Consultation on the proposed expansion of Baytree Special School, including locating onto a second site

Public Consultation – 7 and 10 October 2019
What are we consulting on?

- possible expansion of Baytree Special School from a 72 to a 120-place school, with effect from 1 September 2021
- the school would be located across two sites, the current location in Weston-super-Mare and a new site, potentially on land next to Brookfield Walk, Clevedon, BS21 6YJ
Agenda for today

The first stage of the consultation will run from

Thursday 19 September 2019 to Friday 25 October 2019

Today we hope to:

- Outline why Baytree Special School needs to expand
- Show why the expansion isn’t possible on the current school site
- Explain why the council is supporting an expansion of Baytree Special School
- Inform pupils, parents, staff, governors and the wider community what is proposed, and how it will affect Baytree School children
- Give an opportunity to comment on the proposals before any progress to the next stage of the consultation process
Why make changes to Baytree Special School?

Legal and Local Duty

- Local Authorities have a statutory duty to:
  - make sure there are enough school places in their area
  - promote high educational standards
  - ensure fair access to educational opportunity
  - promote the fulfilment of every child’s educational potential
  - promote diversity and increase parental choice
- We publicly reviewed our specialist school place provision in the 2017/18 school year
- One outcome showed we need to listen more to parents who want more specialist places locally to meet the education, health and care needs of their children
- We are running out of specialist places to meet future demand
- We aim to provide local schools for local children
January 2019 school-level and Special Educational Need (SEN) censuses:

- 193 children and young people aged 3-24 years old have ‘severe’ or ‘profound and multiple’ learning difficulties (SLD/PMLD)
- 85 of these students were in key stages 0-2
- 68 educated at Baytree
- 20 attend schools outside North Somerset
- Two waiting for an appropriate school placement

Since 2015:

- 81% increase in number of North Somerset children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- 23% of these students educated outside of North Somerset or receiving an alternative provision
- = 221 children and young people
Currently:
• 94 children with SEN aged 3-16+ need a place at a school like Baytree
• BUT Baytree has 72 places

By 2022:
• Number of North Somerset children and young people with an EHCP will increase overall to 1,320 or more
• Demand for places in local special schools increasing

We support ‘local schools for local children’ = school places for SEN pupils as close to their home as appropriate
Why can’t you expand on the current site?

• Four recent small-scale projects to enhance classrooms and storage have been progressed
  BUT current shared site is too small for any more extensions
• Last academic year, 68% of Baytree pupils with a mobility issue were in the infant age range
• Unable to access all resources as they get older – two-storey design
• Storage of equipment pupils need = loss of teaching space
• Can’t accommodate increase in demand for specialist places
• Can’t meet the needs of the rising numbers of pupils with higher levels of complex needs.
What about building a new Free School?

Why expand Baytree Special School?

- Baytree is a council-maintained school – only MAT academies can apply for help under the Free School programme
- Having more places allows schools to share funding, staffing expertise and support across a wider range of students – Baytree is the smallest of our three special schools
- An expansion on a new site means the current school facilities can provide extra places for those pupils with less acute needs
- Important to keep links with Herons’ Moor Primary, The Campus, the local Children’s Centre and Locking Castle community
- Second site will enhance the offer for all Baytree pupils and ease the pressures on current school site
- Benefits of both sites will be available to the whole Baytree community
How will the school expansion affect Baytree School children?

- The needs of children and young people will be the priority in all decisions
- Teachers, parents, carers and specialists working together to determine which site best meets the education, health and care needs of Baytree pupils
- If it’s appropriate to go to school at the new second site, Baytree staff will work with parents/carers on a transition plan
- 120 available places – 55 at current school, 65 at the proposed new site
- Travel between sites to ensure pupil needs are met
Location of the expansion site

Possible sites for the expansion assessed for:

- Size
- Location
- Community links
- Local facilities
- Availability
- How quickly the expansion could be completed

No single site fully met all requirements

Land at Brookfield Walk in Clevedon the most suitable, available location
Do you have permission to start building the expansion?

- Subject to a submission and planning permission
- Application due to be submitted in November 2019
- Draft site plans available – you can comment on the design and any other local issues
What are the issues and can they be addressed?

- No planning submission has been made or decisions made yet
- Any works on the site at Brookfield Walk would need to have regard to the existing habitat and infrastructures
  - Second site would need to have nature areas and planting – enhance sensory experiences
  - Designs to preserve as much of natural habitat as possible – keep key trees and shrubs, sympathetic single-storey design
  - Community orchard used by the school if available
  - Keep many of the existing larger trees – natural aesthetics and shade
What about flooding and air quality?

- Initial surveys – ecology, drainage and air quality
- No issues identified which couldn’t be addressed by appropriate design work
- Air quality assessed to date – within the required parameters for a special school
How will traffic and travel concerns be addressed?

• Arrangements at current Baytree site work well – new site will require equally careful planning and delivery

• Baytree works very closely with our Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) – most pupils are entitled to council-provided transport, arriving and leaving school in mini-buses and taxis

• ITU encourages people to engage with them to mitigate potential transport issues – keen to work with parents, pupils and local community

• Potentially breakfast/after school clubs to spread movement of pupils over a longer periods – possible ITU financial contribution for parents taking/collecting pupils from school

• Extra on-site parking – over and above that of a mainstream school, reducing impact on local residents as much as possible
What happens next?

- Consultation process on school organisation runs from Thursday 19 September to Friday 25 October 2019
- Councillors, senior officers, governors and senior school leaders will consider the responses
- Cllr Catherine Gibbons, Executive Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, will decide whether to progress to the next stage
- Alongside the school organisation consultation, we are also sharing provisional site plans for the expansion
- Comments on the planning application will be through a separate consultation, when and if the application is submitted
How can I have my say?

We want to hear your views
Do you support the recommendation?
Do you have concerns?

Tell us:

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/baytreeconsultation

You can complete a questionnaire and return it by 4pm on Friday 25 October 2019 to Baytree Special School, or to:

School Organisation Officer
North Somerset Council
Castlewood
Tickenham Road
Clevedon
BS21 6FW

school.organisation@n-somerset.gov.uk