

# New provision for children with SEND

## Public Consultation: March 2024

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is proposing to open new facilities for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Last year, we consulted on opening new Resource Bases for children and young people with SEND, and two of these are expected to open this Autumn. We now have funding available to consider new projects and are seeking your views on these.

We're proposing:

- additional post-16 provision for young people with SEND at Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA).
- a Resource Base for children with EHCPs for Autistic Spectrum Condition at Churchmead School.
- opening sixth form places at Forest Bridge School.
- a small number of additional places at Manor Green School.

You can find out more about these proposals, and how to give us your views, in this document. The consultation will be open until **midday on Friday 26th April 2024**.

You can also respond online at:

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/consultations/education-consultations>

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## **What are we proposing?**

In summary, the [Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead](#) is considering the following options:

### **Additional post-16 places at Berkshire College of Agriculture**

The college is proposing to provide new accommodation to expand Foundation and Supported Intern Provision, to support young people with disabilities into paid employment. This new provision will be at the [Berkshire College of Agriculture](#) site in Burchett's Green. The college is part of the Windsor Forest Colleges Group.

### **A new Resourced Provision at Churchmead Church of England School**

This would be a new facility at [Churchmead Church of England School](#) for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), where the primary need is Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). We are considering either a Resourced Provision or an SEN unit, both of which are for children and young people who can, with support, attend a mainstream school.

### **A new sixth form at Forest Bridge School**

This proposal is to open a sixth form at [Forest Bridge School](#), to allow the school to offer post-16 places for young people with EHCPs with ASC as the primary need.

### **Additional places at Manor Green School**

Under this proposal, the number of places at [Manor Green School](#) would be increased by up to 20 places. This would allow more children and young people with complex, profound and multiple learning difficulties to be educated locally.

More detail about each of these options is given later in the consultation.

## What you say matters...

Parents, staff, governors and community organisations are all being consulted. Your views are vital so please take time to be part of this consultation. You can tell us what you think by:

- completing the online survey at <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/consultations/education-consultations>.
- completing the response form published alongside this document and returning it to your school or sending it to the address below.
- writing to us at SEND and AP Capital Strategy Consultation, School Places and Capital Team, Zone F, Town Hall, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF.
- Emailing [schoolplaces@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:schoolplaces@achievingforchildren.org.uk).

The closing date for your comments is midday on **Friday 26th April 2024**.

## What happens after the consultation finishes?

The schools and colleges involved in this consultation and the Royal Borough will consider the responses received. Each school/college will decide whether it wants to proceed, and the Royal Borough's Cabinet will then consider the proposals on 22nd May 2024.

The new provision will start to open from September 2025 onwards.

These proposals are likely to be subject to getting planning permission for any new buildings. In the case of the academy (Forest Bridge School) the Department for Education will also need to approve the proposals.

## What has happened so far?

### Current or planned provision for children and young people with SEND

Most children and young people with special educational needs (including those with EHCPs) can, with the right support, attend mainstream school.

In addition, the borough has a wide range of provision for children and young people with EHCPs:

- [Manor Green School](#), for children and young people with complex, profound and multiple learning difficulties.
- [Forest Bridge School](#), for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

There are currently nine open or planned Resource Bases at schools in the Royal Borough:

- [Charters School](#), Ascot - Resourced Provision for Physical Disability.
- [Dedworth Green First](#) and [Dedworth Middle](#) Schools, Windsor - Resourced Provision for ASC.
- [Furze Platt Infant](#) and [Furze Platt Junior](#) Schools, Maidenhead - Resourced Provision for ASC.
- [Furze Platt Senior School](#), Maidenhead - Resourced Provision for ASC.
- [Hilltop First School and Nursery](#) - Resourced Provision for Communication and Interaction (opening Autumn 2024).
- [Riverside Primary School and Nursery](#), Maidenhead - Resourced Provision for Speech and Language.
- [South Ascot Primary School](#), Ascot - SEN Unit for ASC.
- [Trevelyan Middle School](#) - Resourced Provision for Cognition and Learning.
- [Wessex Primary School](#), Maidenhead - Resourced Provision for Hearing Impairment.

The Royal Borough also has:

- [The Lawns Nursery School](#) - Early Years School Readiness Hub.
- [Homer First School](#) - facility for Medically Vulnerable children and young people.

## **Funding for new facilities for children and young people with SEND**

In recent years the government has given local authorities grant funding to open new provision for children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and for children who require Alternative Provision (AP).

The Royal Borough has already used this funding to open two new Resource Provisions and one SEN Unit, with two more due to open in Autumn 2024. We have also funded a SEND Careers Hub on the Chiltern Road site in Maidenhead, and an early years School Readiness Hub at The Lawns Nursery School in Windsor. A series of minor improvements have also been made to schools so that children and young people with EHCPs can be educated locally.

### **A new special school?**

To meet the needs of a growing population, the Royal Borough has also successfully bid to the government to open a new special free school on land to the west of Windsor. This site is part of a larger housing development.

The plan is for a 100 place school for children and young people aged 7 to 16 with EHCPs for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH). We are now working with the Department for Education on the delivery of the school.

### **The Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) Strategy 2022 – 2027**

The Royal Borough has consulted with parents, carers and schools on its [SEND Strategy](#) for the period 2022 to 2027. This sets out six priorities, and the most important one for this consultation is Priority 5.

Priority 5 says:

*"Development of the right range of specialist provision with the Royal Borough to ensure that as many children and young people as possible can be educated in a local educational setting is a priority. There needs to be a range of provision to support parental choice and this needs to include more specialist social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) provision and a five-day week offer for post-16 young people."*

## **Why do we need the new provision?**

The funding from the government means that the Royal Borough has the opportunity to provide more local facilities for children and young people with SEND. This will help meet the needs of a growing population and will also help with the priorities set out in the SEND Strategy.

Although the Royal Borough has a range of provision for children and young people with EHCPs, many are still being educated outside the borough or in the independent sector (often out-borough as well). This means that some children and young people with EHCPs:

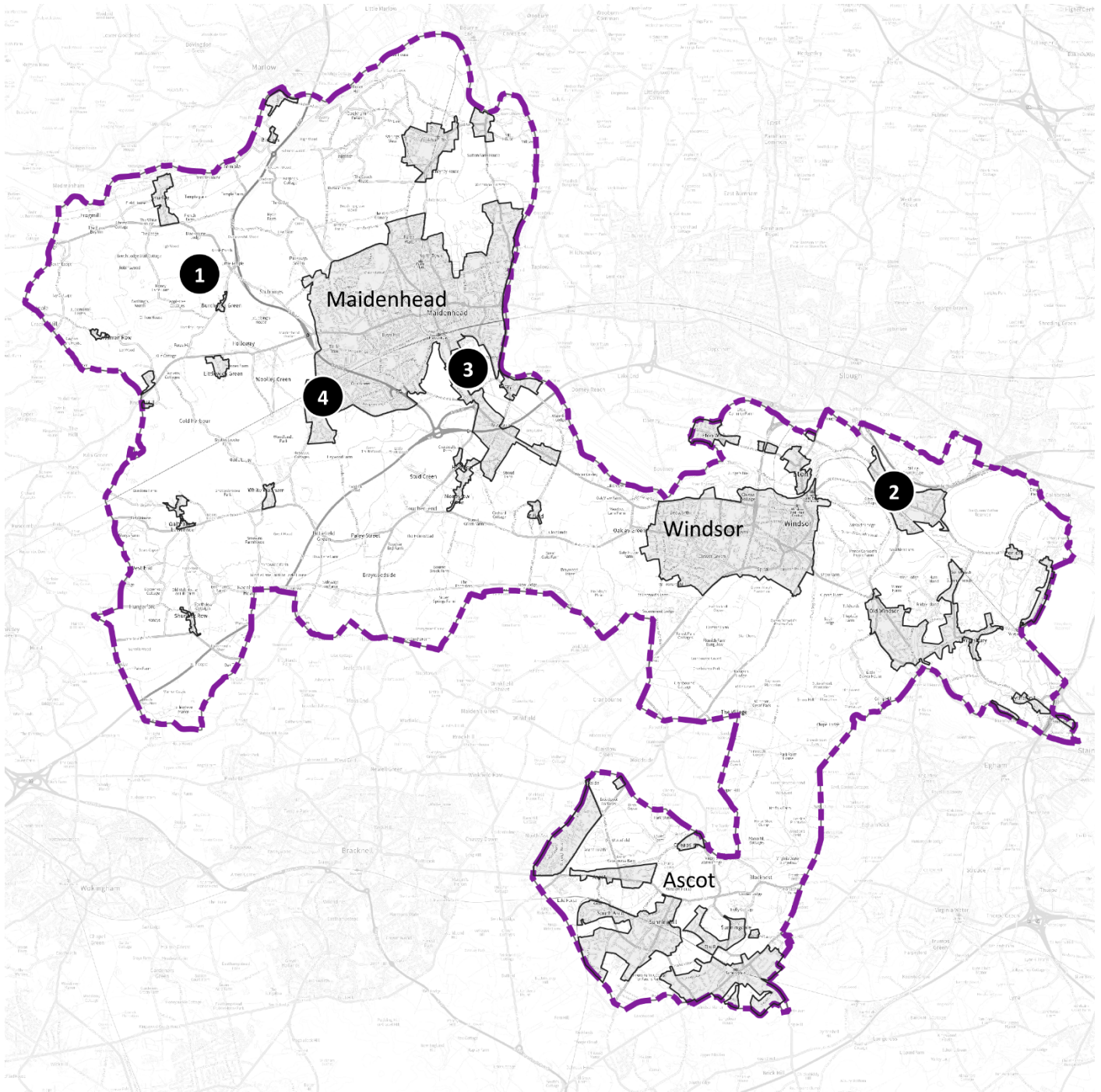
- may not be benefiting from the inclusive education they could receive, with support, in a mainstream school or college.
- are travelling out of their local area for education, which is time consuming, expensive and may not be good for the child.
- are at risk of attending schools or colleges usually reserved for children with more complex needs.

The proposals in this consultation will allow more children and young people to attend a provision close to their home, helping to meet Priority 5 of the SEND Strategy.



## School locations

There are more details about the specific proposals on the next few pages. The map below shows where these schools are located.



1. [Berkshire College of Agriculture](#) - expanded Foundation and Supported Internship Provision.
2. [Churchmead Church of England School](#) - Resourced Provision for Autistic Spectrum Condition.
3. [Forest Bridge School](#) - new sixth form.
4. [Manor Green School](#) - additional places.

# Berkshire College of Agriculture - expanded Foundation and Supported Intern Provision

## Key information about the college

Principal:	Gillian May
College address:	Hall Place Burchett's Green Maidenhead SL6 6QR
Ofsted judgement:	Good (November 2019 full inspection)
Website:	<a href="http://www.bca.ac.uk">www.bca.ac.uk</a>



[Berkshire College of Agriculture \(BCA\)](http://www.bca.ac.uk) is a further education agricultural college located in Burchett's Green, Maidenhead, for students aged 14 and older. The college has been part of Windsor Forest Colleges Group since August 2022.

The college is proposing to refurbish a redundant two-storey accommodation block at BCA to provide five teaching rooms and support spaces. This will allow the college to expand their Foundation offer and Supported Internship Provision and improve provision for other learners with additional needs. The Windsor Forest College Group has over 400 learners with ECHPs and was unable to accommodate a higher number in 2024 at BCA due to a lack of suitable space.

Foundation studies are suitable for students who may have a learning difficulty or require extra support. They will be working at Entry Level 1 to Level 1, progressing towards independence and employability.

Supported Internships are one-year courses specifically for students with an EHCP who want to go into employment. This course is an exit route from the college into employment. Under the proposals the number of Supported Internships could be doubled from eight to sixteen for the first year, and the college expects it would expand further in subsequent years.

Slough Borough Council has, in principle, committed capital funding to this scheme, as it will benefit their residents as well.

It is proposed that the new accommodation would be ready for September 2025.



**View of the Principal and Governing Body of the college:**

*“Due to High Needs student growth over the past five years at Berkshire College of Agriculture, we require vital space to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of our local communities. We are very excited about the possibility of expanding our current Foundation provision which offers young people with special education needs the opportunity to develop their life and work skills. We want to increase the number of students who can access our supported internship programme as our employment outcomes are fantastic.*

*The Windsor Forest College Group is committed to providing outstanding education and support to all students to achieve their full potential and aspirations. Inclusion and inclusive practice are a core part of our values amongst staff and students, developing further specialist provision will only strengthen our current student offer and provide better opportunities for our students with special educational needs.”*

# Churchmead Church of England School - Resource Base for Autistic Spectrum Condition

## Key information about the school

Headteacher:	Chris Tomes
School address:	Priory Way Datchet SL3 9JQ
School type:	Secondary
Ofsted judgement:	Good (July 2019 short inspection)
Website:	<a href="https://churchmead.org/">https://churchmead.org/</a>



[Churchmead School](https://churchmead.org/) is a secondary school for children and young people aged 11 to 18, located in Datchet. It has up to 120 places per year group.

Under this proposal, the school would open a Resource Base for children and young people with an EHCP, with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) as the primary need.

Resource Base is a generic term for a facility attached to a school that provides additional support for children and young people with EHCPs. Resource Bases can either be Resourced Provisions or SEN Units - there is more detail about the differences on the next page.

Opening a new Resource Base will mean that more children with EHCPs can be educated in a mainstream setting in the Royal Borough, closer to their home communities. The Royal Borough already has a Resourced Provision for secondary age pupils with ASC (at Furze Platt Senior School in Maidenhead), but this is currently full. The number of children and young people with an EHCP for ASC continues to grow - there are currently 224 secondary school age pupils in the borough with EHCPs for ASC, compared to 145 in 2020, and 116 in 2013.

The Royal Borough is working with the school on what additional accommodation would be required and where this would be located on the school site.

Churchmead School has agreed that public consultation can be carried out on the proposal to open a Resourced Provision or an SEN Unit at the school. It is proposed that the new provision would have ten places and could open in September 2025 or September 2026.

## **Resource Bases and Hubs explained**

### What are Resource Bases?

Resource Bases are for children and young people who have EHCPs and who can, with support, be educated in a mainstream school.

Children attending the base will spend some of their school day in the new provision and some in mainstream classes at the school. Each base will have up to ten children. All of these children will be on the school's roll.

A Resource Base will become a key part of the school, which will have a strong emphasis on inclusion and diversity. All staff will support the work of the base, and children there will be a part of the whole school community. Schools with a Resource Base will decide how best to run the new provision. A qualified teacher will have overall responsibility for the facility and will be supported by teaching assistants with specialist training.

Children attending the Resource Base will be taught in line with their ability, individual needs and the requirements outlined in their EHCP.

The school receives additional revenue funding to cover the cost of running the base.

Each Resource Base is either an SEN Unit or Resourced Provision.

### Resourced Provision explained

Children and young people attending Resourced Provision will be able to spend most of their time in mainstream classes at the school. They will spend some time receiving extra support in the provision itself. A Resourced Provision will have a dedicated space within the school, about the size of one normal classroom.

### SEN Unit explained

Children attending a SEN Unit will spend more of their time in the unit but will still attend some mainstream classes in the school. A SEN Unit will have a dedicated space within the school, about the size of two normal classrooms.

### **Who will go to the new Resource Bases?**

School placements for children with EHCPs are agreed through the borough's EHCP panel process. This will continue to be the case for the proposed new Resource Bases.

If the proposed new provision opens, then places will be available to both:

- new starters, who may be just starting school or have moved into the area; and
- children already in school who would benefit from the new Resource Bases. Consideration of a move would be discussed by the family, school and local authority - for example at the child's Annual Review - before being considered via the EHCP panel process.

Over time, we hope that the new provision will increase the numbers of children and young people with special educational needs who can attend a local mainstream school. This will, in turn, reduce the number of children who have to travel to similar provision in a neighbouring local authority or have to go to a special school.

The whole school community, including children, their families and staff, can benefit from having a Resource Base. One reason for this is the highly specialised staff in the new provision, who can share their expertise across the school. This will mean that all staff will have more skills, benefiting all children in the school.

The school curriculum will also be further developed, so that children in the Resource Base can take part in mainstream classes where appropriate. The development of the curriculum is likely to help other children, because different ways of teaching the same lesson can often improve understanding.

Children educated and socialising alongside others with a range of needs can learn a great deal. Ofsted also recognises that a school community that recognises, celebrates and respects difference helps develop educated citizens.

### **Moving on from the Resource Bases**

Young people moving on from a secondary Resource Base will be better equipped to continue into post-16 education, training and/or employment. These decisions will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with pupils, their families and the schools.

### **View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school:**

*“Churchmead is keen to develop a future SEND provision for students with Autism by providing a base for students to help them successfully access the school curriculum. This vision aims to provide the necessary specialist education and support for the students that also embodies our school values of Courage, Compassion and Commitment.”*

# Forest Bridge School - new sixth form

## Key information about the school

Headteacher:	Elizabeth Farnden
School address:	Braywick Park Braywick Road Maidenhead SL6 1BN
School type:	All-through SEN
Ofsted judgement:	Good (July 2019 short inspection)
Website:	<a href="https://www.forestbridgeschool.org.uk/">https://www.forestbridgeschool.org.uk/</a>



[Forest Bridge School](https://www.forestbridgeschool.org.uk/) is a special school for children and young people aged 4 to 16 with EHCPs where ASC is the primary need. It is located in Braywick Park, Maidenhead and has 112 places.

The proposal is to open a sixth form, allowing the school to offer post-16 places. Whilst some pupils are ready to move to college or employment at the end of Year 11, the sixth form at Forest Bridge would enable those young people who are not ready to leave to remain in education at the school.

At present, these young people are often transferring to residential and/or independent school provision elsewhere – there is no post-16 provision in the borough specifically for students with EHCPs for ASC. Opening a sixth form will, therefore, mean that more young people with EHCPs can receive the support they need at post-16 in their local community.

The proposal is for up to eight pupils per year group, across three year groups (National Curriculum Years 12, 13 and 14) and providing 24 places overall. These would be accommodated within a new two-storey block. The Royal Borough is working with the school on the design and planning for the new block.

The proposed sixth form would offer provision for those whose needs cannot be met in non-specialist post-16 provision, providing a personalised curriculum focused on Preparing for Adult (PfA) outcomes and ongoing communication and social skills.

It is proposed that the new accommodation would be ready for September 2026.


**View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school:**

*“Forest Bridge School is excited at the possibility of expanding our provision to include a sixth form. We know many of our pupils can move on to employment or college after year 11 but some have needs that cannot be met in non-specialist provision. A sixth form would mean some of our learners would be able to remain at home (non-residential) or within their community. We believe this is a much needed provision for some of our young people with a personalised curriculum focused on PfA outcomes and ongoing communication and social skills.”*



## Manor Green School - additional places

### Key information about the school

Headteacher:	Joolz Scarlett	
School address:	Elizabeth Hawkes Way Maidenhead SL6 3EQ	
School type:	All-through SEN	
Ofsted judgement:	Good (April 2023 short inspection)	
Website:	<a href="https://www.manorgreenschool.co.uk/">https://www.manorgreenschool.co.uk/</a>	

[Manor Green School](https://www.manorgreenschool.co.uk/) is a special school for children and young people aged 2 to 19, with EHCPs for complex, profound and multiple learning difficulties. The school has 275 places and is located in Maidenhead.

The proposal is for new accommodation to convert former respite provision into learning spaces, allowing up to a further 20 children and young people to attend the school. These new places would allow more children and young people with complex needs to be educated locally, including those whose needs cannot be fully supported in mainstream education.

Manor Green School is already relatively large, but around 30 children and young people are now attending the recently opened SEND Careers Hub at the Chiltern Road site in Maidenhead instead of facilities at Manor Green School. This offsets the proposed increase in numbers, therefore minimising any traffic impacts on the surrounding roads.

It is proposed that the new accommodation would be ready by September 2025 (and possibly sooner). The Royal Borough is working with the school on the design and planning for remodelling works.

**View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school:**

*“Manor Green is substantially oversubscribed with more than ten times the applications for every place. Manor Green provides excellent preparation for adulthood, enabling pathways into employment for some students with our Apprenticeship programmes. We would like to be able to offer a specialist education for more local children with additional learning needs and disabilities. This would save them having to travel to other specialist schools outside of the borough.”*

## Next steps

Thank you for taking the time to read this consultation. You can now tell us what you think by:

- completing the online survey at <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/consultations/education-consultations>.
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