

Individual Cabinet Member Delegated Decision

**Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills
– Cllr Laura Mayes**

Service: Education and Skills

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Reference: CES-03-22

Proposal to Create a Resource Base at Clarendon Infant School

Purpose of Report

1. To approve the Council to make a prescribed alteration to Clarendon Infant School, Tidworth by creating a resource base (special educational needs provision).

Relevance to the Council’s Business Plan

2. In line with the Council 2017 – 2027 business plan, there is a clear priority to protect those who are most vulnerable. The goal is to have “schools that help all pupils achieve” including those who “...are vulnerable to underachievement – including... those with Special Educational or Disabilities (SEND)”.

Background

3. An increased demand for SEN school places has been identified in the Tidworth area. Wiltshire Council as a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places, including for children with SEN. Clarendon Infants are a ‘Good’ school as judged by Ofsted and are keen to develop a resource base to meet the local need.
4. Following guidance from Legal Services it was agreed with Clarendon Infant School to start the statutory four-week consultation period on 6 June 2022. During this formal consultation period there were three responses in favour of the proposal and no responses that were opposed to the proposal.

Main Considerations for the Council

5. Following a period of review and consultation the main consideration is the creation of a Resource Base at Clarendon Infant School, Tidworth. This will;
 - Help meet the existing and growing need for SEN school places in the Tidworth area

- Ensure compliance with Department for Education (DfE) legislation

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

6. The pre-consultation involved planning a schedule and timeline as per DfE statutory guidance. The SEND Place Commissioning Lead worked with Clarendon Infant School and produced the consultation document which outlined a proposal. During the pre-consultation, there were no objections to the proposals from parent carers, staff or school governors.
7. A four-week statutory consultation period has been observed, in accordance with the DfE guidelines and three responses have been received, all in favour of the proposal.

Safeguarding Implications

8. Safeguarding is central to the wellbeing of all children educated at Clarendon Infant School and the high standards in practice will continue to be maintained and developed. There are no safeguarding implications for this proposal.

Public Health Implications

9. Health professionals will continue to work with Clarendon Infant School to ensure the health needs of pupils at the school are met. There are no public health implications of this proposal.
10. All schools in Wiltshire will continue to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic following national and Wiltshire guidance. The creation of a resource base will not impact this.

Procurement Implications

11. Not applicable.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

12. As a service for SEN children; a group the Council recognises has protected characteristics; the Council ensures that changes in service are not detrimental to their welfare or wellbeing. In this case, the proposal to create a resource base for the the 2022-23 academic year will increase choice for families.
13. Tidworth, and the local area, have a high proportion of military families. Many of the children requiring a specialist SEN school place from this area are from military families and this proposal will help ensure equity of provision for this group.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

14. This proposal has no significant impact on environmental and climate change considerations. There is no significant change expected in the use of energy or

utilities. There may be some small positive impact on the carbon footprint related to decreased travel (avoiding more students needing to travel out of the Tidworth area for school including out of county schools), but this will be minimal.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

15. If the decision was made not to create the resource base, it would be more difficult for Wiltshire Council to meet their statutory duty to provide sufficient SEN school places in the Tidworth area, families of children with SEN in the Tidworth area would have less choice, and there would be an increased likelihood of children being placed at more expensive out of county placements at greater cost.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

16. No risks have been identified.

Financial Implications

17. Reconfiguration of existing space at the school is being completed and funding has been approved from the SEN Capital Grant to fund this. There are no additional capital cost implications of this proposal .
18. Place funding for all children attending a resource base in Wiltshire is set and Clarendon Infants School resource base will receive SEN place funding in accordance with this existing policy. To ensure the provision is affordable in the first year a commitment has been made to fund a minimum of ten places.
19. There are no other financial considerations.

Legal Implications

20. Clarendon Infant School is a maintained federated school (federated with Clarendon Junior School). The creation of the resource base is proposed by the local authority, supported by the governing body, and the decision maker is the local authority. Such a change to a maintained school is governed by The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 ('the Prescribed Alterations Regulations').
21. When exercising functions under these regulations regard must be had to guidance published by the Department of Education (DfE), "Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools" Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers (October 2018) guidelines. The process for making these prescribed alterations as set out in the guidance has been followed.
22. The cabinet member, as decision maker should also have regard to this guidance.
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/>

Workforce Implications

23. Clarendon Infant School and Wiltshire Council are working closely together and the school is arranging for the appropriate staffing for the children at the resource base. This has no further workforce implications.

Options Considered

24. Creating the resource base for the 2021-22 academic year will help meet the identified need for specialist SEN school places in the Tidworth area. The alternative 'do nothing' would carry the risks identified in this paper.

Proposal

25. **To Create a Resource Base at Clarendon Infant School, Tidworth.**

Reason for Proposal

26. To provide specialist SEN school places for children in the Tidworth area assessed as needing this provision based on their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

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Appendices

- **Statutory Notice**
- **Proposal**
- **Responses**