

**St Gregory CEVC Primary School
Sudbury, Suffolk**

**Statutory Proposal to alter special
educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
provision**

Full Proposal Document

1. LA details

Suffolk County Council
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich
IP1 2BX

The governing body of St Gregory Church of England Voluntary Controlled (CEVC) Primary School is the Proposer.

2. School details

St Gregory Church of England Voluntary Controlled (CEVC) Primary School
Church Street
Sudbury
Suffolk CO10 2BJ

St Gregory CEVC Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School

3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

This proposal is to alter special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) reserved provision at St Gregory CEVC Primary School from 01 September 2020 by broadening the profile of need and expanding the age range to include reception aged children.

The Suffolk SEND Sufficiency Review published in 2018 indicated a projected rise of 18% in the number of children and young people with SEND between 2018 and 2020 and a consequent rise in the demand for specialist placements. Health data indicates the likelihood of continuing rises in demand beyond this period.

In April 2019, to meet growing demand, Suffolk County Council Cabinet agreed to develop a continuum of provision based on four specialist pathways and to provide funding for additional specialist education places across Suffolk. The places would be provided through the establishment of new special schools and through new specialist units attached to mainstream schools. Existing specialist units, known currently in Suffolk as Specialist Support Centres (SSCs) were offered the opportunity to change their current offer to align with the new pathways i.e. to expand their age range and broaden the need of their existing Key Stage 1 units and to be renamed as Specialist Units. Some units would expand the number of places offered.

At St Gregory CEVC Primary School there is an existing Specialist Support Centre (SSC). It is proposed to rename the SSC as a Specialist Unit and to align the Specialist Unit remit in accordance with the new pathway designations.

The current provision at St Gregory CEVC Primary is 20 places:

Key Stage (KS) 1: 10 places for children with moderate learning needs

Key Stage (KS) 2: 10 places for children with moderate learning needs

The alterations will be as follows:

The existing KS1 provision will be known as a Reception/KS1 Specialist Unit with 10 places. The age range of the cohort will extend to Reception aged children and the needs will broaden to include communication and interaction provision as well as cognition and learning needs (*see below for description of need*).

Children with communication and interaction needs require support to develop their skills and confidence in communicating and interacting effectively. Children could have this need because of mental health challenges, autism or other special needs that require a nurturing and therapeutic environment.

Children with cognition and learning needs have levels of cognition that make it difficult for them to access a mainstream curriculum even with specific support to do so and need a specialist curriculum that is tailored to their learning disability. Previously, this need would have been defined as a moderate learning need.

The only change to the existing KS2 SSC provision at the school is that it will become known as a KS2 specialist unit for children with cognition and learning needs. The existing 10 places will be retained. These changes will not affect existing pupils at the SSC, as the new proposals are closely aligned to the existing designation of this SSC, however if as a result of these changes the school and a family identify the need for a possible change of placement this will be considered by the LA through its specialist admissions process. There will be no change to the school's PAN.

4. Objectives and reasons

The proposals have been agreed as necessary by the county council to support the development of local specialist provision for pupils/learners/children/young people who have SEND.

Up until now, Suffolk has had no formally stated approach to the organisation of its specialist provision. The current offer and the way it is described has been developed in a piecemeal way over many years without being systematically reviewed. This has led to a situation where specialist settings have evolved and changed without formal recognition of this, and where new schools have been established without clear ways to describe them in terms that everyone can understand and recognise. This in turn affects access for families to the right offer for their children.

The proposed changes reflect the need to make SEND provision clear for families and practitioners i.e. provision should be organised and described simply, clearly and consistently and in a way which means that gaps in the local specialist offer can be identified.

The new structure will provide high quality specialist education for children with SEND and will support parents and families in their understanding of the offer. It will also better meet the demand for SEND support in the county and families will be able to access a broader range of specialist provision within their local area.

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

The new SEND structure and provision will bring significant benefits to schools and academies by providing them with greater access to a broad range of specialist provision in the local area for their pupils from Reception to the end of Key Stage 4. This will reduce the pressure on schools to meet the needs of learners/pupils identified as having more complex needs requiring specialist provision and will mean that more children will receive the support they need to flourish.

6. Project costs and an indication of how these will be met

There are no capital costs associated with the proposed changes as the school has sufficient accommodation. Long term value for money will be achieved by educating children with SEND in local settings and reducing the need for costly travel and/or out of county placement.

7. Implementation date

It is intended to implement the proposal to alter the school's (SEND) provision on 01 September 2020. Pupils currently attending the SSC will be assessed to determine if they are to remain in the new unit, move into the mainstream of the current school or to a more local school closer to their home or, depending on their needs, transfer to a newly opened Key Stage 2 Specialist Unit at a school in the area.

8. Consultation

Workshops on the outcome of the SEND Sufficiency Survey attended by service users and providers took place in April, May and June 2018. Three consultation options were developed during the workshops:

Option 1 – to meet all additional growth for new specialist places through the independent sector;

Option 2 – to meet most of the additional growth by developing new special schools, using independent placements for a small number of children with very specialist needs;

Option 3 – to meet most additional growth by a combination of new specialist support centres with some new special schools, using independent placements for a small number of very specialist needs.

Formal consultation on the outcome of the SEND Sufficiency Survey took place between July and August 2018. 157 responses were received during the formal consultation evidencing a clear preference for Option 3. This was reported to Suffolk County Council's Cabinet on 23 April 2019 which agreed:

1: that Suffolk adopt the Specialist Education Framework as a tool for planning future provision development and making it more straightforward for families to understand the specialist education offer available in Suffolk.

2a: To the proposal for the expansion of new specialist education placements in Suffolk between 2020 and 2025 to enable the needs of the vast majority of children with SEND to be met within the local area.

2b: To support a capital investment of £24.1m for the SEND Capital Programme to fund new specialist placements which will open in September 2020 and September 2021.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/send-sufficiency-plan-consultation/>

9. Related proposals

There are no related proposals.

10. Procedure for making representations (support, objections and comments)

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals by writing to St Gregory CEVC Primary School Consultation, Schools Infrastructure Team, Children and Young People's Service, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich Suffolk IP1 2BX, email schools@suffolk.gov.uk, within 4 weeks of the publication of these proposals (by 24 April 2020).