

STATUTORY NOTICE OF DECISION

Suffolks Primary School proposal to establish a Designated Unit

Introduction

Enfield Council conducted a public consultation regarding a statutory proposal to establish a Designated Unit at Suffolks Primary School for pupils with autism and complex needs, to be implemented from September 2026.

The proposed Unit will offer 20 additional Local Authority-funded primary places for pupils with EHCPs, in agreement with parents/carers. Places will be allocated by the Local Authority's SEN Service following formal consultation with the school.

This report summarises the consultation process and the responses that were received.

The Council has carefully considered the consultation responses and all other relevant information in determining whether to proceed with the proposal. Subject to approval, the next stage will be the publication of a Statutory Notice and Statutory Proposal in accordance with the **School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013** and relevant Department for Education statutory guidance. This report forms part of the evidence base supporting that proposal.

Consultation process

The consultation considered the proposal from Suffolks Primary School to establish a Designated Unit.

The consultation period lasted for four weeks, from 3 June 2026 to 3 July 2026.

A single consultation document was published on the Council's digital media platforms and the school website, with physical copies placed outside the school premises.

No in-person consultation meeting was held in this instance. This report includes the responses received as part of the consultation (Annex 1).

Individuals, groups, and organisations were invited to submit their views on the proposal either by emailing jeffreyjoib.mensah@enfield.gov.uk with "Response to Statutory Proposal" in the subject line, or by completing the accompanying [Microsoft Forms questionnaire](#).

All consultation responses were reviewed. Quantitative information was analysed to identify who had responded, including carers, staff, parents and residents.

Who responded?

The following table outlines the written responses to the consultation. These include responses submitted online or on paper as well as emails or letters.

Total Unique Responses	Staff	Parent	LA Rep
5	4	0	1

There were **5 responses** in total in relation to the consultation: 1 from a local resident, 3 from staff members and 1 from a Local Authority representative.

Were the responses supportive of the proposal?

All the responses were in favour of the new Designated Unit for pupils with autism and complex needs.

Decision

Following the conclusion of the statutory consultation period and careful consideration of all representations received, Enfield Council has approved, without modification, the proposal to establish a Designated Unit at Suffolks Primary School for pupils with autism and complex needs.

The Designated Unit will provide 20 additional Local Authority-funded primary places for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Placements will be allocated by the Local Authority's Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service, following formal consultation with the school and in partnership with parents/carers.

Enfield Council's decision was primarily based on the priorities within its SEND Strategy (2023–2027), which aims to identify needs early and provide the right support, in the right place, at the right time.

This means ensuring that all children and young people receive an excellent education and that their needs are effectively met in an educational setting or environment that is right for them.

To support this, we are using our data and knowledge to plan accurately for the right number of places. This includes increasing the number of Specially Resourced Provisions (SRPs) and Designated Units in mainstream schools to meet high demand for places.

Further information about SRPs and Units can be found in the [Position Paper for Specialist Provisions](#).

Copies of the complete proposals, together with this statutory notice and final decision, will be published on the Council's website at www.enfield.gov.uk and on The School Hub. Copies can also be requested by emailing office@suffolks.enfield.sch.uk.

For further enquiries, please email sen@enfield.gov.uk.

Signed: 

Neil Best (Head of Strategic Resourcing & Partnerships)

Signed: PETER NATHAN Peter Nathan (Director of Education)

Annex 1: Responses received as part of the consultation

RESPONDENT 1: response received on 29/05/2026

These additional places are really needed for children with EHCPs.

RESPONDENT 2: response received on 02/06/2026

"I whole heartedly support the proposal for an additional designated unit because we are an inclusive, friendly, caring school. With extremely dedicated, experienced & caring staff who do and will continue to ensure the best outcomes for all children, mainstream or otherwise.

We already have a KS1 unit which is a success.

Examples of our experience of providing for children with EHCP's and/ or additional needs are:

We have two classes (Pumpkin and Poppy class) that already provide for children with specific individual needs and allows for the children to be educated alongside mainstream children (when it suits their individual needs).

We have provided for many children with EHCP's for many years ensuring all their needs are met successfully.

We have resources that enrich all children's school life such as a large outside area with swings (excellent for providing sensory, calm and peaceful fun), outside exercise equipment, a large field, an orchard and a thriving allotment which all the children have or will participate in planting and caring for food plants.

We have a well-equipped dedicated sensory room & a soft playroom which all the children have regular access to.

We already offer a safe and inclusive environment where all children are welcomed and valued.

Our site is safe and secure.

Our mainstream children will also benefit from the experiences gained from accepting and realising that we are all individuals and are all valued regardless of any differences- this can only be an asset in today's world.

Suffolks will do their very best for the new children that will attend the designated unit and their families."

RESPONDENT 3: response received on 02/06/2026

I have seen the success of the KS1 units. It has built community links and a greater understanding of the needs of these children. The children themselves have settled really well and are now more able to access a curriculum to suit their learning and play needs.

RESPONDENT 4: response received on 03/06/2026

Suffolks is excellent at supporting SEND pupils and is already effectively running a KS1 unit for pupils with EHCPs.

RESPONDENT 5: response received on 03/06/2026

This will benefit the children massively