



Proposals to increase Linwood School SEND places

June 2026

Research and Consultation Team

Proposal to increase Linwood School SEND Places

This report summarises the results of the consultation on 'Proposals to increase Linwood School SEND places'.

Methodology

The consultation ran from 11 May 2026 to 15 June 2026.

An online form was available at <https://haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/linwood-post-16> and paper copies were available from all BCP libraries. Alternative formats could also be requested.

A statutory public notice was published in the Bournemouth Echo (paper and online versions) at the start of the consultation.

Schools were asked to display posters on site and posters were displayed at local libraries. A press release was also published.

Emails were sent out by the Headteacher of Linwood School to promote the survey. Emails were also sent to local councillors. The Headteacher sent a reminder email during the consultation period.



Proposals to increase Linwood Post-16 SEND places

BCP Council is working with Linwood School to help meet the growing need for specialist education places. We are proposing to increase the number of Post-16 places at the school from the 2026-27 academic year.

The proposal is to provide more specialist places for young people aged 16 to 19 who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). It would add up to 30 additional specialist places at Linwood School's Skills Centre on Ashley Road, on top of the 30 places already available. This means the school would be able to offer up to a total of 60 Post-16 places at Ashley Road.

Please read the information below about the proposal, or if you prefer, you can read the same information in a [PDF document](#).

Have your say

Proposal

- [Linwood Post-16 SEND places Consultation Proposal](#)

Key dates



Consultation starts:
11 May 2026
Consultation ends:
15 June 2026

Contact us

senda.affinity@bpcouncil.gov.uk

Linwood School

[Linwood School website](#)

About Linwood Post-16 Skill's Centre

Admissions

Why is This Change Needed?

How Will It Work?

Formal Process

Timeline

Have your say

We would like to hear your thoughts on the proposal. Anybody can object to, or comment on, the proposal.

Please give your views by:

- completing our [online form](#)
- sending your comments by email to senda.affinity@bpcouncil.gov.uk
- sending your comments by post to: Linwood School Post-16 Consultation, Education and Skills, BCP Council, Town Hall, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth BH2 6EB

Paper copies are available from BCP libraries, or by emailing senda.affinity@bpcouncil.gov.uk.

The representation period ends at midday on Monday 15 June 2026.

The consultation will report to [Cabinet](#) on 22 July 2026.

Give your views

Response

There were 16 online responses to the consultation. One email was also received as part of the consultation.

The consultation web page was viewed by 101 unique visitors.

Visitor timeline



Respondents

- Two respondents are parents of a child or children at secondary school
- One respondent is a parent of a child or children at another special school
- Eight respondents are teachers or staff at Linwood
- Other respondents included a Bournemouth resident, a taxpayer and two parents

Views on the proposal

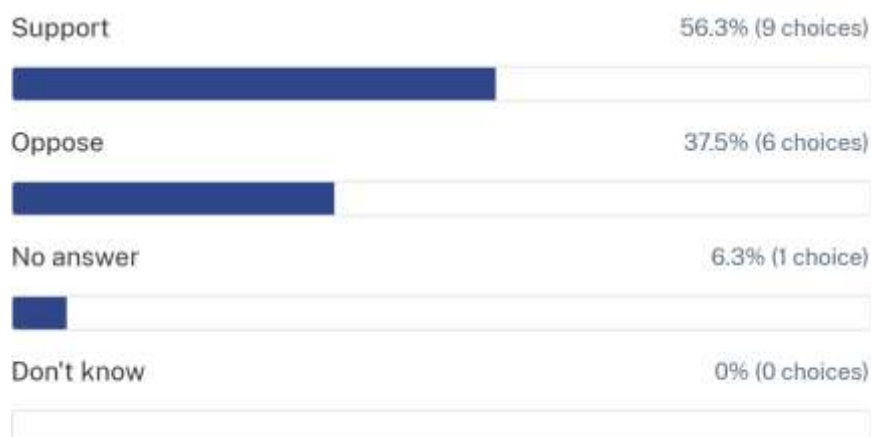
Do you support or oppose the proposal to provide 30 additional specialist places at Linwood School Skills Centre on Ashley Road?

Of the online respondents:

- 56% support the proposal
- 37% oppose the proposal
- 6% did not answer

Do you support or oppose the proposal to provide 30 additional specialist places at Linwood School's Skills Centre on Ashley Road?

15/16 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Survey Comments

11 respondents commented on the proposal. Their comments are shown below unedited:

- 1) The level of need and specialist support some of the students require makes it inappropriate to have large class sizes. Doubling the student population would cause many problems in terms of regulation, space, noise and subsequently the ability to meet need.
- 2) There is not adequate space or teaching resources. There is a small amount of teachers so this will lead to bigger class sizes with inadequate support. This will lead to increased deregulation.
- 3) Give opportunities to young people as much as possible
- 4) I welcome the proposal to increase Post-16 specialist provision at Linwood School. There is a clear and growing need for additional SEND places within the BCP area, and expanding local provision will help more young people remain within their communities while receiving education that meets their individual needs. The focus on independence, employability, communication skills and preparation for adulthood is particularly positive. The supported business activities provide practical opportunities for students to develop real-world skills and confidence in a structured environment. However, I believe the proposal could be strengthened by providing further information on the expected outcomes for students, including progression into further education, supported employment, volunteering and independent living. It would also be helpful to understand how local employers and community organisations will be involved in providing work experience and transition opportunities. Additional detail regarding staffing levels, specialist support services, and how the existing facilities will accommodate an increase from 30 to 60 students would provide reassurance to parents and stakeholders that the quality of provision will be maintained. I would also encourage the Council and Linwood School to consider developing the Skills Centre as a centre of excellence for preparing young people with SEND for adulthood, with strong links to employers, further education providers, health services and community organisations. Overall, I support the proposal and recognise the importance of increasing local specialist provision. I hope the Council will continue to work closely with parents, carers, students and partner organisations to ensure the expansion delivers positive long-term outcomes for young people and their families.
- 5) Yes, stop spending all of local taxpayers money on SEND. This money could be spent on initiatives to benefit everyone. Let parents look after their own children's education and welfare.
- 6) I think it is a much needed provision as there are never enough spaces for SEND students

- 7) The increase in number is required to reduce the number of NEET students in the BCP area. Specialist support for students is important to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved. It would be fair to ensure that the correct funding from BCP is included in this to ensure that provision can remain high quality with regards to quality of teaching as well as funding the support services required for positive student outcomes.
- 8) The provision is very much needed within the community.
- 9) This expansion will enable more SEND students to have the opportunity to learn and develop skills in a specialist environment to meet their needs at this crucial stage of their education.
- 10) This is a fantastic positive development for the Skills Centre in Linwood. Expanding capacity from 30 to 60 places is more than just a numerical increase it represents a meaningful investment in our local young people with additional needs supporting them in accessing their local community, work or training. Doubling the number of places means that more individuals will have access to vital training, support, and pathways into employment. For many, this can be truly life-changing by building confidence, developing practical skills, and opening doors that may not have been done without this specialist level of support. It also reflects a strong commitment to listening to local need and responding proactively. Increasing capacity shows belief in the potential of the young people within the BCP local community and a recognition that there is both demand and ambition among learners with additional needs. The amount of young people coming out of education NEET is rising and this will help to rectify this issue within our local area. The support offered by the Linwood Skills Centre is truly outstanding. Increasing capacity means that many more young people will now have access to the high level, specialist support they need not just to succeed, but to truly thrive as they move into adulthood.
- 11) This will enable more young people with SEND to have the choice of opportunity for a Post 16 provision within BCP

Email Comments

One email was received in response to the consultation. This response is included below.

- 1) I object to the expansion of this school to include 30 additional SEND places until an acceptable travel plan has been included in the proposal document. Please put the consultation on hold until this has been provided. This is a high density housing neighbourhood on a road which becomes badly congested so that the prospect of up to 30 more cars arriving in the areas to drop off and pick up every day must be addressed.