

## **Proposal to increase the size of Winchelsea School**

### **What is Proposed?**

Working together, and to support growing need for specialist placements, BCP Council and Winchelsea School propose that the number of places provided by the school is increased during the academic year 2026-27.

Places at the school are proposed to increase by:

- Changing the age range of Winchelsea School from 4-19 years to 2-19 years, to allow early years education from the age of 2 in new specialist nursery provision at a proposed satellite unit, based at Stanley Green Infant Academy.
- Expansion of Winchelsea Special School as follows:

Establishing a satellite of Winchelsea Special School hosted by Stanley Green Infant Academy, creating up to 50 additional places for Early Years, Reception and Key Stage 1 children.

Increasing the number of Post 16 places for Winchelsea School, by providing an additional 20 places at their Broadstone Youth Centre site.

### **Satellite Site hosted by Stanley Green Infant Academy**

With surplus building capacity and support from Stanley Green Infant Academy it is planned that the satellite site will provide specialist places for up to 50 Early Years, Reception and Key Stage 1 children. The availability of places is phased. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will access places from September 2026 and children in their early years will access nursery places from January 2027.

In order to accommodate the new age range of children including specialist places for nursery age children, Winchelsea School are required by law to publish statutory proposals to lower their published age range from 4-19 to 2-19.

Stanley Green Infant Academy would remain operational throughout the adaptations needed to add a satellite unit.

### **Post 16**

It is planned that Winchelsea School will increase its Post 16 offer to provide specialist support for an additional 20 young people aged 16-19 years at its existing Broadstone Youth Centre site.

### **Admissions**

The additional places provided by Winchelsea School will be allocated by the Council in line with the [SEND Code of Practice](#) for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan. Winchelsea School currently has a designated number of 250 places across its home and existing satellite sites. These proposals combined propose an increase of 70 places to create a new designated number of 320.

## Why is This Change Needed?

- **Increasing Demand:** Local data shows that the number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) requiring specialist support is projected to grow by 11% each year. Full detail of the pattern of demand and sufficiency priorities are contained within the [SEND Sufficiency Strategy](#).
- **Parental Preference:** As Winchelsea School grow through using satellite units within other schools, this new specialist satellite unit at Stanley Green Infant Academy affords access to specialist provision within a mainstream school environment and much-needed support and opportunities for local children and their families.

With Winchelsea School creating additional Post 16 places this will enhance their current offer to prepare 'people not pupils' by supporting young adults towards a more personalised, independent pathway, whether that's further/higher education opportunities or a stepping stone into the world of work and volunteering. It will also provide an opportunity for those pupils not quite ready for college or a large external education environment to develop their skills and confidence in a familiar setting on a smaller scale.

- **Specialist early years:** The satellite unit based at Stanley Green Infant Academy will allow Winchelsea School to extend its support to children before they reach statutory school age, strengthening early preparation and improving readiness for transition into Reception and Key Stage 1 provision.
- **Impact on local schools:** Creating new places has several positive impacts on schools in the area including increased capacity and reducing pressure on mainstream sites, opportunities for sharing expertise, stronger inclusive practice across the area and raising confidence amongst parents and ultimately improving outcomes for children and young people.
- **Inclusive Education:** The proposal supports the [SEND Code of Practice](#) and the [Children and Families Act 2014](#) by promoting inclusion.
- **Local Offer Commitment:** This development aligns with the Local Authority's duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure sufficient school places and under section 30 of the Children and Families Act to publish a comprehensive local offer.
- **Costs:** Importantly, the project will be delivered utilising existing surplus capacity within Stanley Green Infant Academy, ensuring this development is cost-effective and delivers value for money. In addition, the revenue impact on the High Needs budget will be positive, as the provision offers a lower unit cost compared to more expensive out-of-area placements or independent alternatives.

## How Will It Work?

- **Satellite Unit at Stanley Green Infant Academy:** The proposal uses existing space within the building to provide an additional 50 places for children, from Early Years through to Key Stage 1, with an EHC Plan. If approved, the total number of places available will be phased with 45 reception and key stage 1 places available for children from September 2026 and 5 early years places from January 2027.

Pupils that are allocated a place at the satellite provision will remain on Winchelsea School's roll i.e. they are not added to the pupil roll of Stanley Green Infant Academy.

Pupils placed at the satellite unit will experience:

- A replica of the style of classroom provision found at Winchelsea School.
  - Access to high quality, specialised teaching, resources and support which meets the needs of all pupils.
  - The opportunity for pupils to develop their social and communication skills in a safe and secure environment.
  - The opportunity to receive the combined benefits of specialist provision and mainstream provision on a daily basis.
  - The opportunity to participate in activities on the Winchelsea School site on a regular basis.
- **Accommodation:** The school has existing surplus classroom space to accommodate the proposed satellite unit. There will be a designated outdoor space for the placed pupils.
  - **Ethos and values:** The satellite unit will be on the site of the mainstream school but fully operated by Winchelsea School. The provision would have the same Winchelsea School values of 'I am. I can. I will.'
  - **Curriculum:** Pupils are placed in a Pathway which allows them to access the appropriate curriculum. Thematic learning is at the heart of Winchelsea School's curriculum structure, creating exciting opportunities for relevant learning across all Pathways. The aim of the curriculum is to give pupils the opportunity to develop the necessary skills for life through contextualised, practical learning.
  - **Staffing:** Qualified SEN teachers and teaching assistants will be appointed. The satellite unit will be the responsibility of the Winchelsea School head teacher.
  - **Funding:** High Needs funding will be allocated through the Local Authority's place planning process and top-up funding arrangements.

## Formal Process

Under the DfE guidance (2025), the process for making changes includes the following stages:

- **Pre-Publication:** Informal consultation with interested parties to share details of the proposal and engage with the local community prior to publication to understand the support for the change and any associated risks.
- **Stage 1: Publication:** A statutory notice will be published in the local newspaper on the school and Local Authority websites. The notice must include details of the proposal, implementation date, and how to respond.
- **Stage 2: Representation (Formal Consultation):** This will run for a minimum 4 weeks for stakeholders to submit comments or objections, as necessary. Stakeholders include parents, staff, governing body, local community, and other schools.
- **Stage 3: Decision:** The Local Authority (as decision-maker) will consider all responses and decide within 2 months of the end of the representation period.
- **Stage 4: Referral:** If a decision has been made, any referral to the adjudicator must be made within 4 weeks of the decision. If the local authority has not decided a proposal within 2 months, it must refer the proposal to the Schools Adjudicator.

- **Stage 5: Implementation:** If approved, the satellite unit will open between September 2026 and January 2027, subject to building works and recruitment and additional Post 16 places will be available during 2027.

### Indicative Timeline

Stage	Requirement	Date
1. Pre-publication engagement	Informal consultation and engagement	9 to 25 February 2026
2. Publication of statutory notice	Statutory notice published on websites and locally	27 February 2026
3. Representation period (4 weeks)	All interested parties may comment on the proposal	27 February to 27 March 2026
4. Decision by LA	The Council's Cabinet to decide	Within 2 months of representation end
5. Implementation	Provision opens	September 2026 onwards

### How to Respond to the Proposal

Comments can be submitted by visiting [haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/winchelsea-send](https://haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/winchelsea-send)

Or can be sent by email to: [sendsufficiency@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sendsufficiency@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Or by post to:

Winchelsea School Consultation  
 Education and Skills  
 BCP Council  
 Town Hall, Bourne Avenue  
 Bournemouth BH2 6EB

**Notes:** In law, this change is as a prescribed alteration under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended in 2025). As such, a period of consultation is required with parents/carers as part of a statutory process necessary to formally change the provision.

### Equality Impact and SEND Compliance

- **Equality Act 2010:** This proposal promotes equality of opportunity and fosters inclusion.
- **SEND Code of Practice:** Provision will follow statutory guidance, ensuring early identification, tailored support, and parental involvement.