaction 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 ivervillagejnrsendunit@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

All documents and updates will also be available on the school website: [The Iver Village Junior School - Home](#) Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on 5 August 2025.

1. Do you agree with the proposal to open a Communication and Interaction (Autism) SEND Unit for pupils in Years 3-6 (Key Stage 2) at Iver Village Junior School?

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 Communication and Interaction (Autism) SEND Unit at Iver Village Junior 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:

3. If you think there is anything that has not been considered when developing the proposals to open a Communication and Interaction (Autism) SEND Unit at Iver Village Junior School, please tell us here:

4. If you have any other comments about the proposals to open a Communication and Interaction (Autism) SEND unit at Iver Village Junior 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 Iver Village Junior School
- ☐ I work at Iver Village Junior School
- ☐ I am a Governor for Iver Village Junior School
- ☐ I am a student at Iver Village Junior School
- ☐ I live near Iver Village Junior 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.

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:

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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 ivervillagejnrsendunit@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 5 August 2025.