

Consultation on proposed changes to Watton Westfield Infant & Nursery School and Watton Junior School

Our Proposal

Corvus Education Trust would like to hear your views on our proposal for Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School, West Road, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AU and Watton Junior School, Brandon Road, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AL to **add a 16 place Social, Emotional and Mental Health Specialist Resource Base (SEMH SRB) from 1 April 2024, based at the Watton Junior School site.**

We appreciate that children and young people with SEMH needs can struggle to engage with learning and cope in a classroom without additional strategies and interventions. A Resource Base can support children to overcome their barriers to learning, to be better able to cope and to be re-integrated into a mainstream setting, in which they can achieve their potential.

We are very keen to provide this support at our schools. Our Specialist Resource Base will be located behind Watton Junior School, still within the school grounds. It will be a new building, creating an enabling environment for SRB learners in a bespoke accommodation base. The Base will be managed by the Headteacher and governing body at Watton Westfield Infant & Nursery School and Watton Junior School.



Watton Junior School, proposed SEMH SRB, dependent on planning permission.

Our proposal will have a recurrent funding agreement to support an agreed staffing structure for the Specialist Resource Base, including resources, equipment and running costs associated with the Base.

The local authority, Norfolk County Council is responsible for all admissions to Specialist Resource Bases. Referrals are considered by a County panel, and placements of pupils with or without an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are made using eligibility criteria for pupils with an SEMH profile and assessing these against needs and appropriateness of referral.

The specialist resource base located at Watton Junior School, Brandon Road, Watton Norfolk IP25 6AL, will grow to full capacity through this admissions process and may therefore not be full on the 1 April 2024.

What is a Specialist Resource Base (SRB)?

Social, Emotional and Mental Health bases form part of the Specialist Resource Base programme in Norfolk and are a key component of Norfolk's SEND Local Offer, and of mainstream inclusion support to children, families and the school system.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Bases provide a learning area which is calm and adapted to meet the needs of children and young people. It will be a primary phase base, offering up to 16 places for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children.

What are the benefits of this proposal?

The main driver for the Corvus Education Trust and the senior leaders of Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School and Watton Junior School, is to meet the increased demand for specialist educational provision within our area, to best meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners. We feel our proposal would benefit children and young people because it will:

- support more students with special education needs and disabilities to be educated and thrive in their local school and community;
- enhance students' progress by effectively meeting their individual social, emotional and mental health needs;
- help facilitate better access to the curriculum and support students to achieve their potential;
- ensure that needs can be met locally avoiding the need for students to spend unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away. This is better for young people and saves the taxpayer money in transport costs;
- increase the availability of places to meet the needs of students with SEND;
- address identified geographical, and age and phase gaps in SRB provision as identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy;
- support the sharing of SEMH expertise and good practice as part our school and Trust.

Capital costs

All capital costs for the new purpose built accommodation will be funded from Norfolk County Council's SEND and Alternative Provision Transformation Programme, to ensure there is the appropriate accommodation.

How can you have your say?

Corvus Education Trust will be holding a drop in event on Thursday 22 September between 2.15pm and 3.15pm, at Watton Junior School, where you can come and find out more about this proposal.

If you unable to attend this event but would like to comment on our proposal, you can have your say by:

- Accessing our online survey; <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/wattonsrb>
- Returning the completed form to the school office at either Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School or Watton Junior School.

We need all responses by 12 noon Monday 10th October 2022.

What happens next?

Corvus Education Trust will consider all the responses received during this consultation and decide whether to complete a business case and send it to the Regional Department for Education (DfE) Director, for a decision.



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Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Please tell us which School you are linked to (please tick relevant box)

Watton Westfield
Infant & Nursery

Watton Junior

N/A

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal for Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School and Watton Junior School, to establish a permanent 16 place Specialist Resource Base for Social, Emotional and Mental Health at Watton Junior School, from 1 April 2024?

Please tick a box.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Why do you say this? Please write in the box below.

Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make to help us with this decision and in planning for the future provision for children? Please write in the box below.

We would like to hear from many different people as your views help us to decide whether we make these changes. We will also use any personal information to understand how different groups of people feel about our proposal to establish the Specialist Resource Base at Watton Junior School.

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Academy Trust's data protection policy and guidelines. This means that Corvus Education Trust will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation.

We won't identify individuals when reporting back our findings and, under our record management policy, we will keep this information for five years. We will also, under normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else. However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation, including any personal information. We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please tell us who you are (tick all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil | <input type="checkbox"/> School governor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Carer | <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Parent Teacher Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Local business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Local sports group |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Local community group |

Other (please specify): _____

At which school? _____

What is your postcode? _____

Your views will help us decide if this proposal goes ahead. You can tell us your views by returning this completed form to:

- Accessing our online survey; <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/wattonsrb>
- Return the completed form to the school office at either Watton Westfield Infant & Nursery School or Watton Junior School

This consultation ends at 12 noon on 10 October 2022