

## Statutory Consultation

### ***Proposal to increase Silverwood School's capacity to 410 places***

#### Introduction

Wiltshire Council proposes to make a prescribed alteration to Silverwood School by expanding the school's current registered net capacity from 340 places to 410. This proposal is part of the planned transformation for the school following the below key decisions and activities:

- December 2020: North Wiltshire School is renamed Silverwood School following engagement with pupils, parent carers, staff and governors
- September 2020 – March 2021: Co-production workshops to inform the design of the new special school build at Silverwood School\*, Rowde campus
- September 2020: Silverwood School is created as a single school on three sites, following the related closure of the special schools previously known as Larkrise in Trowbridge, Rowdeford in Rowde, near Devizes, and St. Nicholas, Chippenham
- May 2020: Following the statutory consultation, The Office of the School's Adjudicator approves the amalgamation and creation of the new school
- November 2019: Following the statutory consultation, Wiltshire Council Cabinet approves a £33m build project to increase special school places at the Rowde campus to meet projected demand

\*For ease of reference, the school is referred to as Silverwood School, including where in the timeline, at the time, it was known as North Wiltshire School.

This proposal concerns the increase of registered places, it is not intended to be a full account of the process of implementing the increase.

This proposal does not change the plans for the major build project at the Silverwood School Rowde Campus.

Should the increase in registered places to Silverwood School be agreed, the council and the school will work together to ensure that all admissions are handled effectively and efficiently.

#### The Proposal

In accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 **Wiltshire Council are proposing changes to Silverwood School, to increase the school's current place numbers registered with the Department for Education (DfE) from 340 places to 410.**

The Special Educational Need would remain the same with Silverwood School continuing to support the needs of children and young people who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) identified to support pupils with moderate to severe/profound and multiple learning difficulties, including ASD.

Wiltshire Council are making this proposal to:

- Meet the needs of the growing number of children with SEND
- Continue to support the education and wellbeing of the students at Silverwood School
- Take a necessary step towards the planned expansion and build at Silverwood School

## **The case for increasing capacity at Silverwood School**

Wiltshire Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places for pupils with special education needs (Children and Families Act 2014) and to ensure that these places provide both high quality provision and value for money.

Due to the growing demand, Silverwood School now has 377 students (as at 01/03/2021). A major build project will see the capacity of the Rowde site grow during 2021-2023 and this is being carefully managed together by the council and the school to ensure the school has the space and resources to support these students at each stage of the expansion. It is proposed that Silverwood School formally changes its registered capacity to 410 so that students at Silverwood School can continue their education at the school and to allow for the intake of new students in September 2021.

## **The Outcomes of the Proposal**

Wiltshire Council is proposing that Silverwood School increases its number of registered places from 340 to 410.

We believe that this will:

- Provide additional capacity to manage demand in special schools within Wiltshire
- Support improved educational outcomes for children that require special school places

This proposal is not expected to have any limiting impact on other local provision including local schools but will contribute towards parental choice.

## **Implementation**

Following consultation, the local authority and school will work together to ensure that all admissions are handled effectively and efficiently.

This planned place number increase is part of the wider project to build at the Silverwood Rowde campus, ensure sufficiency of places for students with SEND, and improve outcomes for all children and young people with SEND through the development of a system of excellence. This project is being carefully planned and managed in collaboration between the council, schools and other partners.

## **Costs and Expenditure**

Silverwood School will continue to receive funding per pupil attending the school. This means that as the number of children attending the school increases, so does the funding the school receives.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to these proposals have been complied with.

## Consultation Process Indicative Timeline

Stage 1	Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal will be published on Silverwood School and Wiltshire Council website for 4 weeks from 19/04/2021 until 16/05/2021</li> <li>• A copy of the proposal has been sent to the Governors of Silverwood School and the Executive Head Teacher</li> <li>• Silverwood School will ensure that the information is released through a circulated update (this may be a paper or electronic newsletter or update) and sent directly to all parent/carers of all registered pupils</li> <li>• Copies of the proposal will be available via the school, by contacting Wiltshire Council and on the websites.</li> <li>• Comments can be made using the online survey <a href="https://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal">https://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal</a>, via E-mail or letter to:  Silverwood School Place Numbers consultation, Commissioning, Wiltshire Council, Bythesea Rd, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN or <a href="mailto:SpecialSchools@wiltshire.gov.uk">SpecialSchools@wiltshire.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• <b>Comments must be received by no later than the 16/05/2021 to be considered in the decision-making process.</b></li> </ul>
Stage 2	Representation (Formal consultation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The period of consultation will run from 19/04/2021 – 16/05/2021</li> </ul>
Stage 3	Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the representation period, a decision will be made by July 2021</li> </ul> <p>The proposal can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accepted</li> <li>○ Rejected</li> <li>○ Or accepted with modifications by the proposer</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The decision will be published within one week of the decision and; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ published on the same sites as the publication</li> <li>○ Sent to every registered pupil</li> <li>○ And sent to the governing body</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Stage 4	Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If approved, the change to place numbers will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.</li> <li>• The Secretary of State will be informed by updating the department's Register of Educational Establishments (EduBase)</li> <li>• If the proposal is accepted the council and the school will work together to ensure that all admissions are handled effectively and efficiently.</li> </ul>

## Responses

Comments can be made using the online survey <https://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>, via E-mail or letter to:

Silverwood Place Numbers consultation, Commissioning, Wiltshire Council, Bythesea Rd, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN or [SpecialSchools@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:SpecialSchools@wiltshire.gov.uk)

If you choose to respond via letter, please use the consultation response template below:

Please note that all comments must be received by **16/05/2021**.

<b>Consultation Response:</b>				
Please circle your role:	Pupil	Parent/carer/ family	Governor	Member of staff
Do you agree with the proposal to increase the number of registered places at Silverwood School from 340 to 410?		Yes	No	Not sure
Please Comment:				
Do you think there are other options that should be explored? (please describe)				
Are there any other comments you would like to make?				