

Proposal to Increase the Permanent  
Capacity of Heltwate Special School  
Consultation Meeting 24 May 2021  
7pm via Zoom

# Introductions

# Proposal

Peterborough City Council (PCC) proposes to expand Heltwate School so that it is able to provide 206 places in permanent accommodation.

The school previously provided 140 places on their Bretton site and the number of places was increased to 206 by the addition of St George's campus and by utilising temporary accommodation.

It is now proposed to formalise this increase in pupil numbers by replacing the temporary accommodation with permanent build.

# Context 1

It was proposed in 2017 to relocate Heltwate Special School to a new site in Newark Road, however this project had to be cancelled at design stage in February 2018 due to the financial collapse of Carillion (the development partner).

Following this decision PCC invested in the development of St Georges Heltwate and a site capacity study was carried out on the main school site in 2018 which concluded that there was insufficient area on the site to accommodate sufficient new specialist teaching spaces.

## Context 2

It was therefore proposed that a new purpose built Early Years building be built on a site as close as possible to the existing school in Heltwate.

The site will have its own visitors' and staff parking as well as minibuses/ taxi pick-up and drop-off within a secured enclosure. This will release pressure from the existing school parking arrangements and will allow the school to operate a campus of 3 schools:

# Context 3

The new site in Heltwate will provide for Early Years— Nursery, Reception and Year 1

The Heltwate main site in Bretton will provide for Key Stage 2 to 3 pupils.

The St George's campus in Lawn Avenue is where Key Stage 4 and post 16 students will be based.

# Rationale 1

The Council has a statutory duty to consult

LAs for community special schools, may seek to increase the number of places by following the statutory process if the increase is by:

- 10%; or
- 20 pupils (whichever is the smaller number)

and

The statutory process should be followed to enlarge premises if:

- the proposal involves making permanent any temporary enlargement (which was intended to be in place for no more than three years) that meets the above threshold.

# Rationale 2

The rationale for this proposed change is as follows:

- Mobile classroom accommodation should only be provided as a temporary measure to increase available school places for a limited time.
- The number of school places currently available (206) will remain the same irrespective of the change from temporary to permanent accommodation.
- Planning permission for the permanent accommodation has already been granted.
- The permanent building will improve the current facilities available and increase outdoor space for learners.



# Rationale 3

There is a growing number of children with an Education, health and care (EHC) plan (formerly a statement) in Peterborough

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No of Children	1391	1586	1707	1901	1930	2124

Source: DfE SEN2 Return

# What is proposed? 1

The main objectives of the proposal are:

A new two storey building to accommodate five early years Classrooms (65 sq m each). All Classrooms will share Hygiene Room facilities with one Hygiene Room accessible directly from the Classroom (hoist system).

Food Technology, Sensory Rooms and Staff Room facilities.

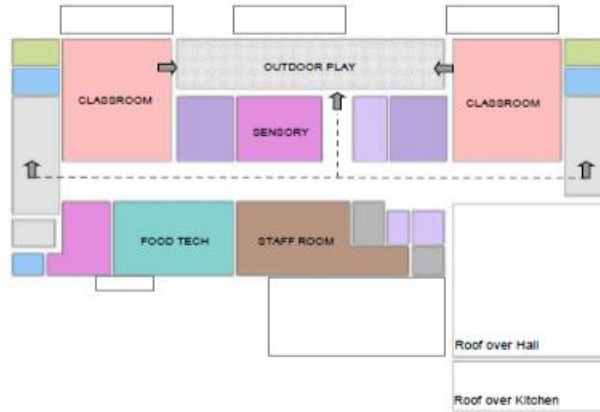
A multipurpose hall (approximately 130sq m) directly linked to an outdoor dining area.

Two separate entrances, a pupil entrance and visitor entrance. Special consideration for mini-buses/ taxi drop-off and pick-up as well as parking provision.

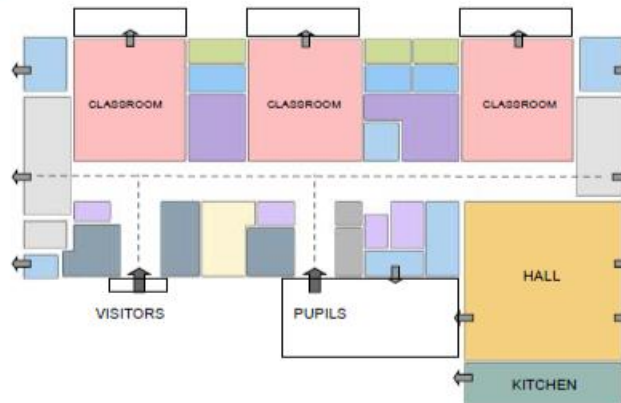
Ground Floor Classrooms will have direct access to a covered outdoor play (3m zone). First Floor Classrooms will have access to a first floor outdoor play space (partially covered).

# What is proposed? 2

Proposed Adjacencies (not to scale)



First Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan

# Reassurance

Pupils should experience no change to the education they receive at the school.

There will be no change to the admissions process.

There may be some disruption due to the building works but contractors work at keeping this to a minimum.

# Timeline

The public notice was published on 20 May

The consultation will run until Monday 14 June.

A decision will be made by the LA within eight weeks.

The accommodation should be completed by March 2023.

# Questions

If you would prefer not to ask questions in this forum, please email [Naomi.Evans@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Naomi.Evans@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) with the subject line 'Heltwate Consultation.'

Responses to the consultation should also be sent to the same email address.

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