



**Proposal for Prescribed Alterations (Maintained School)**

**Statutory Consultation on Proposals to Expand**

**Springwell Special School**



**SOUTHAMPTON**  
CITY COUNCIL

**People Directorate**  
**Children and Families Service Division**  
**Education and Early Years**

**(December 2014)**

## **Proposals for Prescribed Alterations (Maintained School)**

### **Published under Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013**

This proposal takes account of the Education Act 1996; the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013; the School Organisation Maintained Schools Statutory Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers (January 2014); the Education and Inspections Act 2006; the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Children and Families Act 2014 including the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

#### **In respect of the LEA Proposal: School and Local Authority details:**

##### **The name and address of the School:**

**Springwell Special School** (URN: 116620)  
(DfE Establishment Number 852/7035)  
Hinkler Road  
Southampton  
SO19 6DH

##### **The name and address of the Local Authority:**

**Southampton City Council** (852)  
Civic Centre  
Southampton  
SO14 7LY

##### **Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation:**

Pre-Publication Consultation took place between Monday, 13 October and Monday, 8 December, 2014 (8 Weeks: to take account of the October Half-Term).

This proposal was based on the consultation.

There will be 4 Weeks of Statutory Consultation from the date of publication of this proposal (Monday, 5 January, 2015) to Monday, 2 February, 2015 (4 weeks of school term time).

A final decision is expected on the proposal by 17 March, 2015.

There are several options being considered under this proposal and action beyond the consultation will depend on the outcome. The proposal is to have additional Special School Provision in place for September 2015.

### **Description of Alterations:**

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on Local Authorities to secure sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary school education and requires them to have particular regard to the need to secure special educational provision for pupils with special educational needs;

In order to ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential, it is proposed that Springwell Special School should expand from its current capacity of 112 pupils (80 on the main school site and 32 in Resourced Provision), to a capacity of 128 pupils (112 on-site places and 16 in Resourced provision) for September 2015.

The expansion would allow Springwell Special School to meet the current projected demand. No decision on the physical expansion of the school has yet been decided: it could be achieved via modular buildings on the current Springwell Special School site or the utilisation of land adjacent to Springwell Special School.

Admission and transport arrangements for pupils attending the school will not be affected by these proposals.

### **Additional Site:**

This proposal is for the notional rise in pupil places at Springwell Special School. No plans have yet been formed about how this rise would be accommodated. The Local Authority will consider various options including those mentioned above and any other options that may arise as a result of this consultation.

### **Evidence of Demand:**

Under clause 26 of the Children and Families Act 2014 on Joint Commissioning Arrangements, Local Authorities and their partner commissioning bodies must make arrangements about the education, health and care provision to be secured for children and young people for whom the authority is responsible who have special educational needs, and children and young people in the authority's area who have a disability.

"Education, health and care provision" means special educational provision; health care provision and social care provision.

Section 315 of the Education Act 1996 requires LAs to keep their arrangements for SEN provision under review.

At present there are five special schools in the city, each of which offers support for different age ranges and specific special education needs.

Springwell School works with children with Moderate and Severe Learning Difficulties, and with children with other needs, such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Children will have complex needs beyond that which can be met in mainstream schools. It has a Primary age range of 4-11. The school currently has 80 places on site, with an additional 16 pupils on roll at Springwell School but in co-located provision at Bassett Green Primary School and a further 16 additional pupils in resourced provision split between Thornhill Primary School and Mason Moor primary School.

The Southampton City Council School Organisation Plan (2014-2024) states that ‘over the last 3 years, an average of 1.3% of the City’s mainstream school population has attended a special school in the city’<sup>1</sup>.

The rise in Southampton’s total school population has therefore seen a parallel rise in the numbers of children with special educational needs. In particular there has been a rise in the number of children with Moderate and Severe Learning Difficulties and a significant rise in the number of pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

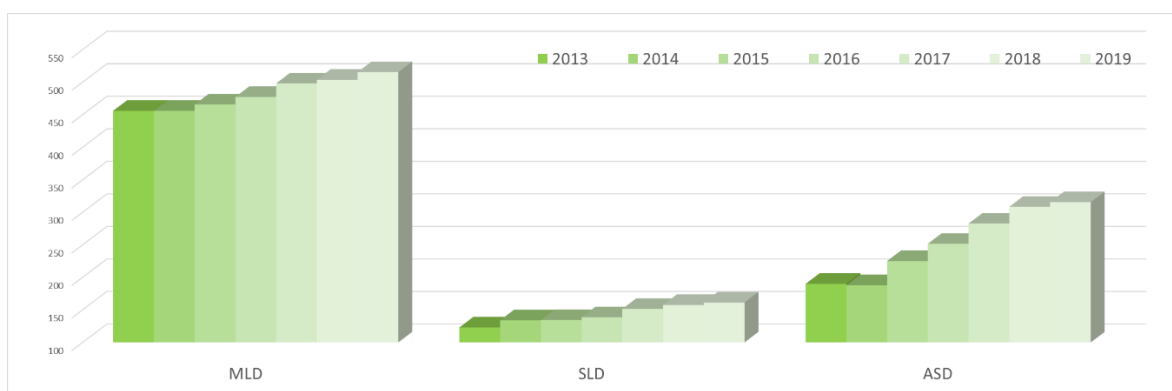


Figure 1. High level forecast of children by type of need in Southampton.

If the rise of the last few years continues then, as can be seen in figure 1, there is likely to be a rise in the numbers of children who need to access their education through Springwell School.

Southampton has also seen a resurgence in the numbers of children with special educational needs whose families wish them to attend a special school. This is due to the improvement over the years of special schools in Southampton and their focus on learning rather than just care.

The SEND Code of Practice 0-25 Years (July 2014) places a stronger focus on the participation of children and young people and parents in decision-making at individual and strategic levels.

The introduction of Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans may also have an effect on the number of students requiring specialist education.

<sup>1</sup> The figure of 1.3% is a catchall and may not give a clear picture of how many school places will be required, at what age group or for what need.

Pupil intake at Springwell School has been rising in recent years and there has been and continues to be pressure on numbers in Reception (Yr R). Additional places have been added with Springwell School's Yr R intake rising from five in 2011/12 to sixteen in 2013/14.

Having added places in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 and with pupil numbers set to rise, we are now proposing that on-site provision at Springwell School should expand to accept 16 pupils in each year group. This would mean the addition of 4 new classrooms at the School to bring their total on-site capacity to 112 pupils. This will not affect the current Resourced Provision at Thornhill Primary School and Mason Moor Primary School.

Expansion at Springwell Special School will be a step toward securing sufficient high quality places for children and young people with SEN in the Primary sector.

The additional places allow the Local Authority to meet its statutory duty of providing a school place to all young people who require one.

Further details about forecasting school places and school planning can be found in the Southampton City Council School Organisation Plan.

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/school-organisation-plan.aspx>

## **Objectives:**

The Local Authority is under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the City, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.<sup>2</sup>

The Education Act 1996 requires that Local Authorities secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice.

The expansion at Springwell Special School is intended to continue to provide children in Southampton with a high quality education and to provide parents with a choice of schools within the City.

There is a presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools (in all sectors). Southampton believes that all education provision should be of high quality provision at schools judged to be Good or Outstanding.

Springwell Special School was judged to be Outstanding in its last two Ofsted inspections. Indeed, all education provision for students with special educational needs in Southampton has been judged as Good or better in recent years.

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<sup>2</sup> School Organisation Maintained Schools Guidance January 2014

Southampton has seen a rise in the number of pupils with special educational needs. In particular there has been a recent rise in the number of children with the specific needs in which Springwell School specialises. The school already has additional capacity in three mainstream schools and is need of extra capacity, either on its own site or by increasing the off-site resourced provision.

Springwell Special School is accredited as a National Support School and provides on-going support, advice and training for both special and mainstream schools.

Southampton is committed to promoting integration between special educational provision, health and social care provision where this would promote well-being and improve the quality of provision, in line with the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

The proposed expansion at Springwell Special School is the first step in increasing provision for children of all ages with special educational needs across the City. The increase in pupil places at special schools will help the local authority develop and build our Local Offer: the provision we expect to be available in the area for children and young people for 0 to 25 who have special educational needs.

The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available; and
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving children and young people with SEND, parents and carers, and service providers in its development and review.

More information on Southampton City Council's Local Offer can be found on the Council's SEN Local Offer website at:

<http://sid.southampton.gov.uk/kb5/southampton/directory/localoffer.page>

### **Project Costs:**

The cost of future building works will depend on the final option taken to Cabinet, which will be based on feasibility studies, as well as the outcome of the consultation process to which this paper refers.

As indicated in the above section, it is expected that this new provision is likely to be located in new build accommodation. Prior experience of building a number of modular, 4-classroom blocks would indicate the cost of such a project to be in the region of £1.2m (inclusive of breakout space; admin area; parking space; and external play area). This figure would likely increase if the new provision were to be located on an entirely new site (owing to the fact that it couldn't share non-core classroom space with an adjoining school).

There are a number of additional design and regulatory processes that would also need to be completed, such as planning permission, etc. The public will have an opportunity to make representations on those detailed proposals and full plans in due course.

There are no Property or planning implications at this stage, although any future decision will necessarily have implications in this respect.

### **Consultation:**

Previous consultation on City wide Special Educational Needs and Disability provision has been ongoing and has included: Head Teachers; School Governors; the SEND team and Key Councillors.

The Local Authority will comply with all statutory requirements in relation to the proposal, including consulting all interested parties.

All stakeholders will be sent an email and/or letter notifying them of the consultation and providing information including a link to the consultation website and where to obtain copies of the full proposal. Copies will be made available at the school and by request from the Local Authority.

### **Copies of this draft proposal may be obtained from:**

[www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/school-consultations/](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/school-consultations/)

### **or by writing to:**

**Springwell School Expansion**  
**School Organisation and Strategy Manager**  
Children and Families Service  
Southampton City Council  
Civic Centre (North)  
Southampton  
S014 7LY

Any person may object to or comment on these proposals.

Any objections and comments can be sent to the above address or to [School.Organisation@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:School.Organisation@southampton.gov.uk)

The final date for submission of objections and comments under this statutory consultation is **2 February, 2015**.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of section 21(2) (f) The Education and Inspections Act 2006 the Local Authority is prescribed as the person who (subject to the provisions of Schedule 3 of The School Organisation (prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013) must consider and determine the proposals.



## Appendix 1

### The SEN Improvement Test

Section 39 of the School Organisation Maintained Schools, Annex B: Guidance for Decision Makers (January 2014) states:

In planning and commissioning SEN provision or considering a proposal for change, LAs should aim for a flexible range of provision and support that can respond to the needs of individual pupils and parental preferences. This is favourable to establishing broad categories of provision according to special educational need or disability.

#### Decision-makers should ensure that proposals:

<p><b>take account of parental preferences for particular styles of provision or education settings;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The proposals are to expand provision for children with special educational needs in line with current parental preference in Southampton.</li> <li>ii) The consultation will take into account the changing needs for specialist resourced provision in mainstream schools and will lead to improved support for primary aged pupils with special educational needs.</li> <li>iii) The availability of suitable provision would also increase choice for parents and pupils.</li> </ul>
<p><b>take account of any relevant local offer for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and the views expressed on it;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Southampton is committed to promoting integration between special educational provision, health and social care provision to promote well-being and improve the quality of provision, in line with the SEND Code of Practice 2014.</li> <li>ii) The consultation process will involve all interested parties and will take account of the Local Offer and all views expressed on it.</li> </ul>

<p><b>offer a range of provision to respond to the needs of individual children and young people, taking account of:</b></p> <p><b>collaborative arrangements (including between special and mainstream);</b></p> <p><b>extended school and Children’s Centre provision;</b></p> <p><b>regional centres (of expertise) and regional and sub-regional provision;</b></p> <p><b>out of LA day and residential special provision;</b></p>	<p>i) The proposal is intended to allow Springwell Special School to continue to provide a range of provision.</p> <p>ii) The school provides additional provision (Resourced Provision and Co-Located Places) at three mainstream schools in the City. These proposals will allow Springwell School to make best use of those places.</p> <p>iii) N/A</p> <p>iv) Springwell School is accredited as a National Support School and provides on-going support, advice and training for both special and mainstream schools.</p> <p>v) N/A</p>
<p><b>take full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, within a learning environment where children can be healthy and stay safe;</b></p>	<p>i) Springwell Special School was judged to be Outstanding in its last two Ofsted inspections.</p> <p>ii) Expanding provision at Springwell School will provide more pupils with access to a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated to their specific needs.</p> <p>iii) Following this consultation, any works to expand provision, either at the Springwell School site or under any other option, will take account of Building Bulletin 102: Designing for Disabled Children and Children with SEN (2014).</p>

<p><b>support the LA’s strategy for making schools and settings more accessible to disabled children and young people and their scheme for promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people;</b></p>	<p>i) The proposal has due regard to the Southampton City Council policy statement on Disability Equality and to the Children and Families Directorate accessibility strategy.</p> <p>ii) The proposal is intended to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.</p>
<p><b>provide access to appropriately trained staff and access to specialist support and advice, so that individual pupils can have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and participate in their school and community;</b></p>	<p>i) The addition of places on-roll at Springwell Special School will provide access to specialist support to more pupils in Southampton.</p>
<p><b>ensure appropriate provision for 14-19 year-olds; and</b></p>	<p>i) Springwell Special School is a Primary school (age 4-11) and will not add provision for 14-19 year-olds.</p>
<p><b>ensure that appropriate full-time education will be available to all displaced pupils. Their statements of special educational needs must be amended and all parental rights must be ensured.</b></p>	<p>i) This proposal does not displace any students currently on-roll at the school.</p>
<p><b>Other interested partners, such as the Health Authority should</b></p>	<p>i) Southampton is committed to promoting integration between special educational</p>

<p><b>be involved.</b></p>	<p>provision, health and social care provision to promote well-being and improve the quality of provision, in line with the SEND Code of Practice 2014.</p> <p>ii) The consultation process involved all interested parties and took account of all views expressed on it.</p>
<p><b>Pupils should not be placed long-term or permanently in a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) if a special school place is what they need.</b></p>	<p>i) N/A</p>

When considering any reorganisation of provision that the LA considers to be reserved for pupils with special educational needs, including that which might lead to children being displaced, proposers will need to demonstrate how the proposed alternative arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for those children. Decision-makers should make clear how they are satisfied that this SEN improvement test has been met, including how they have taken account of parental or independent representations which question the proposer’s assessment.

Proposal for Prescribed Alterations (Maintained School)  
Consultation to Expand  
**Springwell Special School**



**Consultation Response Form**

Your views on the proposals are important to us. Please let us know what you think by completing the form below.

**I am a (Please tick the relevant box):**

**Parent/Carer**

**Governor**

**Member of staff**

**Member of the local community**

**Other (please specify)**

**Please name the school you are involved with**

**Do you support the proposal of expanding Springwell School?**

**YES**

**NO**

**Don't Mind**

Any person may object to or comment on these proposals.

You may have your view on this proposal to expand Springwell School. We would welcome any suggestions you may have for adding extra school places in the City. It is entirely up to you how you respond.

Any objections and comments should be sent to the address given in the consultation booklet or to [School.Organisation@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:School.Organisation@southampton.gov.uk).

The final date for submission of objections and comments under this statutory consultation is **2 February, 2015**.

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**Additional Comments:**

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