

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

The name, address and category of the school

St. Georges School, Watergate Road, Newport PO30 1XW, (category of school – community special school)

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

1. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

Increase of capacity / Agreed Place Number by 1 September 2025

Objections and comments

2. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
 - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

- (a) Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals (2 May 2025) 9 June 2025
- (b) Any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Jade Kennett, Service Manager - Strategic Development, County Hall, Newport, IOW, PO30 1UD, telephone: 01983 821000
e-mail: strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk

Alteration description

3. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposal is to increase the Agreed Place Number from 208 to 228 through the creation of additional 20 places at the satellite provision, located at the former Studio School site, East Cowes, IOW.

School capacity

4.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The current capacity of St. George's School is 208 pupils aged 11-19 years old with complex learning difficulties including Autistic Spectrum (AS), physical disabilities (PD), hearing and visual impairment (HI, VI) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH). The current number of pupils registered at the school is 208 and the proposed admission number will be 228 from 1 September 2025, with of these 20 places provided at the former Studio School site, East Cowes.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be not admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The current number of pupils registered at the school is 208 and the proposed admission number will be 228 from 1 September 2025, with of these 20 places provided at the former Studio School site, East Cowes.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Not applicable

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not applicable

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

The number of pupils registered at the school in the 2024/25 school year is 205.

Implementation

5. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Not applicable

Additional Site

6.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

Accommodation to support this proposed increase by 20 spaces is being made available through a satellite site at the former Studio School site, East Cowes.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not applicable

Objectives

7. The objectives of the proposals.

To create additional capacity for children of secondary school age who have complex learning difficulties but more specifically Autistic Spectrum (AS), and Social

Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

Consultation

8. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
 - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
 - (c) the views of the persons consulted;
 - (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
 - (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

The Making Significant Changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools (publishing.service.gov.uk) guidance sets out process to be followed.

St Georges School is a community special school and the guidance to lower age range states:

- Local Authority for community special schools: Increase by 10% or 20 pupils (5 for boarding special) or decrease numbers must follow the statutory process.

Public Notice has therefore been implemented and the school enters into a statutory 4-week public consultation phase with notice is displayed on all gates/entrances and in school reception.

The school has sent the public notice, along with the statement of intent. Information has been put on the school's website.

Project costs

9. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

Capital funding of up to £0.334 million is required to make some alterations to the satellite provision on the former Studio School site, East Cowes. This will be funded through the High Needs Capital allocation.

10. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Not applicable

Extended services

11. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

The proposals do not affect the provision of the school's extended services.

Need or demand for additional places

12. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

The Isle of Wight Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children and young people including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability.

Since 2015-16 the number of pupils on the Isle of Wight with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) has increased from 670 to 1618 in 2023-24. This has resulted in a pressure for places in both special schools and resourced provision.

The lack of sufficient provision in Island schools has resulted in the need for increased placements within the costlier independent non-maintained specialist sector (INMSS).

The Council is committed to further developing successful provision to meet the growth in demand within the special education needs and disability (SEND) sector and help children to have their needs met in their local community.

This proposed additional SEND provision will manage some of the school place pressures generated by the increase in the number of EHCPs maintained by the local authority and allow placement of additional children for September 2024.

If the proposal is approved it will create 20 additional places for St. George's school, which will be located on a satellite site at the former Studio School site, East Cowes, IOW. The satellite site will have a specialism in AS/SEMH and not the broader more complex needs.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

Not applicable

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

Not applicable

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Not applicable to this proposal

