

EDUCATION AUTHORITY
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL No 494

Notice is hereby given that a proposal under Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 has been submitted by the Education Authority to the effect that:

The Education Authority proposes to establish 2 Autism Spectrum Disorder Centres at Key Stage 3 and 1 General Learning Support Centre at Key Stage 4 at Fort Hill Integrated College with effect from 1st September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

A copy of the Proposal may be inspected at offices of the Education Authority, South Eastern Region located at Grahamsbridge Road, Dundonald, Belfast, BT16 2HS between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

Any objections to this Proposal should be lodged with the Area Planning Policy Team, Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, BANGOR, Co Down, BT19 7PR or emailed to dps@deni.gov.uk within two months of the date of publication of this notice.

NOTE: The Department of Education and the Education Authority operate a regime of openness under the Freedom of Information Act. Letters of objection and information supplied to the Department of Education and to the Education Authority may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, if requested. (A fee may be charged for supplying this information).

Gavin Boyd

Chief Executive

DRAFT CASE FOR CHANGE – Supporting Information

SUMMARY / OVERVIEW

EDUCATION AUTHORITY AREA	Dundonald Office
DP NUMBER	494
PROPOSER	Education Authority – Dundonald Office Contact: Stephen Martin, 028 90 566346, Stephen.Martin2@eani.org.uk
SCHOOL(S) NAME	Fort Hill Integrated College
SCHOOL REFERENCE	425-0072
TYPE	Post Primary
MANAGEMENT	Controlled Integrated
DP PUBLICATION DATE	None at this time.
PROPOSALS	The Education Authority proposes to establish 2 Autism Spectrum Disorder Centres at Key Stage 3 and 1 General Learning Support Centre at Key Stage 4 at Fort Hill Integrated College with effect from 1st September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Each post primary ASD will accommodate a maximum of 8 pupils and post primary LSC a maximum of 16 pupils.

STATUTORY CONSULTATION

BY THE BOARD	<p>I confirm that the schools which the EA (SER) considers might be impacted by this proposal were consulted on 23 January 2017.</p> <p>Letters were forwarded to the Board of Governors, staff and parents of Fort Hill Integrated College to ask their opinion of the development proposals. Any schools that may be impacted by the proposal were also asked for their views.</p> <p>SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____</p>
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BACKGROUND

Currently over 18,000 of the total pupil population in Northern Ireland has a Statement of Special Educational Need. This figure has been steadily rising and now constitutes 5.4% of the school population.

The Education Authority wishes to extend and enhance specialist provision attached to mainstream schools to ensure equity of access across Northern Ireland and appropriate special educational need (SEN) pathways within schools and cross phase; this would include seeking Department of Education approval through the development proposal process to establish additional learning support, speech and language and autism specific provision attached to mainstream primary and post-primary schools across all local council areas.

During the assessment of current provision attached to mainstream schools it became apparent that a number of units in the South Eastern area, which have been operational for a number of years, did not follow the development proposal approval process.

It is the intent of the Authority to remedy this administrative error by bringing forward development proposals to formally recognise the units at Castle Gardens Primary School, Holy Evangelists Primary School, Good Shepherd Primary school and Fort Hill Integrated College.

This proposal deals with the units at Fort Hill Integrated College, other proposals will be progressed for the units at the other named schools.

Fort Hill Integrated College

Fort Hill Integrated College is one of three post primary schools providing controlled secondary provision in the Lisburn area. The school is a co-educational controlled integrated school and is located on the main Belfast Road into Lisburn, on the same 8.64 hectare site as Fort Hill Integrated Primary School.

The school and has an approved enrolment and admission figure of 860/150 and the enrolment history is as follows:

Year	Year8	Year9	Year10	Year11	Year12	Year13	Year14	Total
2015/2016	159	120	146	150	149	69	61	854
2014/2015	127	148	148	154	164	68	58	867
2013/2014	149	140	149	168	163	71	49	889
2012/2013	142	150	163	169	162	62	55	903
2011/2012	147	162	171	165	158	62	42	907
2010/2011	164	166	148	161	162	51	44	896

The majority of the pupils attending the school come from Lisburn City and Greater Lisburn City areas, such as Lambeg and Dunmurry.

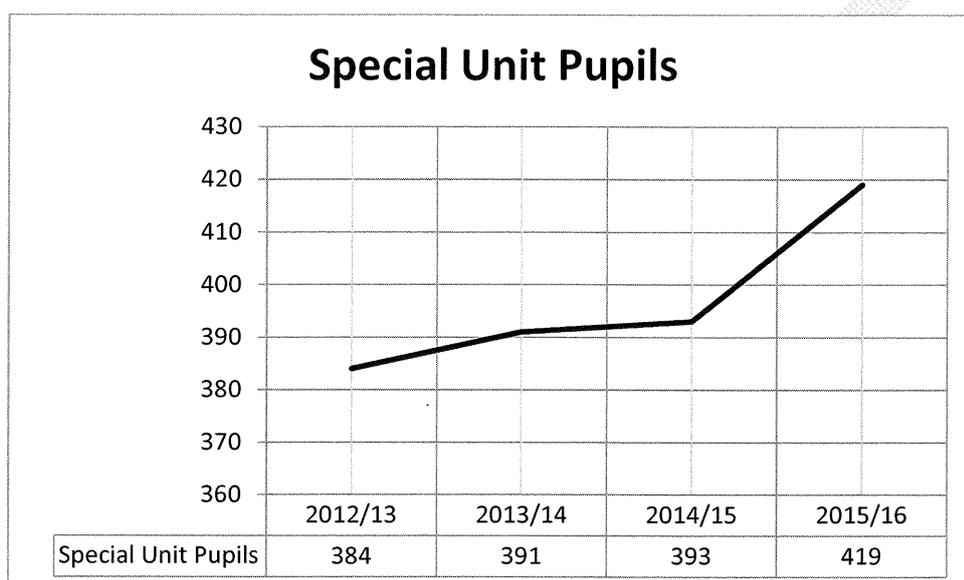
Special units have been operational at Fort Hill Integrated College for a number of years and are a recognised part of the school structure

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSALS

The Education Authority already provides special education provision in mainstream settings at 21 locations in the South Eastern area. This provision is located in controlled and maintained schools.

These units operate under various classifications of learning support centres, MLD centres, speech & language and social communication – the total pupil numbers at the special provision accommodated at the 21 schools is detailed in the statistical information section.

In 2015/16 these units provided support to 419 pupils with various special educational needs – demand is increasing as shown below:



The cumulative effect of these units is to provide children access to specialist provision in a mainstream setting preferable at their closest school.

In addition to these units the Education Authority has units operating in 4 mainstream schools which were set up without a development proposal.

These units are also well attended and the Authority needs to formally recognise them as part of the special education estate so they can be included within the Authority's long term planning for special educational needs.

The units are set up as follows:

Castle Gardens Primary School – one key stage 1 ASD centre accommodating a maximum of 8 pupils.

Good Shepherd Primary School – one key stage 1 ASD centre accommodating a maximum of 8 pupils plus one key stage 2 LSC accommodating a maximum of 13 pupils.

Holy Evangelists Primary School – one key stage 1 ASD centre accommodating a maximum of 8 pupils plus one key stage 2 LSC accommodating a maximum of 13 pupils.

Fort Hill Integrated College – two key stage 3 ASD centres accommodating a maximum of 8 pupils in each plus one key stage 4 LSC unit accommodating a maximum of 16 pupils.

This proposal is for the units at Fort Hill Integrated College, additional proposals will be progressed for the units at the other schools.

Area Planning Impact

Special units attached to mainstream schools gives added support to those pupils who cannot cope full time within a mainstream class – the units provide a way to slowly immerse SEN pupils, in a controlled manner, into an environment which will aid in the development of their social communication and educational skills.

The number of pupils who require additional support in mainstream primary and post primary schools is steadily increasing and this in turn means the Authority is constantly reviewing how to meet this demand.

The Authority is currently consulting on an area plan that encompasses the anticipated long term special education needs of children and young people however delivery of this plan may take a number of years.

In the interim there is a need to formally recognise those units that are currently operational but have not followed the development proposal process. They are a central part of meeting the needs of pupils who require support in mainstream schools and form part of the overall area planning solution for special education provision.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

Some children and young people with SEN can struggle in the initial years of post-primary education and require the support available through a placement in an Autism Specific Class to promote their progress. Following this initial placement, the children and young people can often be successfully placed in a mainstream setting or in a Learning Support Centre.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The Authority has recognised special units at the following schools:

Sector	School	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Primary					
Controlled	Belvoir Park, Castlereagh area	34	36	32	41
Controlled	Bloomfield Road, Bangor	12	14	12	12
Controlled	Carryduff		5	5	11
Controlled	Castlewellan	8	16	10	9
Controlled	Cregagh, Castlereagh area	7	6	13	15
Controlled	Cumran, clough	11	14	15	16
Controlled	Downpatrick	28	22	24	25
Controlled	Knockbreda, Castlereagh area	19	21	23	22
Controlled	Knockmore, Lisburn	57	64	63	65
Controlled	Seymour Hill, Dunmurry	14	17	17	18
Controlled	Towerview, Bangor	9	12	14	14
Controlled	West Winds, Newtownards	9	11	10	7
Sector Total		208	238	238	255
Maintained	St. Colman's, Lisburn	16	18	24	22
Maintained	St. Colmcilles, Downpatrick	15	9	16	20
Maintained	St. Malachy's, Castlewellan	17	15	18	22
Maintained	St. Kieran's, Poleglass	6	4	9	10
Sector Total		54	46	67	74
Post Primary					
Controlled	Dundonald	22	22	22	30
Sector Total		22	22	22	30
Maintained	De La Salle, Downpatrick	9	9	8	4
Maintained	St. Malachy's, Castlewellan	61	53	49	41
Maintained	St. Mary's, Downpatrick	7	4	3	3
Maintained	St. Patrick's, Lisburn	23	19	6	12
Sector Total		100	85	66	60
Overall Total		384	391	393	419

The following units are also operational but have not been through the development proposal approval process.

Sector	School	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Primary				
Controlled	Castle Gardens, Newtownards			6
Sector Total		0	0	6
Post Primary				
Maintained	Good Shepherd, Poleglass		6	10
Maintained	Holy Evangelists, Poleglass	12	13	12
Sector Total		12	19	22
Controlled Integrated				
	Fort Hill College, Lisburn	23	23	19
Sector Total		23	23	19
Overall Total		35	42	41

The units at Fort Hill Integrated College have been operational for a number of years - the ASD element of the units accommodates a maximum of 8 pupils per unit while the LSC accommodate a maximum of 16 pupils.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The units at Fort Hill Integrated College are already operational therefore there is no requirement to put in place an implementation plan.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Finance – there will be no additional costs associated with the proposals – all the special units are currently in operation and are included within the planned expenditure.

Staffing – no additional costs anticipated.

Transport – no additional costs anticipated.

Accommodation – all the units detailed already occupy accommodation at the mainstream schools and no additional costs will be incurred at this time. A new build is planned for Fort Hill Integrated College – officers will ensure adequate provision is provided within these replacement buildings.

STATUTORY CONSULTATION

The Education Authority will carry out consultation with the Board of Governors, parents and staff of Fort Hill Integrated College.

Additional consultation will take place with those schools in the area that may be impacted by the proposals.

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