

Wallands Community Primary School Specialist Facility Consultation



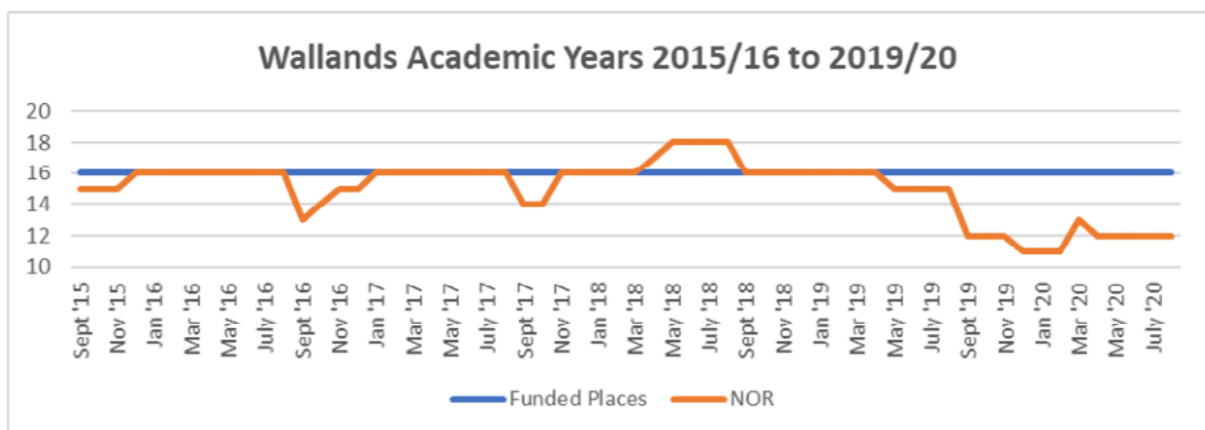
To pupils, parents/carers, staff, governors and stakeholders

Wallands Community Primary School has a designated specialist facility for up to 16 pupils aged 4-11 with speech, language and communication needs. East Sussex County Council is proposing to extend the designation of the existing specialist facility at Wallands Community Primary School from 1 September 2022, to also include pupils aged 4-11 with a primary need of Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

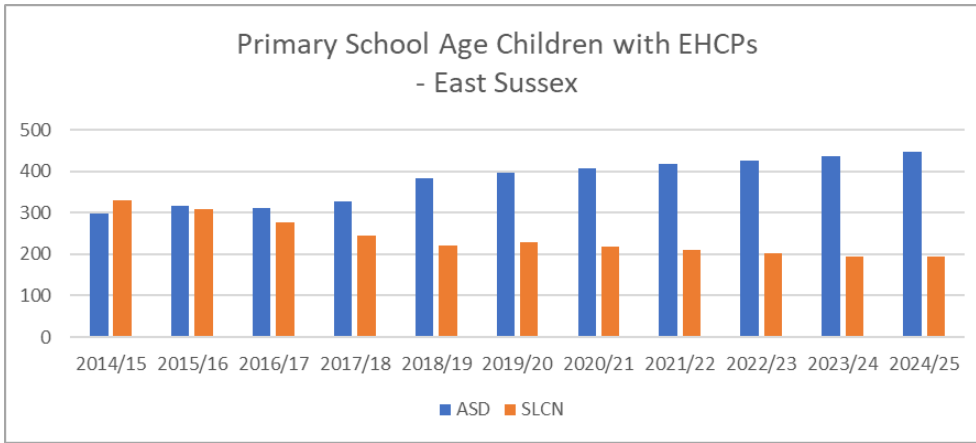
Why do we want to extend the designation of the specialist facility at Wallands Community Primary School?

We wish to extend the designation to ensure that the facility can meet the needs of local pupils with special education needs (SEN), reflecting the changes we are seeing to the type of SEN being presented.

Since 2019/20 the number of pupils within the facility has fallen, with numbers under capacity each month. This is demonstrated in the table below.



The decrease in pupil numbers is in line with the trend we are seeing across the county of fewer pupils with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) presenting with a primary need of speech, language and communication needs. Since 2014/15 the number of primary age pupils with an EHCP for speech, language and communication needs has decreased from 329 pupils to 218 in 2020/21. Over the same time period, the number with an EHCP for autistic spectrum disorder has risen from 298 to 406. Our SEN forecasts are projecting that these trends will continue.



Wallands Community Primary School has worked closely with the local authority over the last five years to expand the range of special educational needs that can be met within the facility. This has resulted in pupils with a broader spectrum of need than speech, language and communication needs being supported by the facility and an increasing number of pupils with autistic spectrum disorder needs in addition to speech, language and communication needs.

Across East Sussex there are three primary specialist facilities for pupils aged 4-11 with autistic spectrum disorder as their primary need, including new facilities at Churchwood Primary Academy in Hastings and Grovelands Community Primary School in Hailsham. Our SEN forecasting has identified that there is a need for more specialist facilities that cater for pupils with this need, including in Lewes.

Having taken into consideration the changing nature of the type of SEN needs being presented and forecast in East Sussex, we propose to extend the designation of the specialist facility at Wallands Community Primary School from 1 September 2022, to also include pupils aged 4-11 with a primary need of autistic spectrum disorder, with associated speech, language and communication needs.

What are specialist facilities?

Specialist facilities are located within a mainstream school and provide specific support to a limited number of pupils with an EHCP naming a specific primary SEN. Pupils within the facility are on roll of the mainstream school and are in addition to the published admission number. The school receives additional funding from the local authority to support each child placed in the facility. Placements are determined by the local authority according to clear criteria and will be drawn from a wider geographical area than the school's usual catchment area.

Specialist facilities provide pupils with EHCPs access to specialist support, whilst also allowing pupils to benefit from accessing mainstream provision and to be part of a mainstream school. A dedicated space within a school provides a base, support space and teaching space. Specialist facilities play a critical role in the strategy for re-integration and the development of an inclusion ethos and inclusion practices across the school's wider curriculum and provision. They also allow local schools to develop broader expertise for SEN which, in turn, benefits the school population as a whole.

Pupils in the facility have their special educational needs reviewed regularly in discussion with parents/carers and professionals to ensure that the facility remains the most appropriate placement to meet these needs.

What will be the impact of the extending of the designation on other pupils in the school?

We expect the proposal to have a positive impact on provision at the school. Specialist staff will continue to work with pupils in the facility and also work with teaching staff across the school to develop skills and expertise in responding to SEN needs and creating an inclusive environment.

Should the proposed change go ahead, new pupils admitted to the facility from September 2022 would include those with a primary need of autistic spectrum disorder, alongside pupils with a primary need of speech, language and communication needs. We feel that the facility is well placed to support children with both, or either, of these needs.

Will building work be required to establish the new facility and, if so, how will this be funded?

No. The school already has a specialist facility on site which will accommodate up to 14 children. The local authority has recently completed work on a project to improve the accommodation and to integrate the facility, which had been located in a detached modular building, into the main school building.

Why we are consulting on the proposed change

The local authority has a statutory responsibility to secure sufficient school places, including for pupils with SEN. Before we can extend the designation of the facility, we are required to consult with the school community and key stakeholders. We are proposing the change to ensure that we can secure local provision for primary aged pupils with speech, language and communication needs, and those with autistic spectrum disorder in the Lewes area for the future.

How can I give my views?

The consultation period runs from Friday 14 May to midnight on Thursday 17 June 2021.

You can give your views by:

- Completing the online survey
- Printing and completing a paper copy of the questionnaire and posting it to: School Consultations, Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service, Children's Services Department, East Sussex County Council, East G, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE.
- Emailing ESCC at: school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk

All comments must be received by **midnight, 17 June 2021** or they cannot be considered.

What happens next?

Following the consultation period, a report will be considered by the Lead Member for Education, Inclusion and Special Educational Needs and Disability at a meeting in July 2021. The Lead Member will decide whether to proceed with the proposal. If approved, a statutory notice would be published in the local newspaper probably in August 2021 followed by a period of four weeks, known as the representation period, when further comments or objections could be submitted. The Lead Member would consider any responses received during this time before making a final decision on the proposal at a meeting likely to be held in October 2021. If approved, the facility would accept children with a primary need of autistic spectrum disorder from 1 September 2022.

Wallands Community Primary School Specialist Facility consultation



Our proposal is to to extend the designation of the specialist facility at Wallands Community Primary School from 1 September 2022, to also include pupils aged 4-11 with a primary need of autistic spectrum disorder with associated speech, language and communication needs.

East Sussex County Council would welcome your views on the proposal. The consultation period finishes at midnight on **Thursday 17 June 2021**.

1. Do you support the proposal to extend the designation of the specialist facility at Wallands Community Primary School to also include pupils with a primary need of autistic spectrum disorder with associated speech, language and communication needs?

Yes

No

Undecided

2. Please provide any comments below:

3. Which of the following best describes you?

- Pupil at Wallands Community Primary School
- Parent / carer of a child at Wallands Community Primary School
- Member of staff at Wallands Community Primary School
- Governor at Wallands Community Primary School
- Member of the local community
- Other (please say)

About you...

You don't have to answer the questions in this section, but it will help us to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally if you do. Your information will only be used and reported anonymously to support the consultation, engagement or feedback activity you are taking part in. We will keep your individual information for a period of up to five years and we won't keep it any longer than is necessary. Please get in touch with the named contact for this activity if you would like more information. Read the full privacy notice here:

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/privacy/about-you-survey/

4. Are you.....? Male Female Prefer not to say

5.. How old are you?

6. What is your postcode?

7. Which of these ethnic backgrounds do you feel you belong to? (Your ethnic background is about lots of things like where your family comes from and the language you speak.)

White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British
<input type="checkbox"/> British	<input type="checkbox"/> White & Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/> Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> White & Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> African
<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/Roma	<input type="checkbox"/> White & Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Other*
<input type="checkbox"/> Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> Other*	<input type="checkbox"/> Other*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other*			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Arab	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

*Other Ethnic Group If your ethnic group was not specified in the list please describe your ethnic group:

8. Would you say that you have a disability? (A disability is if you have a problem or illness to do with your mind or body and it makes it hard for you to do everyday things.)

Yes No Prefer not to say

9. If you answered yes to 8, please tell us what problems you face. You may have more than one type, so please select all that apply. If none of these apply to you please select other and give brief details.

- A disability to do with your body (like problems walking, moving, getting around...)
- Problems with hearing or seeing
- Having a bad illness for a long time (like cancer, epilepsy, HIV or another serious sickness)
- Mental health problems (This is a problem to do with your mind and the way you feel. For example, if you feel upset, worried or angry a lot)
- Learning difficulties
- I do not want to say
- Something else, please specify

10. Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion or belief?

Yes No Prefer not to say

11. If you answered yes to 10 which one?

- Christian Hindu Muslim Any other religion, please specify
- Buddhist Jewish Sikh

Thank you for providing this information