



Consultation on a proposal to open a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Unit and to close the Physical Disability (PD) Additional Resource Provision (ARP) at Juniper Hill School

Proposal 1:

Buckinghamshire Council, with the support of the Governing Board of Juniper Hill School, are seeking your views on our proposal to open a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Unit and close the Additional Resource Provision (ARP) at Juniper Hill School, Flackwell Heath.

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 50% (1805 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 and social, emotional and mental health needs is increasing most (1424 or 64% over the last 5 years) with projections forecasting a further increase of 1533 pupils or 42% over the next 5 years.

Our [SEND Education Sufficiency Strategy](#) identified the need for two, 12 place primary age inclusion units for children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs at a school to serve the Wycombe and Aylesbury area which have the highest incident of need.

To help meet this demand, we are proposing to open a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Unit at Juniper Hill School, High Wycombe. This would be a 12 place Unit for pupils with SEMH needs as detailed in their Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).

The 12 places would be in addition to in the existing school pupil numbers of 420.

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 who have experienced trauma and have insecure attachments. The Unit will be staffed with two teachers and learning support assistants; additional professionals will support the children including, a speech and

language therapist, occupational therapist and play therapist. Additional professionals will be employed depending on the needs of the children, such as, an art therapist etc. The staff working in the unit will have access to supervision.

Juniper Hill School staff would also have specialist SEMH training, as the children in the Unit will be part of the school. It's important all staff understand how to support children with SEMH needs - this level of expertise will benefit all children at the school not just in the Unit.

How would the unit be funded?

The new Unit would be accommodated in a new building within the school grounds. The proposal is to build the Unit on the former swimming pool area which is currently an unused part of the school site. Additional staff parking would also be provided.

The cost of the new building 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.

Proposal 2

Proposal to close the physical disability Additional Resource Provision at Juniper Hill School

The Council, with the support of the Governing Board of Juniper Hill School, are also consulting on a proposal to withdraw the Additional Resourced Provision (ARP) for pupils with a physical disability (PD) at Juniper Hill School.

The need for a primary PD ARPs across Buckinghamshire has decreased over the past five years. The ARP originally opened with a maximum number of 12 places for pupils but as demand decreased over the years this reduced to 7. There are currently 4 pupils attending the Juniper Hill ARP.

The Pupils in the ARP currently spend most of their time in mainstream classes (only attending the ARP facilities for individual support e.g. for therapeutic support) whereas pupils who will be attending the new SEMH Unit will spend the majority of their time in the Unit.

Having reviewed demand for places and the Council's on-going work to make sure it can offer the right provision for children with a range of SEND needs, it was considered that a physical disability ARP was no longer required at the school.

Children with a physical disability attending a mainstream school are increasingly able to access their local school with the benefits of being part of their local school community. With the delivery of new schools across the county and adaptations being made to existing schools more children are now able to be educated within their own communities as schools

have become increasingly able to meet the needs of pupils with a wide range of SEND needs. This has therefore reduced the number of children who have needed to be placed into PD ARPs across the county.

What would this mean for pupils in the ARP?

Pupils currently in the Juniper Hill School Physical Disability ARP would continue to receive the same level of support, as they currently receive, throughout their time at the school.

We would work closely with parents of children and young people in the ARP to make sure the proposed closure had no negative impacts on pupils.

Juniper Hill School would continue to offer places to children that have physical disability needs where they meet the school's admissions criteria

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 Tuesday 20th June at 3.45pm where any questions can be raised. The school will provide childcare for Juniper Hill children, if their parents/carers wish to attend this meeting.

Following this meeting parents/carers, local residents and any other interested parties are welcome to attend a drop-in session on Tuesday 20th June between 5pm and 7pm to view the proposed plans for the building. Representatives from the Local Authority and the architects 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
5 th June 2023	16 th July 2023	Six week informal public consultation
20 th June 2023 3.45pm		Parent briefing at the School
20 th June 2023 5pm – 7pm		Drop-in session for all interested parties to view the plans
17 th July 2023	1 st September 2023	Consultation responses assessed and decision taken by Buckinghamshire Council and the Governing Board of Juniper Hill School whether to propose closure of the PD ARP and to open an SEMH Unit.
11 th September 2023	8 th October 2023	Subject to the decision above: Publication of Statutory Notice and formal 4 week representation period
9 th October 2023	1 st December 2023	Buckinghamshire Council and School Governing Board 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
1 st January 2024	31 st August 2024	Subject to the outcome above, building works commence/finish.
31 st August 2024		Subject to the outcome above, the PD ARP Closes
1 st September 2024		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 Board 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 yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com
- complete, and return, a printed version of the survey below
- email us at juniper-hill-school-consultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

All documents and updates will also be available on the school website:
www.juniperhill.bucks.sch.uk

Please tell us your views by midnight on 16 July 2023.

Opening a Social, Emotional and Mental Health Unit at Juniper Hill School

1. Do you agree with the proposal to open a Social, Emotional and Mental Health unit at Juniper Hill 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 Social, Emotional and Mental Health unit 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 we haven't considered when developing the proposal to open a Social, Emotional and Mental Health Unit at Juniper Hill School, please tell us here:

Closing the physical disability Additional Resource Provision at Juniper Hill School

4. Do you agree with the proposal to close the physical disability Additional Resource Provision at Juniper Hill School?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

5. Do you understand why the proposal to close the physical disability Additional Resource Provision at Juniper Hill 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:

6. If you think there is anything we haven't considered when developing the proposal to close the physical disability Additional Resource Provision at Juniper Hill School, please tell us here:

7. If you have any other comments about the proposal to open a Social, Emotional and Mental Health Unit or close the physical disability Additional Resource Provision at Juniper Hill 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.

8. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I am a parent or carer of a student at Juniper Hill School
- I work at Juniper Hill School
- I am a Governor / Trustee for Juniper Hill School
- I am a student at Juniper Hill School
- I live near Juniper Hill 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):

9. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Letter from school
- School staff briefing
- Local media (newspaper, radio or TV)
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Buckinghamshire Council newsletter
- From Buckinghamshire Council staff
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Word of mouth
- Local Community Board
- Local Councillor
- Local Parish / Town Council or Town Committee
- Other (please give details below):

10. 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 12)
- On behalf of an organisation

On behalf of an organisation

11. 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, or you can skip all the questions by clicking 'Continue' at the bottom of the page.

12. 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.

13. 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

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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 midnight on Sunday 16 July 2023. You can:

- email it to juniper-hill-school-consultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- post it to School Commissioning Team, Buckinghamshire Council, 1st Floor, Walton Street Office, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UZ