

SPECIAL SCHOOLS PROPOSALS (19 November 2019)

APPENDIX 2:

ONLINE SURVEY

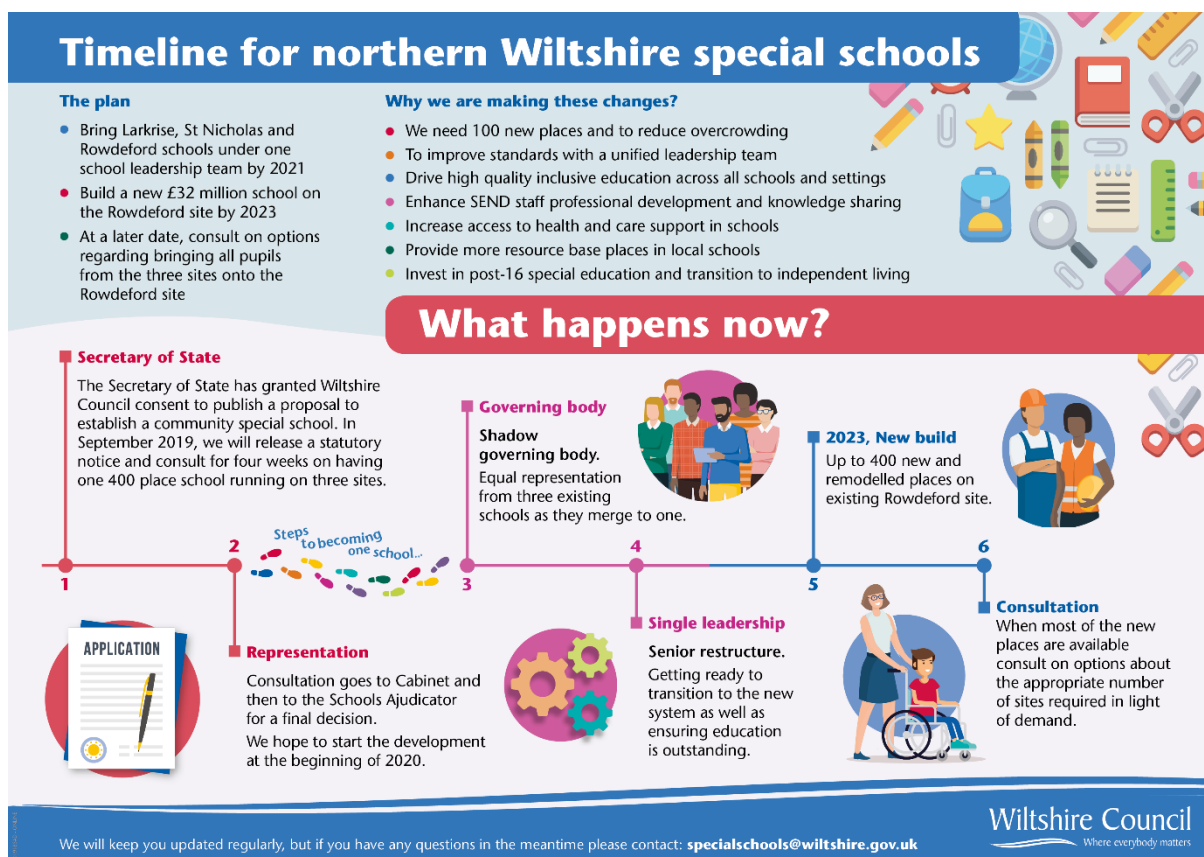
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1) Online Survey

Please see the timeline below in connection to the Statutory Notice issued on 2 September on the future of Special Schools' provision in north Wiltshire.

The proposal is to amalgamate Larkrise, St Nicholas and Rowdeford schools into one new school, operating across the existing three sites, with a single leadership by 2021. The plan also involves £32 million new build on the existing Rowdeford site to increase capacity for SEND students with complex needs. All three sites will stay open.

See below the timeline Wiltshire Council has produced to try to describe the process over the next few years. We are currently at stage 1 on the timeline



This survey has been set up to collect your comments on our proposal and will close at 9am on Monday 30 September.

Some questions are compulsory, and you'll need to complete them to continue. If you find you can't move forward, look for the unanswered question which will be outlined (top and bottom) in **red**

Please state your interest in this consultation (tick all that apply)

Parent/carer of a child attending Larkrise, St Nicholas or Rowdeford School

- A child or young person attending Larkrise, St Nicholas or Rowdeford School
- Friend or other relative of a family with a child attending Larkrise, St Nicholas or Rowdeford School
- Staff member or governor of Larkrise, St Nicholas or Rowdeford School
- Professional with an interest in special educational needs and/or disability
- Parent/carer of a child with a special educational need and/or disability being educated elsewhere
- A child or young person with a special educational need and/or disability being educated elsewhere
- Friend or other relative of a family with a child with a special educational need and/or disability being educated elsewhere
- Other

Please state which school you are connected to: (asked is any of the first four options are selected above)

- Larkrise
- St Nicholas
- Rowdeford

You have selected 'elsewhere' - please tick where from the list below: (ask is any of the options five to seven are selected):

- District Specialist Centre (for under 5's)
- Pre-school, nursery or childminder
- Mainstream primary or secondary school
- Home educated
- Out of county
- College
- Other

Please provide some detail of who you are: (asked if 'other' is selected above)

We welcome your comment on our proposal but before you do this, we would like to give you a chance to answer a few questions on the proposal (you can skip this by clicking on 'Next', answers from this section are not part of the data we collect).

How many new SEND places are we looking to create in the north of Wiltshire?

- 10
- 50
- 100

(if 10 or 50 picked – the following text is displayed): The plan is to create 100 new places to meet future demand for places and reduce overcrowding at the existing sites.

(if 100 is picked – the following text is displayed): Yes, this is correct, so we can meet future demand for places and reduce overcrowding at the existing sites.

Over which sites will the new school be operating?

- Rowdeford
- St Nicholas
- Larkrise

Tick here to submit your answer to the above question. The answer will be shown on the next page.

(if all three sites are selected – the following text is displayed): Yes, you are correct. All three sites will be staying open until at least 2023. When most of the new places are available we will consult on options about the appropriate number of sites required in light of demand.

(if less than three sites are selected – the following text is displayed): Not quite, all three sites will be staying open until at least 2023. When most of the new places are available we will consult on options about the appropriate number of sites required in light of demand.

How many executive headteachers will run the new school?

- 1
- 2
- 3

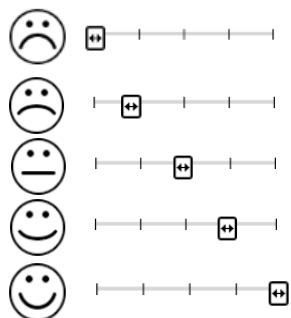
(if '1' is selected – the following text is displayed): Yes, this is correct. The plan is to start working with the governors of Larkrise, St Nicholas and Rowdeford to form a shadow governing body that will appoint the senior leadership team for the new amalgamated school.

(if '2' or '3' is selected – the following text is displayed): The consideration is to recruit one new executive head to oversee all three sites. The plan is to start working with the governors of Larkrise, St Nicholas and Rowdeford to form a shadow governing body that will appoint the senior leadership team for the new amalgamated school.

Thanks for completing this section, we hope you found this useful. Please now click on 'next' to provide us with your feedback on our proposal.

Please click on or move the slider to provide us with your feedback:

(The following images are displayed at the following intervals:



Use the slider to show if you're happy that there will be Post-16 provision at the new school?



Are you happy that we don't need to have nursery (early years) provision at the new school?




Are you happy that the new school is planned to be a local authority maintained school as opposed to an academy?



To what extent do you think the new school should support mainstream schools about being more inclusive and accessible to children and young people with SEND?



To what extent do you support the proposal?



Thank you for supplying us with your answers to these questions. Please use the space below for any other comments:

Name
Email
Postcode

Before submitting your responses, please read the following statement and give your preference to how your comments are treated.

Data Protection

Wiltshire Council has a duty to protect personal information and will process personal data in accordance with Data Protection legislation. The personal data you provide on this form will only be used for the purpose of developing special schools' provision in Wiltshire. Your comments may be used within a publicly accessible document as part of the work undertaken to develop special school provision, please state below your consent on how we use your comments:.

- That you give consent for your response and name to be included within any publicly accessible document produced by the council as part of the work undertaken to develop special school provision

- That you give consent for your response only to be included within any publicly accessible document produced by the council as part of the work undertaken to develop special school provision
- That you do not give consent for your response to be included in any publicly accessible document produced by the council as part of the work undertaken to develop special school provision

The data will be stored on computer and/or manual files. You have a right to a copy of your information held by any organisation, with some exemptions. To gain access to your personal data held by Wiltshire Council or if you have any Data Protection concerns please contact Wiltshire Council's Data Protection Officer on 01225 713000 (switchboard) or e-mail to dataprotection@wiltshire.gov.uk

For further information about how Wiltshire Council uses your personal data, including your rights as a data subject, please see our Privacy Notice on the Wiltshire Council website.

Thank you for completing our survey. Now click on 'submit'.

2) Online survey results responses

Overall 93 respondents completed this questionnaire.

Breakdown of respondents

Please state your interest in this consultation (tick all that apply)

	TOTAL	Larkrise	St Nicholas	Rowdeford
Parent/carer of a child attending Larkrise, St Nicholas or Rowdeford School	35	16	9	10
A child or young person attending Larkrise, St Nicholas or Rowdeford School	3	2		1
Friend or other relative of a family with a child attending Larkrise, St Nicholas or Rowdeford School	8	4	3	1
Staff member or governor of Larkrise, St Nicholas or Rowdeford School	31	5	13	13
Professional with an interest in special educational needs and/or disability	16			
Parent/carer of a child with a special educational need and/or disability being educated elsewhere	16			
Friend or other relative of a family with a child with a special educational need and/or disability being educated elsewhere	4			
Other	9*			
TOTAL		27	25	25

*Other:

Parent of a child currently attending specialist pre-school looking for specialist school next year
Westbury Town Council (Councillor)

Healthcare Professional

Trustee of the ROWDEFORD CHARITY TRUST

Member of Parliament for South West Wiltshire

Student of Hardenhuish school, next to St Nicholas

Past parent of child at St Nicholas.

A resident of Chippenham

Additional comments given (67)

I feel that yes we do need a new school with extended placements but do feel that this would be much more inclusive if the schools were kept to three separate schools and in the children's local communities where they can easily walk to local facilities and don't have an extended journey each day also . Also the majority of the children will then grow into adults in their local community so need to feel excepted and familiar with their community Also the children benefit it from a smaller school rather than one large one.

Tracey
penelhum
BA14

Why have Wiltshire Council not looked into where demand is at present, instead of waiting until the new school is built? Surely, by looking at where demand is presently, Wiltshire Council could save a lot of money building where demand is now, rather than waiting until the new school is built, and then finding that the demand is elsewhere, and then have to build another school?

Sarah
Fleming
BA14

There is no doubt that we are in desperate and urgent need of more special school places in Wiltshire. However, the information provided by Wiltshire Council has been confusing; it seems to keep changing and you sometimes include what is needed in the south or split it in a way to argue your case. You also swing between how much the 'new' school will cost. I'm relieved that all three sites will remain open as it's crucial parent/carers, students and their families have CHOICE, depending on the child's individual needs; perhaps it is right for a child to attend a nature-based setting, but likewise it might be better for another child to be close to hospital due to their high-risk medical needs, or to be nearer their own community in which they are familiar and known. I am greatly concerned that your long game is to eventually close the special school sites in Chippenham and Trowbridge when these are two of the biggest towns in Wiltshire and earmarked for 45,000 new homes!! Of course there will always be demand for special school places in these towns. I'm also gravely concerned that you will purposely run down the sites of St Nicholas and Larkrise to make them unappealing to parents; I hope you will demonstrate just how you plan to invest in these sites and ensure quality provision so there is fair and equitable education across the three sites. Also, I will have to weigh up the risks of sending my child to the new site; whilst I like the idea of new and improved facilities, talented and knowledgeable staff have already fled St Nicholas school because Rowde is too far a commute for them and the argument that Rowdeford doesn't have a problem gaining staff is mute when you're talking about tripling the staffing needed at the new site. I also don't trust Wiltshire Council to ensure there are the right facilities and enough of them for 400 children!! Currently we have a hydrotherapy pool at St Nicholas for about 65 children. Will you be building 6 hydro pools on the new site to ensure a similar ratio? I also understand that Wiltshire Council's aim is to try to get as many children with additional needs into mainstream education, however this can't always be the case. My child would be like a caged animal in a mainstream setting; he would gain nothing from it, even with support, and it would be detrimental to neurotypical children to have him in their setting as he would be a constant distraction. I also don't believe mainstream settings are adequately funded to support children with additional needs, let alone those with complex needs or PMLD; they are already struggling to make ends meet and we as parents are constantly asked to self-fund initiatives or contribute to fundraising drives. This is on top of the fact that children with additional needs would impact on a mainstream school's attendance record (frequent illnesses due to medical conditions) and test results. The fact is: they don't want us, and frankly, I don't want them as they will not be able to meet my child's needs or help him learn at his level in order to help him reach his potential and give him a fighting chance at life.

Melissa
Loveday
SN11

No early years or post 16 provision at Rowdeford school. This has been many time by past and present parents/carers. We are still raising same concerns that have been raised for many years. Many children attend RDA or equine therapy which is also closed locally and children travelling many miles to attend, missing educational hours or stopping

Emily Rees
SN14

I still disagree with the fact that it will close Larkrise and St Nicholas. This will not be good for people being removed from their local area eg Trowbridge and Chippenham. I think that building on Ashton street to extend Larkrise, would accommodate more places in the trowbridge area. Also extended Roweford on its existing site for the Devizes area would also allow for more places. Keeping St Nicholas as it currently is now. At least then all staff and pupils would be able to stay local and keeping all jobs. I know that this won't happen because of that evil word Money. This is because Wiltshire Council want to make cuts and building one huge, busy, noisy school for children with Special Needs is the most cost saving option in the long term. I also think that where the new school is going to be built is on a very dangerous narrow road in the middle of nowhere, is still not safe and appropriate for a Special School. Only access to the community is Devizes as Rowde has nothing to offer except dangerous narrow roads with narrow pavements not suitable for wheelchairs. You would have to bus students into town as it's too far to walk and not safe. The canal walk would be dangerous for children with special needs, as they are unaware of dangers of water. Then when you finally get to Devizes all there is, is busy roads and small inaccessible access to a few cafes and small shops. At least there is more access and nice walks from Larkrise and St Nicholas, into the town centres with more choice of where they can go to cafes and shopping to get them use to being in the local community. I don't think that the ideal of building on Rowdeford site of cafe and shops etc is the right way to go, as this is not getting the students use to the local community and life outside of the school, eg dealing with general public. I also think building a state of art medical complex on the grounds of the new school is a waste of money, this is it needed now and has been managed appropriately so far, so what's the point. This money could be used in redeveloping Larkrise. I know I'm wasting my time here, saying all this, as the decision has probably already been made. Wiltshire Council will do whatever they are planning and put the money first before the people. I just thought I would say a few comments while I had the chance. Many thanks for giving me the opportunity.

Karen Davis
BA14

This proposal from the Council, shows they cannot fully understand the wide range of needs of the different children that attend the three provisions currently. Smaller settings based in their local communities are more beneficial for so many children with specialist needs, why have you not addressed this properly. A super school works somewhere in Bath as it is a small county but in Wiltshire which is far and wide you need at least two super schools so children are not travelling for hours a day to get there. Invest in the three current schools, you have been given so many examples in the consultation from specialist teachers who know what is best for the children.

Name
withheld
SN13

The point at issue here is not that the provision will be good when you get there, it is that children will end up being bussed long distances to get to the school. Travel for SEND children can be traumatic and this needs to be part of the consideration. Parents need to have easy access to the school and where it will take a long time to get to and from school this may cause real hardship if parents have to take time off

Name
withheld
BA13

work. It strikes me that this reorganisation has only looked at the bottom line and not at the problems this will cause.

Bringing all children under one roof is going backwards. Isolating a large group of young people with SEN with limited community access is replicating "Mental Sub normality Hospital" This is not inclusive it will create a separated culture. Supporting main stream schools to become more inclusive will be hampered by the remote location of the school. Inclusion in the community will be limited as transport will need to be used to access even the smallest shopping trip. THIS IS A BACKWARD STEP.

Name withheld
BA14

There is huge benefit to the children at these schools in them being smaller campuses. This enables the children to feel secure and confident in their surrounds. Each school maintains its "magic" by having staff that know the children well and by being well connected to the local community and environment. The schools are currently proud of their identity, their staff and their young people and have good connections. Many staff members (particularly support staff) would not want to, or indeed be able to travel to a campus that is further away and in this, many valuable staff would be lost. Although my son copes well with his commute to Rowdeford, there are many children at St Nics and Larkrise for whom this would be distressing and potentially dangerous due to medical conditions. For many families, it is imperative that they are in easy reach of their children should a medical emergency arise. Environmentally, there are brown field sites that could be developed upon in Trowbridge and indeed existing derelict facilities that surely could be better utilised. Rowde is a small village that would not cope well with a massively increased volume of traffic and its consequences of increased noise and pollution. Rowdeford is a beautiful site and deserves to be kept green and unspoilt. Children at Rowdeford benefit from the opportunities that the green spaces offer, and this would be jeopardised if it was turned into a building site.

Name withheld
BA14

I will be devastated if this happens and my son is forced to leave St Nicholas. For my son it would be the worst thing to happen and it will have a great impact on him in a negative way.

Name withheld
SN13

I think 1 school and 3 sites is a valid option, but I feel as only putting all of your energy into one site is wasting the potential. Wouldn't it make more sense to split the money amongst the schools, help to improve them all of the intention were truly to continue to use all three sites? You could even have each site having a specialty (e.g ASC specialist, SLD, etc.) as many schools with multiple sites do. Utilise what each school is already strong in and the resources they have available and capitalise on this by helping them to expand and improve as a whole.

Name withheld
SN15

Still have concerns regarding travel distances to hospital. We use Swindon and oxford and my child will miss a lot more school due to travel times for appts when he already misses a lot of school due to ill health! No choice I have a choice of schools for my mainstream child so why can't we have a choice of special schools ? If my child and I have concerns about this ONE school and he does not want to go there, what happens then? Where would he go? We have no choice! Who's to say this school will be great for everyone? Community spirit is fantastic at our school now and my son who is very vulnerable and struggles to trust and accept will have to start all over again at a new school with new staff and different community, this took many

Name withheld
SN11

years at this school and it's very unfair on him and others to have to go through this huge change when they already struggle so much with life. It really feels like they are being pushed out of their communities and being tucked away all together out of site....very unacceptable our kids deserve more and they and their parents deserve choice

The manner in which this survey has been written is almost as bad as the proposal itself! You should be ashamed. I do not support the proposal because you simply have decided to disregard the needs and well-being of the children and their families affected by this dreadful, ill-thought out proposal.

Name
withheld
SN11

As a parent with a child attending Larkrise in Trowbridge and living in Warminster, the prospect of my child at some point being forced to travel to a school in Rowdeford fills me with disgust! I absolutely do not support my child's school closure. Whether it's in 3 years' time makes no difference. My child will still be at school then as she is only 9 years old now. Taking away my choice of school is fundamentally wrong and anybody who can't see that is completely ignorant to our rights as parents. I do not want my child having an even longer journey to school than she already has.

Rachel
Griffths
BA12

The survey has been engineered to give the answer you want. I think post 16 should be an option in the child's LOCAL school. Interaction within their community, but you've heard this a thousand times over, consultation after consultation and yet this is still not for the benefit of the children. One last chance stop playing with the lives of vulnerable families and using this three school option to shut down other school sites later.

Name
withheld
BA14

Local schools for local children. If any of the mainstream schools were going to be closed causing the students to have so much further to travel as is the case for the children of Larkrise it would never have got this far in the process. The children that Larkrise caters for are given many opportunities for interacting within their local community meaning the young people are known within the community and are able to access many community facilities. I worked with people of all ages with special needs at a time when we worked hard to ensure as many as possible were able to go into communities and interact and become valued members of their community. It seems wrong to be even considering sending the children of Trowbridge and the catchment area out of the place where most of their lives will be lived. In fact it's almost akin to the out of sight out of mind ethos of institutions out of the way!

Deborah
Sivell
BS30

As a part of the senior leadership team at Rowdeford I worry that the ethos and values-based learning that is so successful will be lost during the formation of the new leadership team. I also find it quite astonishing that whilst the potential loss of my job has been provided helpfully on a slide for everyone to see, there has been no engagement at a personal level for either myself or any of my fellow professionals at any of the schools affected.

Kathy
Dillistone
SN10

Wiltshire has failed so many children since 2010 when the EHCP was launched, there is still a vast amount of children out of education and do not fit any of these schools, isolation booths etc are not fit for purpose. Autism is also one of the conditions currently still being misunderstood, big schools are not the way forward and you are already aware of this.

Star Painter
BA13

I support the need for more spaces for SEND children and young people needed in the next few years. I don't support the proposal to have one large school in Rowdeford when housing needs in Chippenham have escalated and new housing is being built. Chippenham is much more accessible for SEN children in this community and I feel strongly a new school would be better built in Chippenham to meet the local needs and allow our children to be part of their immediate community and not cut off in a small village location where you cannot easily access the local facilities.

Name
withheld
SN15

local schools should remain in their local community. St Nicks has strong links with the secondary school next door which provides excellent inclusion opportunities for pupils at both schools. Parents who don't drive will have difficulties travelling to a site in Rowdeford due to poor public transport links. A number of excellent experienced staff will not be able to travel to Rowdeford. There are concerns regarding access for emergency services, i.e. ambulances, to get to the school in time for medical emergencies, a number of our children have life threatening disabilities. There has been the suggestion of the air ambulance but this would put an unnecessary drain on the charities resources.

Name
withheld
SN15

It is wrong to take children out of their community or their closest communities for school just because they are disabled. Trowbridge is accessible easily even for us in Westbury / Warminster and feels like our community. Rowdeford is too far away and not accessible to parents / carers and will not feel like our community. Trowbridge has a lot of facilities that disabled kids learn to use which will help them be as independent as possible in the future. Rowdeford does not offer this and will cost the authority more in the long run as some disabled adults will be less independent as a result of being taken out of their community and to a rural school. People around the Trowbridge area get to know our kids and lend a hand when needed. This will not happen if they are all sent off to Rowdeford. The kids, parents and the whole community in Trowbridge benefits by having Larkrise where it is in terms of social cohesion and inclusion. The same is no doubt true of St Nicholas. The kids do not like the long journeys which could be 3 or 4 hours a day. My child is already on the bus for 3 hours a day just to get to Trowbridge. The bus is far too hot in Summer as I am informed they are not allowed to use the air conditioning to save on fuel costs. Disgusting. Behaviour and safety will suffer undoubtedly with longer journeys. I was told by your Ed psychologists that children benefit from being schooled locally which is what Trowbridge offers. You should look for savings elsewhere or raise more tax rather than penalise this group of vulnerable kids. No-one wants this except Councillors and Council staff to save money but no doubt you will go ahead anyway regardless of 'consultation' responses.

Jacqui
Abbott
BA12

I think it's sick council is doing this to children moving them out of the town's they love to pretty much put in the middle of nowhere. It's as if their treating our kids like monsters that don't belong in the real world. Some of these children can't cope with big huge crowds but they don't care I think all they care about is money. St Nicholas school is a fantastic school but hey don't think so. They say they look after people

Name
withheld
SN11

but they don't look after children with disabilities. Taking them away from a school they love is just proof. I don't think this new SUPER school will be anything like they say. It's on a dangerous road as far as I'm concerned.

An establishment of this size is untenable. The logistics surrounding staffing, transport, parking, medical and therapeutic care would appear to be insurmountable. Besides that, its location is not conducive to fostering the strong local community ties that are so important for pupils' social development. The whole proposal smacks of a return to "institutionalised education", where all the children with special needs are thrown together in one place, out of the public gaze and segregated from the rest of society.

Chris
Hackett
SN15

I think the new school will be too large: many SEN children struggle in the busy environments of larger schools and that is why they can't stay in the mainstream in the first place. - I think the new school will not solve the conundrum of what to do with the "kids in the middle": when you have a child who has strong academic potential and some good social skills who suffers terribly from anxiety, has a range of sensory processing challenges, needs a lot of support to develop emotional literacy and social skills, and needs a lot of support to be able to access the curriculum and achieve their academic potential. At present the special schools appear to cater for those children and young people who are significantly impaired; however, they are not able to provide the academic ambition and social development that "kids in the middle" need. However, mainstream schools appear unable to provide the support that "kids in the middle" need to thrive academically, emotionally and socially. - Many children and their families will have to travel too far to this one central location: it is only really convenient if you live in the middle of the county and for many children could result in significantly longer journey times than they have now as well as reducing their chances of socialising with their friends out of school because they won't be local. - In our experience mainstream schools are supposed to be inclusive and accessible to SEN children but they simply do not have the resources, knowledge and skills to do this, and because they don't have the skills / knowledge they are not willing or able to recognise this which results in an unnecessarily long hard fight for parents in order to secure the support their child needs. I do not believe that one big school is going to be able to provide the outreach all the primary and secondary schools in the county need in order to rectify this and the money can't be spent twice: I think there should be more funding for the services working directly with schools to reduce waiting times and improve the frequency and depth of involvement in mainstream (i.e. educational psychologists, OT, SALT, cognition and development team). I think there should be more funding for appropriately skilled staff to work at better ratios (i.e. more 1:1) with SEN children, and there should be more funding for appropriate training for teaching and support (i.e.. TAs) staff. - I think the Mendip Free and Fosseway are good examples for Wiltshire to follow.

Name
withheld
BA12

I appreciate that there is a need for more special needs places in North Wiltshire, I also acknowledge that some of the existing sites are outdated and need an injection of money to boost resources, skill sets of staff and provision. However, I do not understand why the chosen site to develop has been Rowde. This site is not the right site to develop for the majority of our pupils - I acknowledge that it is the site which has the space to do this, but it seems that other sites in Chippenham and Trowbridge have not been considered as being more inclusive and community based. It is extremely important to our pupils that they are in a setting which is part of a community and that has as little travel time as possible for them. Whilst the three

Name
withheld
SN15

sites will run until 2023, it is a concern that no further funding will be injected into maintaining and improving the 2 other sites - St Nicholas and Larkrise. They desperately need funding to improve their provision and it is our responsibility as educators and as a local authority to ensure that they pupils get the best education and access to resources, specially trained staff including therapists no matter which site they are on. My concern also lies in the management of the transition with 1 executive head overseeing 3 sites - there seems to be no clear consensus as to how the three sites will be managed and what the senior leadership will look like within those sites.

Rowde is not a site that has good access to a community. Pupils in wheelchairs will not be able to access equivalent facilities and communities that they currently have at St Nicholas and Larkrise without having to spend more time on transport. Rowde is not easily accessible by public transport for staff or parents who can't drive. If St Nicholas School site shuts several experienced staff won't be able to do the extra commute to Rowde - this will impact greatly on the pupils who need consistency and adults they know in their lives. St Nicholas School already has a hydrotherapy pool that is used by pupils and the wider community, many of who have a physical need for hydrotherapy and can't travel any distance to access it. The proposal doesn't take account of the pupils who all have high medical needs as pupils who seizure will be put at risk by having longer journeys to school. There needs to remain a special school in Chippenham so that these pupils can be seen and accepted in their local community.

Name withheld
SN14

Very concerned that the provision will dilute the quality of secondary education that Rowdeford currently provides. I am confused by some of the detail. The slides say 400 new places on Rowdeford site but previously it was much less than that?? Also it implies the other two schools will remain open when I thought the idea was closing them. What is the point of the changes if those sites are to remain? This is not clear. Not clear how one leadership team over three sites will work. Rowdeford currently provides excellent provision and the systems etc in place clearly work. How much will those successful systems be affected by the changes? It is not clear how the new school will work regarding bringing in children with profound difficulties. My daughter is verbal with mild learning difficulties so I am unclear how classes and lessons will be designed to incorporate all the radically different abilities. Is there a model from other schools in the country you are aiming to copy? Overall, I am not in the slightest convinced that this is not about cutting costs at the heart of the decision and I have no current vision on how the new school will operate. Three sites, one school is not how it was originally sold. I feel enormously sad that Rowdeford, an excellent school in its current form will no longer exist.

Emma Morgan
SN10

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Firstly, I support Wiltshire Council in seeking to improve provision for some of my most vulnerable young constituents, staff and families. That is greatly to its credit. I am very aware from my constituency casework of under provision in county. However, I note that the proposals will reduce it by around a third only (based on the proposal document figures increasing provision from 293 to 400 with 300 currently out of county). I also note the projected increased demand. The revised plan appears to be in response to public pressure and I welcome that, congratulating those who have campaigned for Larkrise (an OFSED rated GOOD school) and St Nicholas and those who have listened. Again, I note that no final decision will be taken on these two schools for two years at which point there will be further consultation. I am comfortable with the idea of unified management particularly if it leads, as the revised proposal argues, to reduced costs

Rt Hon Dr Andrew Murrison MP
BA13

and addresses the current deficit across the existing estate. The plans for post 16 are positive. However, in my view closure of Larkrise is unacceptable. All children, and primary school age children particularly, have a reasonable expectation of local schooling and this should be especially so for the young people in question given the added trauma to them and their families of travel. I have been struck in discussing the issue with parents and as an ex Special School Governor by how all-consuming getting to and from school is for them. A single school near Devizes is bound to increase this. I will continue to resist any downgrading of Larkrise as I do not consider that it will be in the interests of those I represent. However, as a minimum the decision in principle should be taken now to maintain Larkrise for key stages 1 and 2. That would be a reasonable compromise and an indication that the Council has listened to the community. It would ensure that the Council can make further inroads into reducing expensive and traumatic out of county placements and add future-proofing to the benefit of all involved in the north of the county. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Three Ways works well in Bath. That is because it's in the town with main transport links. Devizes has none of this. You're losing the inclusiveness of local community. So important to these young people. Using the different transport types on offer in Chippenham and Trowbridge.

Jane Gibbs
SN11

Bigger classes mean children more susceptible to pick up infections from class mates, more children on transport leading to longer journeys to and from school, what access will the children have to the community ie church, shops, park ???

Name
withheld
SN12

The site of the new school is not appropriate due to its planned size. The road infrastructure will not cope with the traffic generated by 300 pupils and the staff required for a school of this size. The pavements surrounding the proposed site are too narrow or are non-existent therefore preventing pupils from walking in the local community. New schools are needed to complement the existing schools, but they need to be located evenly throughout Wiltshire so that pupil journey times are kept as short as possible and that pupils can go to school within their local community. A number of schools are needed to give parents a choice as to which school their child will attend. The proposed site increases ambulance response times and although a helicopter pad has been suggested as a solution, who will fund the air ambulance service?

Name
withheld
SN11

The rate that Chippenham is growing there needs to remain a special school to provide provision for this growing town. There is a post 16 provision provided already moving out the students' local town is a silly idea making a lot things inaccessible

Tracey
SN14

Not sure how all this will work out, but I hope that all schools will stay as they are and not make it into One school, It would be amazing if our children to also have an option to choose which school they Would like to attend instead of just a one size fits all kind a of school

Name
withheld
SN4

The feedback and needs of the young people and their care givers should be the priority, but I feel keeping the existing schools open beyond 2023 gives them a choice. Perhaps a big school doesn't suit their needs, maybe the location doesn't work for any number of factors (work/home/other dependants care), perhaps the move would be traumatic. Mainstream children have access to different schools, why shouldn't SEND children. Parents who are so inclined can move to access the school of their choice. Providing a single option is discriminatory in my mind. Then there is the exposure to the community. Our community will suffer by not having SEND individuals in it. Our society should be representative, and these children should be seen, and that can be achieved by keeping their schools local. Finally, as difficult as it may be for you to balance the different considerations you have with regards to service provision and costs, you should take care not to forget how difficult it is for those who are impacted by those decisions.

Kathryn
SN15

Foot note

Ten respondents requested that their response (additional comment) was NOT included in any publicly accessible document produced by the council as part of the work undertaken to develop special school provision – these comments have been supplied to the Cabinet under separate cover.