

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND

STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PUPILS AT SUNNINGDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SATELLITE SITE

Local Authority Proposals and Contact Details

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Sunderland City Council, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland to:

- Increase the Capacity of Sunningdale Primary School from 136 places to 160 places and
- Establish a satellite provision for Sunningdale Primary School at the former Ryhope Early Days daycare site in Ryhope.

Sunningdale Primary School is a special primary school maintained by Sunderland City Council. It is located at Doxford Park Way, Sunderland, SR3 2PP.

The proposed former Ryhope Early Days Daycare site is located Shaftsbury Avenue, Ryhope, Sunderland, SR2 0RT

Sunningdale Primary School relocated to a new school building in September 2022. The new building is based at a site at the junction of Doxford Way and Silksworth Road in the St Chad's Ward, Sunderland. The building has the capacity for 120 primary aged children and 16 nursery aged children.

This proposal seeks to add an additional delivery site to the main school. It will be predominantly used for the delivery of early years provision (for children aged 2 – 5 years old). The relocation of the early years provision from the main Sunningdale site will release classrooms and support spaces that can be used to increase the capacity for primary aged children at the school.

This increase represents an increase of more than 10% of the current capacity.

The proposed early years satellite site will be based at the former Ryhope Early Days site. That site is more than 2 miles from the main Sunningdale Primary School site.

Reason for the Enlargement / Increased Capacity at Sunningdale Primary School and Establishment of a Satellite Site

Sunningdale Primary School is operating above capacity in all year groups with a waiting list for places at the school. As an outstanding school parental demand for places at Sunningdale Primary School is particularly high. However, given the current school building is operating over capacity, the Council has neither the capacity nor additional support resources within Sunderland to support this ongoing oversubscription.

This proposal seeks to utilise current surplus educational facilities to increase the capacity of Sunningdale Primary School. To do so it is proposed to develop the former Ryhope Early Days Daycare site as Sunningdale Primary School's Early Years delivery site. This site would operate as a satellite to the school's main, primary aged provision at Doxford.

This would allow the space in the main school building, currently used to deliver Sunningdale's Early Years provision, to be utilised by primary aged pupils (aged 5 – 11). In total it is estimated that this proposal would result in 24 additional Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) places being created in the city.

The proposed satellite site was developed using Sure Start, Early Years and Aiming High grant funding. That funding places restrictions on the site's potential uses to those that predominantly support education or childcare delivery to early years aged children. This proposal, in addition to providing much needed local special educational needs (SEN) capacity, meets the criteria of the capital grant used to develop the setting.

Effect on other Schools, Academies and Educational Institutions in the Area

Sunningdale Primary School is the city's sole SLD, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) and Physical Disabilities (PD) provision for primary aged pupils in Sunderland. The current oversubscription and consequential inability to place any additional children at the school has led to a small number of pupils remaining in their mainstream school place while they wait for a vacancy to arise at Sunningdale. While Sunderland's schools and academies endeavour to meet the needs of all pupils it is recognised that those with high levels of needs cannot always have their need fully met within a mainstream setting, even with enhanced support. Increased capacity at Sunningdale will reduce the time it takes to place children. This will reduce the pressure on other, non-specialist mainstream schools and academies and enable the more appropriate allocation of resources in those settings.

The satellite will be based at the same location as Ryhope Infant Academy and Ryhope Junior School. Discussions with the three schools (Sunningdale Primary School, Ryhope Infant Academy and Ryhope Junior School) have identified opportunities for joint working across the three partners post project completion. It is envisaged that should this proposal proceed the Ryhope site would offer an inclusive site where the schools share expertise and resources to further enhance the offer currently available to all pupils at the site.

While Sunningdale School will establish a satellite at a site also accommodating Ryhope Infant Academy and Ryhope Junior School this proposal will not result in any deficit in provision, capacity or resource at either of the two schools. Sunningdale will take occupation of vacant premises and not property currently utilised by either setting.

Project Costs

The capital costs associated with providing the satellite site are currently projected at £0.35m. Those costs include the refurbishment of the former Ryhope Early Days building and the provision of specialist equipment.

The project seeks to develop an inclusive school site where mainstream and special education settings work together for the benefit of all pupils attending any of the three schools at the Ryhope site. To support this further £0.125m has been invested at Ryhope Infant Academy and Ryhope Junior School to procure equipment and resource to support pupils with special educational needs. This has led to the development of new outdoor play areas and the delivery of an immersion suite. It is anticipated that, where appropriate, pupils at any of the three settings will be able to access resources at any of the three schools.

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

The proposal will increase the capacity at Sunningdale Primary School by 24 places in the primary year groups.

There will be no change to the existing admissions criteria at Sunningdale Primary School post expansion. Within Sunderland places will continue to be commissioned through existing Education Health and Care Plan processes.

Displaced Pupils

All pupils currently attending Sunningdale Primary School will remain on the school roll. However, those who would normally access the school's early years provision at the main school site at Doxford will instead attend the early years satellite at Ryhope.

Impact on the Community

The city will benefit from the availability of increased specialist primary school places. This will result in more parents and carers within the city benefiting from the opportunity to access a specialist primary school place at an outstanding school.

Balance of Denominational Provision

There will be no impact on the balance of denominational provision as the school does not have a religious character.

Special Educational Needs Provision (SEND)

Sunningdale Primary School is designated as a primary SEND provision for children with Severe Learning Difficulties, Multiple and Profound Learning Difficulties and Physical Disabilities. This proposal will increase the capacity of the school, and therefore the city's capacity in the above areas.

Travel

The Council has considered the impact of travel within this proposal. Most children who attend Sunningdale Primary School, and who will attend the new school site, are eligible for home to school transport and will continue to access this support.

Consultation

An informal (pre-publication) consultation upon the proposals took place during the period 22nd October 2024 to 6th December 2024.

Consultees recommended in the relevant statutory guidance were consulted via a Consultation Document that was made widely available on the Council's website and the website of Sunningdale Primary School. Consultees included parents, staff, pupils, the local ward councillors, staff and parents at both Ryhope Infant Academy and Ryhope Junior School, Early Years and SEN professionals and staff representatives (unions).

The wider consultation received 13 responses. Of those 13 responded to the question 'Do you agree with the proposal to increase the capacity of Sunningdale Primary School from 136 to 160 places?' 85% of the responses agreed with the proposal.

13 responded to the question 'Do you agree with the proposal to develop a satellite site for Sunningdale Primary School?'. 77% of the responses agreed with the proposal.

Submission of Objections and Comments on Proposal

A copy of this proposal can be viewed on the Sunderland City Council website at

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13038/School-organisation-consultations>

It can also be requested via:

E-mail: alan.rowan@togetherforchildren.org.uk

Post: Capital and Sufficiency Lead, Together for Children.

Within four weeks of the Publication Date below, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations:

By e-mail to: -

schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk

Or by post to: -

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Signed: Patrick Melia,
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Sunderland City Council.

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