



Proposal for Prescribed Alterations (Maintained School)

**Statutory consultation on proposals to
establish a resource base for children with a
hearing impairment**

Newlands Primary School



SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

SEND

**Education and Learning
Children and Families**

October 2020

Proposals for Prescribed Alterations (Maintained School)

The following proposals are published under Section 31(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by 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: Local Authority 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 2015.

1. Local Authority details

Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY

2. School details

Name	Newlands Primary School
Type	Community School
Address	65 Windermere Avenue, Southampton, SO16 9QX
Age Range	4-11
Capacity	420 pupils
Ofsted	Full inspection June 2018 – Good

3. What changes are proposed?

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 to establish a resource base for children with a hearing impairment for up to 14 pupils at Newlands Primary School, from 1 September 2022.

Specialist teaching is provided in a resource base classroom, and pupils admitted demonstrate the potential to be included in the mainstream classroom supported by a teaching assistant, communicator or specialist teacher advisor for at least part of the week. Pupils access the national curriculum with modification and/or differentiation as appropriate.

4. Current provision

Southampton has a number of resource bases which are located within mainstream schools. These bases provide specialist teaching and support for pupils with specific special educational needs allowing them to be educated in a mainstream setting. All pupils who attend a resource base have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

There is currently a resource base for hearing impairment at Tanners Brook Primary School which provides support for up to eight pupils with a hearing impairment. This proposal is linked to another, involving the closure of the base at Tanners Brook Primary and the establishment of a new base at Newlands Primary School. As Tanners Brook is an academy, a separate consultation and process will be run by the school.

5. Why do we want to do this? (evidence of demand)

Southampton, in recent years, has seen an increase in the number of pupils with complex needs relating to their hearing impairments. Whilst the needs of the majority of these pupils can be met in mainstream schools, a number require more specialist provision. In order to meet the needs of primary aged hearing impaired pupils, it is proposed to close the 8 place resource base at Tanners Brook Primary School, and open a new purpose built resource base at Newlands Primary School. The total number of places available will not exceed 14, creating 6 additional places in the city.

From a more general perspective, the numbers and complexity of children with special educational needs has been increasing year on year for the last 10 years and is predicted to continue to rise for the foreseeable future. This includes children and young people with a hearing impairment with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Education, Health and Care Plans maintained by Southampton City Council 2010-2020

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
567	593	634	655	701	803	1021	1181	1387	1522	1736

Source: DfE SEN 2 Return

6. Objectives, including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice.

The Local Authority must ensure that good quality school places can be provided quickly where they are needed and that additional new places will only be provided at schools that have an overall Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding'¹.

¹ Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools. Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers. October 2018

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

The establishment of a resource base at Newlands Primary School, and the subsequent increase in available places will ensure that children in Southampton with complex needs relating to their hearing impairment continue to have access to a high quality education and provide parents with a choice of schools within the City. Newlands Primary School was judged to be 'Good' at its last Ofsted inspection.

The proposal is to establish a resource base at Newlands Primary School is not believed cause any detrimental effect to any of the pupils or staff within the school.

This proposal will ensure that children with a hearing impairment: -

- Are admitted to their parents preferred school
- Have access to a suitable educational environment
- Have access to a Teacher of the Deaf and specialist trained staff in communication
- Are treated equitably in relation to children with similar needs
- Can have their needs met locally avoiding the need for children to spend unnecessary time travelling to an alternative school further away

It is proposed that the new resource base will be an extension of the current school. This will ensure that the pupils are fully included in all aspects of school life.

This proposal ensures that the Council can meet the needs of all hearing impaired pupils in the City by increasing the number of available places.

This proposal is aligned to a wider strategy of expansion and reconfiguration of specialist provision across the city and is supported by the school senior leadership and governors.

7. Consultation undertaken

The proposal has been discussed with Newlands and Tanners Brook Primary School staff and parents, the Southampton Parent Carer Forum and relevant unions. It has received the consent of both school leadership teams and Governing Bodies.

8. Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area?

There are currently six pupils attending the resource bases at Tanners Brook. The needs of the children and what parents want will be the most important part of our considerations. The options for these children will be to:

- Remain in Tanners Brook mainstream with support from the Specialist Teacher Advisory Service
- Move to the new resource base at Newlands Primary School
- Move to another mainstream school with support from the Specialist Teacher Advisory Service

The effect on other schools within the area

Beyond that of Tanners Brook Primary, this proposal will not impact other Southampton schools.

9. Admissions

Admissions to Newlands Primary School resource base for hearing impairment will follow the Local Authority's protocols for admitting children with Education, Health and Care Plans.

10. Transport

Home to school transport will be provided in accordance with the Home to School Transport Policy, May 2020.

11. Project costs and an indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of school places in its area for children of school age. In addition all children and young people are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards and the fulfilment of potential (SEND, Code of Practice 2015).

Children placed in a resource base attract base funding of £10,000 per pupil plus top up costs according to need.

Due to the complexity of their needs, if no places are available at Newlands Primary School resource base, it is likely that the children identified as needing a place will have to be educated in an alternative school out of city, either Local Authority maintained or independent. The former school will attract the same level of funding as Newlands Primary School and will require pupils to spend avoidable time and discomfort in travelling. Independent Special Schools cost significantly more, in the region of £70,000 per place, per annum (including travel costs), and again will have the negative impact of daily travel on the child and additional transport costs.

Long term value for money will be achieved through the greater capacity to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities locally.

12. Implementation plan

The proposal requires the full construction of the resource base at Newlands Primary School. It is anticipated that the building works will be completed by July 2022, ready for opening in September 2022.

If the proposal is agreed by Southampton City Council Cabinet members, it is intended that the change will be implemented from 1 September 2022.

13. Related proposals

This proposal is linked to the closure of the resource base for hearing impairment at Tanners Brook Primary School. As an academy, the school is required to follow a separate process.

The closure of the provision at Tanners Brook will coincide with the opening of the provision at Newlands Primary School; both are proposed to take effect from 1 September 2022.

14. How can I make my views known?

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposal, within 4 weeks of the publication of the statutory public notice by:

- Sending an email to: clodagh.freeeston@southampton.gov.uk
- Writing to: Clodagh Freeston,
Education Services,
Southampton City Council
North Block
Civic Centre
SO14 7LY

15. What happens next?

The following table sets out the key dates for the consultation and decision making. At any point the proposal may be withdrawn. The dates set out below meet the Department for Education requirements for consultation on school organisation proposals.

School organisation process	Date
Public Notice published	15 October 2020
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	15 October 2020 – 18 November 2020
Decision required, no later than	18 January 2020
If approved, resource bases opens	1 September 2022

Proposal for Prescribed Alterations (Maintained School)
 Consultation to establish a resource base for hearing impairment
Newlands Primary School
 Appendices

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>i)take account of parental preferences for particular styles of provision or education settings;</p>	<p>The proposals are to expand provision for children with a hearing impairment in line with current parental preference in Southampton.</p> <p>Newlands Primary School is highly regarded by parents.</p> <p>The increase in availability of provision would increase choice for parents and pupils.</p>
<p>ii)take account of any relevant local offer for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and the views expressed on it;</p>	<p>Southampton is committed to promoting integration between special educational provision and mainstream settings, health and social care provision to promote well-being and improve the quality of provision, in line with the SEND Code of Practice 2015.</p> <p>The consultation process will involve all interested parties and will take account of the Local Offer and all views expressed</p>
<p>iii)offer a range of provision to respond to the needs of individual children and young people, taking account of: collaborative arrangements (including between special and mainstream); extended school and Children’s Centre provision;</p>	<p>Newlands Primary School will offer bespoke packages of integrated provision to meet the specific needs of each child in the base.</p> <p>The school works as part of the network of mainstream schools in the city offering a continuum of provision from mainstream to specialist education.</p>

<p>regional centres (of expertise) and regional and sub-regional provision; out of LA day and residential special provision</p>	
<p>iv) 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;</p>	<p>Newlands Primary School was judged to be Good at its last Ofsted inspections.</p> <p>The school works in partnership with other services and the mainstream sector to ensure that children are afforded opportunities to enable them to achieve their full potential.</p>
<p>v) 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;</p>	<p>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>This proposal sits within a comprehensive strategy for managing the ever increasing range and breadth of SEND. Increasing accessibility and promoting equality of opportunity is a central theme within that strategy.</p>
<p>vi) 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;</p>	<p>The establishment of the resource base and its subsequent addition of places at Newlands Primary School will provide access to specialist support to more pupils in Southampton.</p>
<p>vii) 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.</p>	<p>This proposal does not displace any pupils currently on-roll at the school.</p>
<p>Other interested partners, such as the Health Authority should be involved.</p>	<p>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 2015.</p> <p>The consultation process involves all interested parties and takes account of all views expressed on it.</p>