



**Proposal for Prescribed
Alterations (Maintained School)**

**Statutory Consultation on Proposals to
increase the published admission number at**

**The Polygon
Special School**



**People Directorate
Children and Families Service Division
Education and Early Years**

(July 2020)

Proposals for Prescribed Alterations (Maintained School)

Published under Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

This proposal takes account of the Education Act 1996; the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013; the School Organisation Maintained Schools Statutory Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers (April 2016); the Education and Inspections Act 2006; the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Children and Families Act 2014 including the SEND Code of Practice 2015.

1. Local Authority details

Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY

2. School details

Name	The Polygon Special School
Type	Foundation Special School
Address	Handel Terrace, Southampton SO15 2FH
Age Range	11 – 16 years
Capacity	60 pupils
Ofsted	Full inspection December 2016 – Good

The Polygon School is a special school which caters for children with social, emotional and mental health needs. Many of the pupils have additional or attributed learning difficulties including speech, language and communication and autism. Many have experienced significant trauma and loss and present with challenging behaviours that make mainstream schooling extremely difficult.

The Polygon School provides a calm, nurturing and safe environment provided by a dedicated team of staff. With an in-depth understanding of each pupil's needs staff are able to respond appropriately, setting clear behaviour boundaries within a supportive and understanding environment.

3. What changes are proposed?

It is proposed to increase the number of places at Polygon School from 60 places to 70 places from January 2021.

4. Why do we want to do this? (evidence of demand)

The numbers and complexity of children with special educational needs has been increasing year on year for the last 10 years and is predicted to continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

Education, Health and Care Plans maintained by Southampton City Council 2010-2020

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
567	593	634	655	701	803	1021	1181	1387	1522	1736

Source: DfE SEN 2 Return

This increase is putting pressure on Special School places with all schools reaching capacity in the next 2 years.

Within this overall increase the numbers of children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs are of particular concern.

The Polygon School is already at capacity in terms of its published admission number (PAN) of 60.

At a recent Placement Panel meeting the number of children identified as needing a place exceeded the number leaving. With the likelihood of additional requests being made to the school throughout the year it is predicted that the number of pupils needing a place will increase in 2020/21. It is therefore proposed to formally increase the PAN to 70.

5. Objectives, including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice.

The proposal is to increase the published admissions number (PAN) at The Polygon School from 60 to 70 with effect from 1 January 2021.

It is believed that this will not cause any detrimental effect to any of the pupils or staff within the school.

Increasing the PAN will ensure that children with significant social, emotional and mental health needs:-

- Are admitted to their parents preferred school
- Have access to a suitable educational environment
- Have access to specialist staff
- Are treated equitably in relation to children with similar needs
- Can have their needs met locally avoiding the need for children to spend unnecessary time travelling to an alternative school further away

This proposal is aligned to a wider strategy of expansion and reconfiguration of specialist provision across the city and is supported by the school senior leadership and governors.

6. Consultation undertaken

The proposal has been discussed with The Polygon School staff, the Southampton Parent Carer Forum and relevant unions. It has received the consent of the Polygon School leadership team and Governing Body.

7. Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area?

We cannot foresee any impact on any other schools. The demand for specialist places is affecting all Special Schools in the city and in neighbouring Local Authorities.

8. Project costs and an indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of school places in its area for children of school age. In addition all children and young people are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards and the fulfilment of potential (Code of Practice 2015).

Children placed in a special school attract base funding of £10,000 per pupil plus top up costs according to need.

Due to the complexity of their needs, if no places are available at The Polygon School, it is likely that the children identified as needing a place will have to be educated in an alternative Special School out of city, either Local Authority maintained or independent. The former school will attract the same level of funding as The Polygon School and will require pupils to spend avoidable time and discomfort in travelling. Independent Special Schools cost significantly more, in the region of £70,000 per place (including transport costs), and again will have the negative impact of daily travel on the child and additional transport costs.

Long term value for money will be achieved through the greater capacity to meet the needs of children with SEND locally.

9. Implementation plan

The proposal requires minimal implementation and can be easily accommodated within the schools routine admission processes.

If the proposal is agreed by Southampton City Council Cabinet members, it is intended that the change will be implemented from 1 January 2021.

10. Related proposals

There is no other proposal linked to this proposal.

11. How can I make my views known?

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposal, within 4 weeks of the publication of the statutory public notice by:

- Sending an email to: 0-25service@southampton.gov.uk
- Writing to: 0-25service – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities,
1st Floor, North Block, Civic Centre,
Southampton SO14 7LY.
You don't need a stamp.

12. What happens next?

The following table sets out the key dates for the consultation and decision making. At any point the proposal may be withdrawn. The dates set out below meet the Department for Education requirements for consultation on school organisation proposals.

School organisation process	Date
Public Notice published	7 September 2020
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	7 September 2020 – 4 October 2020
Decision required, no later than	1 December 2020
If approved, change of PAN starts	1 January 2021