

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

LIONHEART SCHOOL, Albany Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5HZ (category of school – Pupil Referral Unit)

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 / Planned Admission Number by 1 September 2026

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 (Friday the 21st of November to Friday the 19th of December 2025)
- (b) Any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Glenn Parkinson, 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 (APN) from 120 to 180 with additional places being offered at the former Cowes Primary School

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 Lionheart School is 120 pupils aged 11-16 years being a pupil referral unit (PRU) providing specialist alternative provision. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 120 and the proposed admission number will be 180 from 1 September 2026.

- (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 120 and the proposed admission number will be 180 from 1 September 2026.

- (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 2025/26 school year is 120.

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.

Additional 60 places at Lionheart, bringing total to 180 places at the Lionheart Newport and Cowes sites.

(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 with Special Educational Needs living on the Isle of Wight.

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 consultation period is the statutory 4 weeks relating to the issuing of a Public Notice. Consultation has taken place with the Headteacher and governors of Lionheart School in relation to the proposed expansion from 120 to 180 places utilising the former Cowes Primary School site. This represents a further phase of expansion on the Cowes site with approval for the first phase (60 places) being achieved earlier in 2025.

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

Lionheart School is a pupil referral unit and the guidance to increase the capacity of a special school 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 Local Authority enters into a statutory public consultation phase with the notice being displayed on all gates/entrances and in school reception. In addition, details of the consultation period are sent to consultees including parents, residents close to the school sites, all schools on the Island, elected members.

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

Findings from these events and any others will be collated and considered in due course.

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 £0.250 million is required to make some alterations to the satellite site. 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 (IWC) has a statutory duty to provide sufficient specialist educational places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) on the Isle of Wight. The decision being proposed relate to the expansion of places at Lionheart School.

The proposed additional SEND provision outlined within this report will help manage an increase in the number of children with complex high anxiety mental health requiring a specialist education placement for their needs to be met by the local authority and allow placement of additional children for September 2026 and beyond.

The purpose of this consultation relates to the approval for a further phase of providing additional places for pupils with mental health needs following on from the report presented to Cabinet on the 24 April 2025 detailing the strategy for additional SEND provision, Proposed Expansion of Special Educational Needs.

It is anticipated that the creation of additional places will have a positive impact on the number of children requiring a specialist provision and for those accessing alternative provision part-time.

Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities to arrange suitable education for children of compulsory school age who cannot attend school due to illness, exclusion, or other reasons. There has been a consistent growth in demand for support under Section 19. Whilst referral numbers fluctuate sharply, since the start of 2025 there has been a significant and sustained increase in the number of referrals being made.

The figures show a rise in the need for Section 19 places with referrals accelerating rapidly particularly in the spring and summer months, indicating that future trends will likely continue upward. This growth highlights the need for proactive capacity planning and resource allocation to manage the increasing demand effectively. Hence, the proposal to increase places at Lionheart School responds to this increase in demand for provision.

- (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

13.

(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
