

Appendix 1

Proposal to Establish a New Special Educational Needs (SEN) Resourced Provision at Somerford Primary School



1. What is Proposed?

Working together, BCP Council and Somerford Primary School want to open a new resourced provision for children who need extra help with social emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs and or Autism. This means:

- Children can learn in their usual classes but get extra support when needed.
- Teachers will have special training.
- We are asking for your views before we make a decision.

The base will provide specialist support for 16 children with SEMH and or Autism enabling them to access mainstream education while receiving support and interventions.

2. Why is This Change Needed?

- **Increasing Demand:** Local data shows that the number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) requiring specialist support is projected to grow by 11% each year. Full detail of the pattern of demand and sufficiency priorities are contained within the [SEND Sufficiency Strategy](#).
- **Parental Preference:** This new Resourced Provision would be the first of its kind in the Christchurch area and affords access to mainstream specialist provision and much-needed support and opportunities for local children and their families. This will provide a pathway for children with additional needs and enable smoother transition and reduced travel and journey times.
- **Impact on local schools:** Creating a new Resourced Provision has several positive impacts on schools in the area including increased capacity and reducing pressure on other mainstream schools, opportunities for sharing expertise, stronger inclusive practice across the area and raising confidence amongst parents and ultimately improving outcome for pupils.
- **Inclusive Education:** The proposal supports the SEND Code of Practice and the Children and Families Act 2014 by promoting inclusion in mainstream settings.
- **Local Offer Commitment:** This development aligns with the Local Authority's duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure sufficient school places and under section 30 of the Children and Families Act to publish a comprehensive local offer.
- **Costs:** Importantly, the project will be delivered utilising existing surplus capacity within the school estate, ensuring this development is cost-effective and delivers value for money. In addition, the revenue impact on the High Needs budget will be positive, as the provision offers a lower unit cost compared to more expensive out-of-area placements or independent alternatives.

3. How Will It Work?

- **Provision Details:** The proposal uses existing space within the building to provide an additional 16 places for children and young people with an EHC Plan. Children will spend some of their time in mainstream classes and will also access to a dedicated base for targeted interventions. If approved, the total number of places available will be phased with 8 places open for children from 1 April 2026 and the remaining 8 places staggered between September 2026 and January 2027.
- **Accommodation:** Somerford Primary School has existing surplus classroom space to accommodate the proposed Resourced Provision. Additional access will be provided to an existing sensory room and other areas of the school as needed. There will be a designated outdoor space for the placed pupils.
- **Ethos and values:** The Resourced Provision will be an integral part of the school and the children will belong to the school and their mainstream class. Opportunities will be sought to include the placed pupils in the life of the school where this would benefit them and other pupils. The provision would have the same school values of Enjoy, Achieve, Aspire.
- **Curriculum:** All pupils will have access to the national curriculum with modification and/or differentiation as appropriate.

- **Staffing:** Qualified SEN teachers and teaching assistants will be appointed. The Resourced Provision will be the responsibility of the head teacher, overseen by the SENCo.
- **Funding:** High Needs funding will be allocated through the Local Authority's place planning process and top-up funding arrangements.

4. Formal Process

Under the DfE guidance (2025), the process for making changes includes the following stages

Stage 1: Pre-Publication: Informal consultation with parents/carers and all interested parties to share details of the proposal and engage with the local community to understand the support for the change and any associated risks.

Stage 2: Publication: A statutory notice will be published on the school and Local Authority websites. The notice must include details of the proposal, implementation date, and how to respond.

Stage 3: Representation (Formal Consultation): This will run for a minimum 4 weeks for stakeholders to submit comments or objections as necessary. Stakeholders include parents, staff, governing body, local community, and other schools.

Stage 4: Decision: The Local Authority (as decision-maker) will consider all responses and decide within **2 months** of the end of the representation period. If the Council does not decide, the proposal is referred to the Schools Adjudicator.

Stage 5: Implementation: If approved, the resourced base will open on [proposed date], subject to building works and recruitment.

5. Indicative Timeline

Stage	Requirement	Date
1. Pre-publication engagement	Informal consultation and engagement	Ends on 24 December 2025
2. Publication of statutory notice	Statutory notice published on websites and locally	12 January 2026
3. Representation period (4 weeks)	All interested parties may comment on the proposal	Ends 9.00 a.m. 9 February 2026
4. Decision by LA	The Council's Cabinet to make a decision	Within 2 months of representation end
5. Implementation	Provision opens	April 2026 (contingent upon successful recruitment of staff) or September 2026

6. How to Respond

Comments can be submitted using this form: haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/somerford-send

Or can be sent by email to: sendsufficiency@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Or by post to:

Education and Skills
BCP Council
Town Hall, Bourne Avenue
Bournemouth
BH2 6EB

Notes:

In law, this change is as a prescribed alteration under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended in 2025). As such, a period of consultation is required with parents/carers as part of a statutory process necessary to formally change the provision.

Equality Impact and SEND Compliance

- **Equality Act 2010:** This proposal promotes equality of opportunity and fosters inclusion.
- **SEND Code of Practice:** Provision will follow statutory guidance, ensuring early identification, tailored support, and parental involvement.