



FULL STATUTORY PROPOSAL

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)
(England) Regulations 2013

Expansion of pupil numbers – Ravenswood School

1. School and LA details

School: Ravenswood School

Address: Pound Lane, Nailsea, Bristol, BS48 2NN

Local Authority: North Somerset Council

2. Description of alteration

North Somerset Council working with the Governing Body of Ravenswood School proposes to expand the school (which supports the provision of education for children aged from 3 years to 19 years) from a range of 112 – 119 places to a range of 134 – 140 places to help to meet the increasing demand for pupil places for those with moderate learning difficulties with effect from 01 September 2021.

The proposal will be implemented by North Somerset Council with the support of the Governing Body of Ravenswood School. Following consultation, the proposal also has the support of most of the local community.

The school site will be enlarged by permanently taking over and enhancing parts of the now vacant Voyage Learning campus (VLC) site adjacent to Ravenswood. With small adjustments to this additional facility an increase in whole school capacity from 108 to a range of between 134 and 140 pupils can be achieved. The Place Value will increase to 134 places, with an agreement that, dependent on the needs of pupils across the whole school, admissions up to 140 pupils may be possible provided the efficiency and effectiveness of education across the whole school population is not compromised.

3. Evidence of demand

There is a growing population of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) across North Somerset Local Authority. There are limited places available within special schools and alternative provision to support children with additional needs. The creation of further spaces at Ravenswood would help reduce the number of children that access costly resources beyond the local authority.

Specifically, for Ravenswood demand is increasing due to both the increase in demographic growth across North Somerset and the increasing needs of pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD); Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH); Speech, Communication and Language Needs (SCLN) and Visual Impairment (VI).

Officers have been working with senior staff and governors at Ravenswood to increase provision and all agree in:

- the principle of 'local schools for local children' is equally applicable to children with additional needs
- demand for specialist provision current exceeds supply in North Somerset and extra provision for pupils at Ravenswood will help to meet this demand
- this change could be the first of several reviews that, subject to significant capital funding being made available, could provide for further expansions of the site in the future

Increasing the place value admission levels of Ravenswood would increase the numbers of permanent available places from their current range of between 112 to 119 places (dependent on the needs of pupils) to up to 140 places. Initially the growth would be concentrated in the infant phase where there is a significant increase in demand, although extra provision across all cohorts is needed and possible.

A pupil cannot attend Ravenswood School without an EHCP. They use a person-centred approach to support their students in planning their futures.

4. Objectives

The school is very proud of the progress pupils make at Ravenswood. Outstanding Progress means that at least 90% of a cohort make at least expected progress with more than 75% meeting or exceeding the challenging targets they set. Pupils can take national examinations such as GCSEs and they achieve Entry Level and Entry Pathways outcomes as well as AQA Unit Awards. Post-16 pupils follow a programme that provides them with a range of Functional Skills and Asdan Results. They are also encouraged to follow programmes such as The Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and have been successful and Bronze and Silver levels.

The School aims to:

- provide pupils with a safe environment and the best possible education and support, promoting their pathway to independence in learning and life skills
- provide pupils with positive guidance to manage their behaviour through clear expectations, rewards and sanctions
- achieve high standards of teaching for all pupils throughout the school day; providing an exciting curriculum in a positive and attractive environment
- provide a pathway at the end of KS4 and the end of post-16 for every young person; preparing them for further learning and life as an adult
- keep staff informed about school matters; consulting with them about significant changes in school organisation, curriculum and policies
- keep parents and carers informed of their child's progress and well-being at school
- use robust evidence and work closely with governors and staff, evaluating the school's performance and planning our strategic direction.

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

North Somerset population has expanded, this has led to an increase in need for special school placements. Nationally the picture has also changed and the needs of pupils who attend special schools has become growingly complex.

The governing board and school have carefully considered what future provision should be in place to ensure sustainability against the changing patterns of need. The additional provision will ensure that there is enough provision to meet some of the demand of places

for pupils with additional needs within the local area. Creating capacity will be to the suitable standards and ensure health and safety and welfare of pupils if safeguarded.

Increasing the place value admission levels of Ravenswood will increase the numbers of permanent available places from a minimum of 112 to up to a maximum of 140 places. Initially the growth would be concentrated in the infant phase where there is a significant increase in demand, although extra provision across all cohorts is needed and possible. Ravenswood is a Good school; the school are striving for the best possible outcomes for the most vulnerable pupils in our society. This small expansion will ensure that we can provide for more.

6. Project costs and funding

A small grant of £28,000 was made available to Ravenswood to enable small site upgrades to parts of the adjacent now vacant Voyage Learning Campus (VLC) site; this was funded by a contribution from the Specialist Provision Earmarked Reserve. They are currently using parts of the site on a short-term lease basis. Further changes to the site would be needed to enable it to accommodate between 134 and 140 pupils. These are expected to cost in the region of £50 - £100k and the funding for this will be approved separately as part of an amendment to the Council's capital programme 2021/22.

7. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

Initially the growth will be concentrated in the infant phase where there is a significant increase in demand, although extra provision across all cohorts is needed and possible.

8. Support, Objections and comments

Objections and comments should be sent within four weeks of 11 February 2021 to: School Organisation (F.A.O. Janice Allen), North Somerset Council, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ. The closing date for comments is **11 March 2021**.

Email: School.Organisation@n-somerset.gov.uk

Please mark all correspondence 'Expansion of Ravenswood School'.

9. Decision-making

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is North Somerset Council. The decision will be made by the Executive at its meeting on 29 April 2021.

Signed:



Sheila Smith, Director of Children's Services

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