



FULL STATUTORY PROPOSAL

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

Increase in Place Value from 120 to 160 – Baytree School

1. School and LA details

School: Baytree School

Address: 1A Kelting Grove, Clevedon, BS21 6YF and Highlands Lane, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 7DX

Local Authority: North Somerset Council

2. Description of alteration

North Somerset Council, working with the Governing Body of Baytree School, proposes to increase the place value of the school (which supports the provision of education for children aged from 3 years to 19 years with profound and complex learning difficulties) from 120 places to 160 places, located across both the Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon sites, with effect from 1 September 2026.

Baytree School is a North Somerset Special school that supports the provision of education for children aged from 3 years to 19 years whose Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) includes a requirement for specialist provision. Baytree School offers a very well-resourced environment and aims to provide the highest possible standards of education and support for all learners regardless of their level of educational need. It is, however, over-subscribed and at present, the number of learners on roll exceeds the existing Place Value of the school. The Place Value would increase to 160 places, without compromising the efficiency and effectiveness of education across the whole school population.

The school's second site at Brookfield Walk in Clevedon, was future proofed in its design to be able to cater for 65-85 children. It is therefore likely that the additional capacity would be mostly at this site, due to these numbers being considered within the design and the planning of the building. As of November 2025, there were 145 children on roll at Baytree School and therefore increasing the place value to 160 represents an increase of 15 pupils.

3. Evidence of demand

North Somerset population has expanded; this has led to an increase in the need for special school placements. Nationally the picture has also changed and the needs of learners who attend special schools have become ever more complex. The school's expansion in 2024 took them from operating on a single site catering to around 72 children at The Campus in Weston-super-Mare, to a two-site school with a new building for between 65 and 85 more learners in Clevedon. The two sites currently offer around 120 school places.

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 increased place value will ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet some of the demand of places for learners with additional needs within the local area. Baytree is a school rated Outstanding in

all aspects; the school are striving for the best possible outcomes for the most vulnerable learners in our society.

Objectives

The Council has a statutory duty to meet the school place needs of all children and young people. This includes those with profound and severe learning needs for whom, without this expansion, there is a deficit of places locally.

Special schools can be considered for expansion when they are classed by OfSTED as good or outstanding, there is a proven demand for places, where any building works will increase capacity but also enhance and assist to resolve condition issues, and where the increase fits with the Council's strategic principles as outlined in its commissioning strategy. There is a proven demand for new places and the two school sites already have the capacity for up to 160 pupils.

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

Baytree School is the only school in North Somerset designated to provide education to children with profound and complex learning difficulties. Nationally the picture has also changed and the needs of pupils who attend special schools has become increasingly complex.

Demand for all special school places across North Somerset continues to grow and this includes pupils with Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties. This is due to demographic growth and an increase in the numbers of pupils with these learning characteristics. The resulting outcome is a deficit of local places with more children needing to access education in costly out of the district establishments. Local schools are full, and demand continues to rise.

North Somerset Council, in partnership with the governing body and senior leaders at the school, have carefully considered what future provision should be in place to ensure sustainability against the changing patterns of need. The increase in place value will assist in ensuring that there is provision to meet more of the demand of places for pupils with additional needs within the local area.

5. Project costs and funding

Special Schools are funded from the High Needs block of the schools' budget, which is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant. Funds are distributed to schools based on formulas and allocations set by the Strategic Schools' Forum (SSF). The High Needs block not only covers maintained special schools and the Council's Pupil Referral Unit but also SEND Top Up Funding and placements for pupils in independent and private non-maintained schools.

No capital scheme is required as the school has already been expanded to meet additional place needs.

6. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

It is intended that the school should grow from a 120 place provision to a 160 place school located across both the Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon sites with effect from 1 September 2026.

The additional capacity will be mostly at the Brookfield Walk site in Clevedon which is able to cater for 65-85 children. As of November 2025, there were 145 children on roll at Baytree School and therefore increasing the place value to 160 represents an increase of 15 pupils.

There will be no expansion to the school's existing accommodation in order to accommodate the additional children.

7. Support, Objections and comments

Objections and comments should be sent within four weeks of 9 February 2026 to: School Organisation (F.A.O. Georgia Humphrey), North Somerset Council, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ. The closing date for comments is **9 March 2026**.

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

Please mark all correspondence 'Increase in Place Value of Baytree School'.

8. Decision-making

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is North Somerset Council. The decision will be made by 9 May 2026.

Signed:



Claire Shiels, Director of Children's Services

Publication Date: 9 February 2026