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Monday, February 22, 2021

Dear Consultee,

Noadswood School, proposed addition of Resourced Provision for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH needs)

I am writing to you to invite your views in respect of joint proposal between Noadswood School and Hampshire County Council to establish a resourced provision for young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) identified within an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) at Noadswood School, Dibden Purlieu.

The new provision is required as there has been an increase in the number of children with SEMH needs in the south of Hampshire. It is also needed to support the Hampshire wide strategy of offering support for pupils to access mainstream education close to their local community but with additional support tailored to their individual needs. The proposed new provision will cater for up to 5 pupils initially, in Year 7 or 8 who are academically able but require significant support to manage their anxieties and mental health, to be able to succeed in mainstream education.

This will be available from September 2021 with the number of admissions reviewed at the end of each academic year, leading to a maximum capacity of 10 pupils over time.

Where a Local Authority and Academy proposes to permanently establish Special Education Needs provision at a mainstream school, it must consult on the proposal following a set procedure.

Establishing Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) provision at Noadswood School.

Noadswood is a comprehensive secondary school of around 1000 11-16 year olds. We cultivate the well-being of all, and an ethos of kindness and mutual care. This is combined with a resolute fostering of a Growth Mindset, equipping students to learn tenacity and understand that we all make mistakes that we will grow from.

A Resource Provision (RP) enables children to benefit from accessing the curriculum, teaching and learning and all the social opportunities that are available in a mainstream school, with the addition of a high level of support. An RP acts as a calming and nurturing environment for pupils to learn and work in if they are feeling anxious or unsure and a safe place to go to calm if they are feeling frustrated or overwhelmed.

With the flexibility of a resource provision, it offers a safe and secure space when a pupil needs it and a trusted adult available to support once they are ready to return to class, to help the pupil 'turn things around'. It enables the rules and boundaries of a mainstream school to be applied to all, with the flexibility to support pupils with needs in a range of different ways.

The Local Authority already have a number of SEMH Resourced Provisions across the County in both Primary and Secondary settings,. These provisions offer support to children who have difficulty accessing mainstream education on a full-time basis and require additional support to do.

To accommodate the increased number of pupils, it is proposed to convert the Caretaker house on site and to change the use to an educational setting. The proposed works will include a comprehensive refurbishment of the house to provide a base for the resourced provision and create a safe and secure space for the pupils. In addition to the Resource provision, the pupils would access everything that Noadswood has to offer. The Local Authority and the School will contribute towards the conversion costs.

The Consultation

This consultation will run from 22nd February To 21st March 2021. Council and School staff will then take into consideration of all the consultation responses before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If so, a statutory Public Notice will be published, setting out Noadswood School's intent to establish the Resourced Provision. It is anticipated that this will be published in April.

After the date of publication there will be a four week period in which any representations can be made. After the conclusion of this period the school will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal. It is anticipated that a decision will be made in May.

Further Information

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and ensuring public safety, unfortunately we are unable to hold a public drop-in event at the school. However please send in your views and queries by email to cwest@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

If you would like to speak to an Officer then please make that request by email, briefly outlining your query so we can arrange a mutually convenient time for you to speak to an appropriate officer, either via conference call or telephone.

A webpage has also been set up with the details of the consultation which includes some 'Frequently Asked Questions' that may address any queries you have. To access this webpage please follow the link below:
<https://www.noadswood.hants.sch.uk/school-life/pastoral-care/semh-rp>

If you are unable to email or visit the above website and wish to make a comment then please write to Chris West, Noadswood School, North Road, Dibden Purlieu, Southampton, SO45 4ZF

Yours Sincerely

Chris West
Team Leader for SEMH Resource Provision
Noadswood School

Headteacher: Miss K L Marshall BA (Hons) MA