



## Fred Nicholson School

*'Building for Successful Futures'*

Westfield Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1JB

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**Headteacher: Jane Hayman**

7<sup>th</sup> March 2023



**Norfolk** County Council

### Introduction

The Governors of Fred Nicholson School and Norfolk County Council would like to hear your views on our exciting plans for Fred Nicholson School, Westfield Road, Dereham, Norfolk NR19 1JB.

We are proposing;

- To increase the number of pupils with complex needs, from 173 to 225 pupils from 1st April 2025.
- To relocate the school to Lynn Road, Swaffham from 1 April 2025.

We are committed to expanding our successful provision, for the needs of our current pupils and to meet the demand for future pupils. Currently there is an increased need to provide places for children and young people with complex needs in this area of Norfolk. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational capacity and space to meet this increased need.

Unfortunately, our school building is in a poor and ageing condition and we are looking to move to a new purpose built school building in Swaffham. The new building will mean we can offer places to more young people with complex needs and extend our offer from Reception to 6<sup>th</sup> form.

We are running a consultation on our proposals from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

### Why we want to add more pupil places

By creating extra places at Fred Nicholson School, we can offer more children and young people an opportunity to learn with us. These are children and young people who currently would have to travel long distances to school to access their educational needs or continue to struggle in their current schools, without the specialist help they require.

The additional places also means that for the first time Fred Nicholson School will be able to offer places to those from Reception to 6<sup>th</sup> form, providing opportunities for our cohort of young people to develop their independence by facilitating earlier support or support for longer within our school.

This will not be 52 young people in one term, but phased over several terms, so that we can gradually increase our pupil numbers.



## Relocating to a new school site in Swaffham

It is also proposed to relocate our school, including our Orchard Specialist Autism Resource Base to a new, larger and purpose-built site at Lynn Road, Swaffham. This site also currently identifies further land, although the purpose is not yet fully defined, but could comprise a wider offer of provision in the local area such as;

- community and/or overnight short breaks
- a community hub
- outreach support

Norfolk County Council will be considering this provision as part of a wider plan of work; to review the sufficiency of social care provision for disabled children in the west of the county.

This is all subject to planning permission. Norfolk County Council will provide the funding for this new purpose built school site in Swaffham.

## Evidence of Demand

There is significant need for more school places in Norfolk for children with EHCPs, both in special schools and resource bases in mainstream schools. Norfolk County Council wants to make sure that we provide these places closer to home and reduce the travel times. This is part of the council's new six year Local First Inclusion Programme.

Our research shows that there are fewer special education places available in West/Central Norfolk, however there are a lot of young people living in this part of Norfolk who require complex needs placements.

Unfortunately, a review of the facilities at the current Fred Nicholson site has shown that much of the school building is in a poor condition. The site survey that we conducted identified a number of areas which will require significant repair over the next five years. Altogether, the work needed would cause considerable disruption to the operation of the school for a significant period of time which would not be in the best interests of our pupils.

The work needed to improve this accommodation would cause considerable disruption to the school days, for a long time. In addition, there is not sufficient room on the site to expand the school or improve access and create parking for our sizeable team. So remaining on our current site, would not be in the best interests of our pupils or local community.





### Will the school receive additional funding due to the increasing numbers of pupils?

Fred Nicholson School will receive additional funding based around the increase in number of pupils. This will provide the additional staffing and resources needed for the extra pupils, so that we can continue to maintain the same support to our existing children.

### Transport to new school site

Norfolk County Council will continue to provide transport for those living over 3.1 miles from school. We appreciate that for some young people this may mean a longer journey, however for others, their journey will be shorter as they live closer to Swaffham.

### How do I have my say in this consultation?

We will be holding a virtual consultation event on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March online from 6-7pm, where you can find out more about this proposal. If you would like to join this event, please contact Caroline Money for the joining details, by emailing [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk).

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

- Accessing our online survey at <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/fns>
- Completing the attached questionnaire and returning it to Jane Hayman at [head@frednicholson.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@frednicholson.norfolk.sch.uk)

**We need all responses by 12 noon, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 please.**

### What happens after this consultation?

The Governors of Fred Nicholson School and Norfolk County Council will consider all the responses to this proposal and decide whether to continue to the statutory stage, where we issue a public notice. The final decision is made by the Local Authority Decision-Maker; Sara Tough, Director of Children Services, Norfolk County Council.

 **Norfolk** County Council





## Consultation on proposed changes to Fred Nicholson School

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to increase the number of places for pupils with complex needs and relocate to a new school site in Swaffham?

**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 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 Norfolk County Council's data protection policy and guidelines. This means that Norfolk County Council 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/fns>
- Completing this questionnaire and returning it to Jane Hayman  
[head@frednicholson.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@frednicholson.norfolk.sch.uk)

**This consultation ends at 12 noon on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

