

# SECTION 19 (1) OF THE EDUCATION AND INSPECTIONS ACT 2006 and the SCHOOL ORGANISATION (PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO MAINTAINED SCHOOLS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

## PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE DESIGNATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS FACILITY AT WALLANDS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEWES

### 1. School and local education authority details

#### Name and Address of the Local Authority making the proposal

East Sussex County Council  
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE

#### Name, address and category of school

Wallands Community Primary School  
Gundreda Road, Lewes, BN7 1PU

The school is a Community School

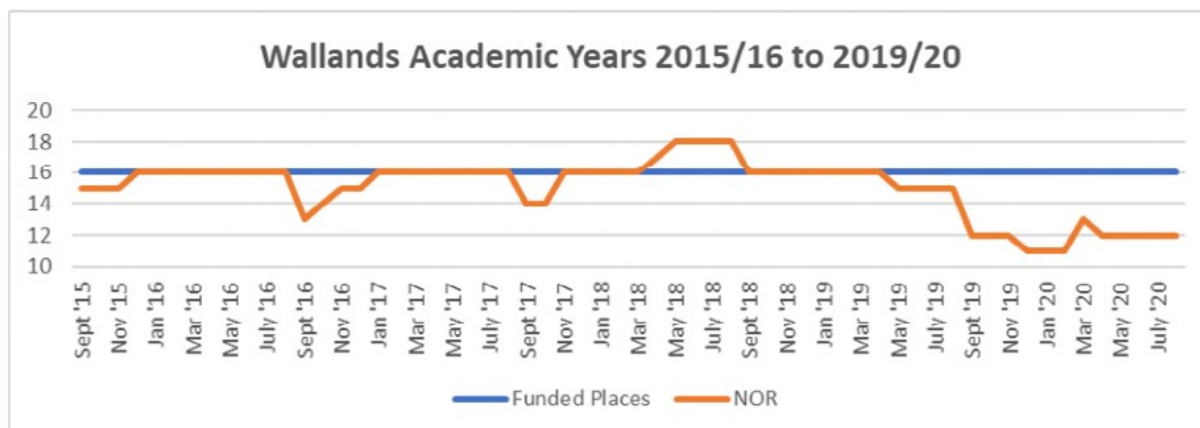
### 2. Description of alteration

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

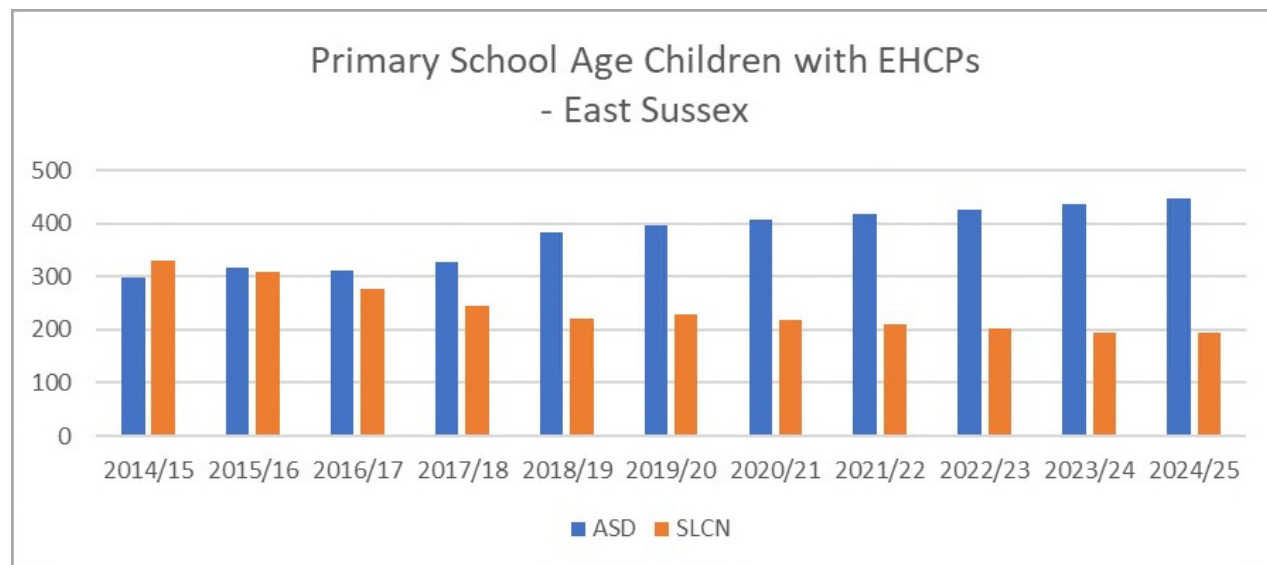
### 3. Evidence of demand

The local authority wishes to extend the designation of the facility to ensure it can meet the needs of local pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), reflecting the changes being seen 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 being seen across the county of fewer pupils with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) presenting with a primary need of SLCN. Since 2014/15 the number of primary age pupils with an EHCP for SLCN has decreased from 329 pupils to 218 in 2020/21. Over the same period, the number of pupils with an EHCP for ASD has risen from 298 to 406. The local authority's SEND 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 SEN that can be met within the facility. This has resulted in pupils with a broader spectrum of need than SLCN being supported by the facility and an increasing number of pupils with ASD in addition to SLCN.

Across East Sussex there are three primary specialist facilities in mainstream schools for pupils aged 4-11 with ASD as their primary need, including new facilities at Churchwood Primary Academy in Hastings and Grovelands Community Primary School in Hailsham. The local authority's SEND forecasting has identified that there is a need for more specialist facilities that cater for pupils with this need, including in Lewes.

#### 4. Objectives

In East Sussex specialist facilities promote an ethos of inclusion across the school and help integrate their pupils into the mainstream school for as much of their learning time as their needs allow. The facility would also provide access to a base within the school for more intensive support when required.

The primary objectives of extending the designation of the specialist facility are:

- To provide sufficient places for pupils with an EHCP and to specifically expand provision for pupils with specific learning difficulties, with associated special educational needs (for e.g. anxiety and high functioning autism)
- To improve the attainment and progress of pupils with SEN
- To provide more local options for pupils to attend schools within their local community.

The East Sussex model expects that the expertise of staff within the facility provide significant benefits to the rest of the school and other schools in the local area to support all pupils with SEN and create a fully inclusive learning environment.

The local authority expects 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 ASD and associated SLCN, alongside pupils with a primary need of SLCN. The local authority believes that the facility is well placed to support children with both of these needs.

#### **5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area**

It is not intended that the proposal would impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area. The capacity of the facility will not change.

#### **6. Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.**

No capital funding is required to implement the proposal.

#### **7. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

The proposals are planned to be implemented on 1 September 2022.

#### **8. Objections and comments**

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, i.e. by midnight on 2 September 2021, any person may object to, or make comment upon the proposals, by sending their representations to the Director of Children's Services (FAO: Gary Langford, Place Planning Manager), East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, or by emailing: [school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk)