

New provision for children with special educational needs

Public Consultation: January 2023

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is proposing to open new facilities for children with special educational needs. The funding for these new facilities will come from a government grant called the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation.

We're proposing:

- an Early Years School Readiness Hub at The Lawns Nursery School, Windsor.
- up to four new Resource Bases, attached to schools in Maidenhead and in Windsor, for children with special educational needs.

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 24th February 2023**.

You can also respond online at:

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

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Royal Borough
of Windsor &
Maidenhead

What are we proposing?

In summary, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is proposing the following:

An Early Years School Readiness Hub at The Lawns Nursery School, Windsor

We are proposing to open a hub at The Lawns Nursery School, in Windsor for young children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. This will work with children up to the age of 7 who are not 'school ready' due to difficulties in regulating their own emotions and behaviour.

A second wave of new Resource Bases at schools in Maidenhead and Windsor

We are also proposing to open up to four new Resource Bases at schools in Maidenhead and in Windsor for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). These bases will be for children who can, with support, attend a mainstream school.

The borough has been working with schools to identify where this new provision could go, and we have four possible options:

1. Cox Green School, Maidenhead.
2. Desborough College, Maidenhead.
3. Hilltop First School, Windsor.
4. Trevelyan Middle School, Windsor.

These 'Wave 2' Resource Bases follow on from the four longstanding bases already in operation, and the four 'Wave 1' bases approved to open since September 2021.

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

What you say matters...

Parents, staff, governors, residents 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 response form at www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/consultations/education-consultations.
- Completing the paper response form, also available at the above link, and posting it to Resource Bases and Early Years Hub Consultation, School Places and Capital Team, Zone E, Town Hall, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF.
- Emailing schoolplaces@achievingforchildren.org.uk.

The closing date for your comments is **midday on Friday 24th February 2023**.

What happens after the consultation finishes?

The schools involved in this consultation and the Royal Borough will consider the responses received. Each school will decide whether it wants to proceed, and the Royal Borough's Cabinet will then consider the proposals on 30th March 2023.

If a decision is taken to go ahead with one or more of the proposals, then we hope to open the Early Years School Readiness Hub in September 2023. The Wave 2 Resource Bases will start to open from September 2024 onwards.

These proposals are likely to be subject to getting planning permission for any new buildings. In the case of the academies (Cox Green, Desborough and Trevelyan) the Department for Education will also need to approve the proposals.

What has happened so far?

Funding for new facilities for children and young people with special educational needs...

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 one grant to open two new Resource Bases, with two more in the pipeline to open in September 2023 and September 2024. A second grant, called the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA), is now available for further projects. Part of this has already been spent on refurbishing the Resource Base for Physical Disability at Charters School.

A new special school?

To meet the needs of a growing population, the Royal Borough has also submitted a 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 bid is for a 100 place school for children and young people aged 7 to 16 with EHCPs for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. We expect to know the outcome of the bid in late 2022 to early 2023. If successful, the school should open in September 2025.

The government requires that local authorities fund any 'abnormal' costs associated with building the school. Whilst we don't expect any, we are proposing to set aside £500,000 of the HNPCA grant to cover part of these potential costs. If the bid is not successful, this funding will be made available for other schemes.

There may be further opportunities to bid for funding for a new special school in the future, if we are not successful in this round.

A SEND Careers Hub...

The Royal Borough has a primary school site in Maidenhead that is currently unoccupied. This site, on Chiltern Road, is being remodelled and refurbished so that it can be reopened as a new primary school, possibly from September 2025. In the meantime, [Manor Green School](#) (a special school) will be using the site temporarily as a SEND Careers Hub from September 2023. This will provide services aimed at young people with special education needs and aged 11 to 25, to prepare them for and support them into employment. Part of the cost of remodelling and refurbishing the site will come from the HNPCA grant.

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 within 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 majority of children and young people with EHCPs can, with the right support, attend mainstream schools, many are still being educated in special schools, in mainstream schools outside the borough or in the independent sector (often out-borough as well). This means that some children with EHCPs:

- may not be benefiting from the inclusive education they could receive, with support, in a mainstream school.
- 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 usually reserved for children with more complex needs.

Opening new Resource Bases will allow more children and young people to attend a mainstream school close to their home, helping to meet Priority 5 of the SEND Strategy.

Meanwhile, the Early Years Hub will help younger children, who may not have EHCPs but have difficulty controlling their behaviours, to prepare for school, reducing the risk that they might need more specialist provision in future.

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. Each base focuses on special educational needs in one of four broad areas:

- Communication and Interaction (e.g. Autistic Spectrum Condition; Speech, Language and Communication Needs).
- Cognition and Learning (e.g. Specific Learning Difficulties such as dyslexia or dyspraxia, or Moderate Learning Difficulties).
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health.
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs (e.g. blindness, deafness or physical disability).

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 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 will either be an SEN Unit or Resourced Provision.

Resourced Provision explained

Children 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 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 SEND 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, benefitting 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...

When children in a primary, first or middle school Resource Base are old enough to leave their school, some may be able to transfer into their next school without a Resource Base. Others will continue to need support as they transfer to suitable provision at another school, which may be out of the borough. 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.

What are Hubs?

Hubs allow children and young people to benefit from additional support whilst still attending their mainstream school. A child or young person being supported by a hub might go there for a few hours each week, but still have most of their lessons at their 'home' school. Children being supported by a hub do not need to have an EHCP.

The involvement of a hub is intended to keep the child at their current school, avoiding a disruptive move to a more specialist school. Support from a hub is short-term only, aimed at addressing issues as soon as possible through 'early intervention'.

Hubs do not have a set amount of space, but as they help children from other schools, they are often located in separate buildings to the main school.

Current or planned Resource Bases and Hubs

There are currently eight 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 Autistic Spectrum Condition.
- [Furze Platt Infant](#) and [Furze Platt Junior](#) Schools, Maidenhead – Resourced Provision for Autistic Spectrum Condition.
- [Furze Platt Senior School](#), Maidenhead – Resourced Provision for Autistic Spectrum Condition.
- [Riverside Primary School & Nursery](#), Maidenhead – Resourced Provision for Speech and Language.
- [South Ascot Village Primary School](#), Ascot – SEN Unit for Autistic Spectrum Condition (opening September 2023).
- [Wessex Primary School](#), Maidenhead – Resourced Provision for Hearing Impairment.
- [Wraysbury Primary School](#), Wraysbury – Resourced Provision. The type of need is still under discussion, possibly opening in September 2024.

There are currently no hubs in the Royal Borough.

Proposed Wave 2 Resource Bases

The options in this consultation for Resource Bases in Wave 2 are:

- [Cox Green School](#), Maidenhead - Resourced Provision for Cognition and Learning.
- [Desborough College](#), Maidenhead - Resourced Provision for Cognition and Learning.
- [Hilltop First School](#), Windsor – Resourced Provision or SEN Unit for Communication and Interaction.
- [Trevelyan Middle School](#), Windsor - Resourced Provision for Cognition and Learning.

Depending on the cost of each option, it may not be possible to open all four. In addition, it is likely that they would be opened over a number of years, in September 2024, 2025 and 2026.

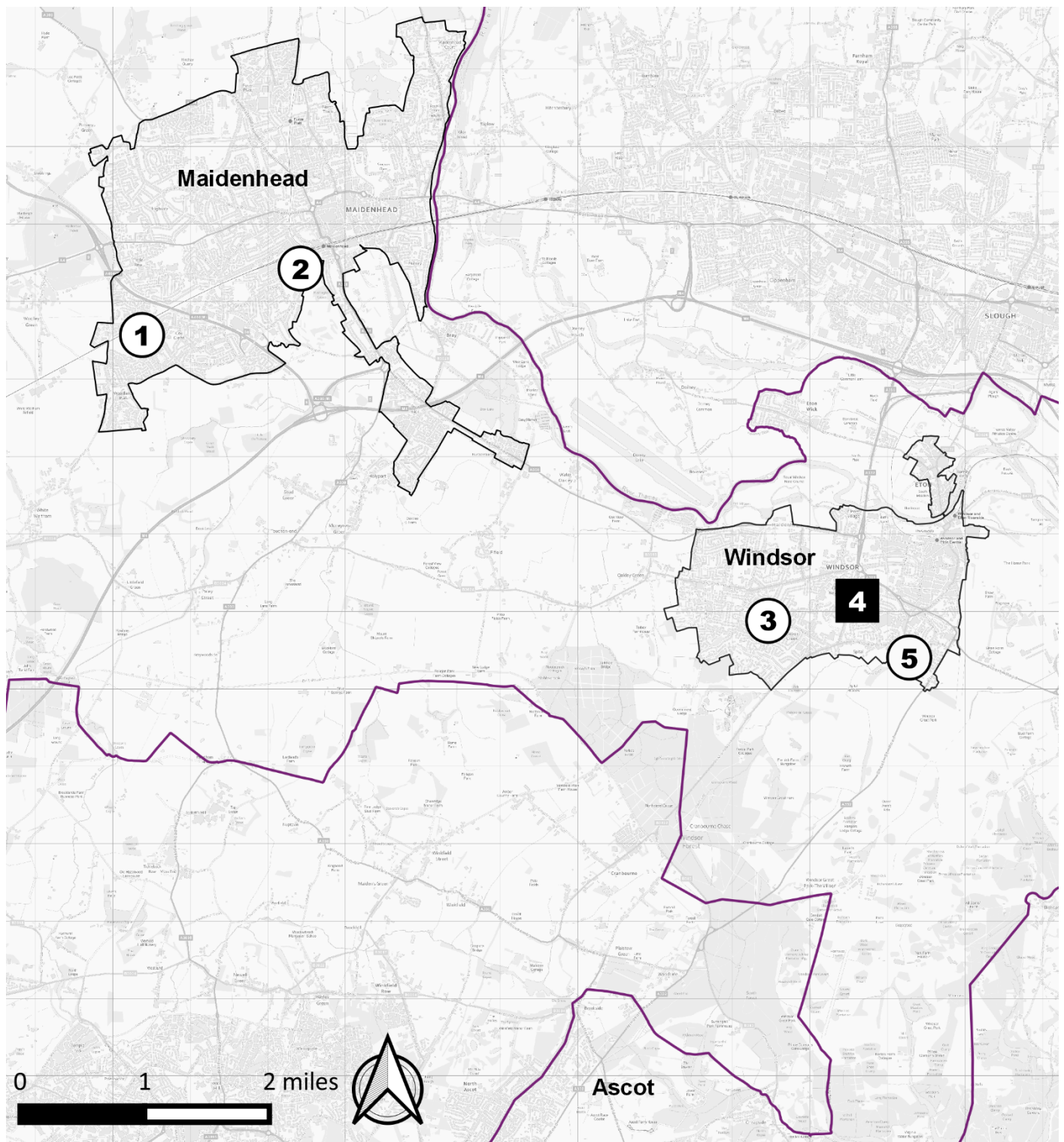
Proposed Hub

Only one new hub is currently being considered, at:

- [The Lawns Nursery School](#), Windsor – Early Years School Readiness Hub.

School locations

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



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1. Cox Green School, Cognition and Learning Resourced Provision.
2. Desborough College, Cognition and Learning Resourced Provision.
3. Hilltop First School, Communication and Interaction Resourced Provision or SEN Unit.
4. The Lawns Nursery School, Early Years School Readiness Hub.
5. Trevelyan Middle School, Cognition and Learning Resourced Provision.

Cox Green School Resourced Provision for Cognition & Learning

Cox Green School is a co-educational secondary school located in Maidenhead, for pupils aged 11 to 19. The school is an academy.

The proposal is for Resourced Provision for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) around 'Cognition and Learning'. Cognition and learning difficulties can affect children's ability to learn and do well at school. Children attending the Resourced Provision may have general learning difficulties and/or more specific learning difficulties.

With support, however, these children are able to attend a mainstream school. As the proposal is for a Resourced Provision, children attending will spend more of their time in mainstream classes.

There is enough space onsite for the new facility. One possibility is the conversion of the bungalow to house the new base, with changes to fencing and access to bring the bungalow within the school's secure area.

The proposal will only result in a maximum of ten additional children at the school, so there will be minimal impact on traffic and parking.

Cox Green School will receive additional revenue funding every year to cover the cost of running the Resourced Provision.

Key information about the school

Headteacher:	Daniel Edwards	
School address:	Highfield Lane Maidenhead SL6 3AX	
School type:	Academy	
Ofsted Inspection judgement:	Good (September 2018 short inspection)	
Website:	https://www.coxgreen.com/	

View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of Cox Green School:

"We are excited about the possibility of expanding our school capacity; as a school we are passionate about providing a high-quality inclusive experience to all our families. Thus, the opportunity to expand our core offer of 'Life in all its fullness' and our holistic provision through increasing pupil numbers and developing our site is an opportunity we are keen to explore".

Desborough College Resourced Provision for Cognition & Learning

Desborough College is a secondary school located in Maidenhead, for boys aged 11 to 19, and girls aged 16-19. The school is an academy, and will be joining the [Pioneer Educational Trust](#) family of schools.

The proposal is for Resourced Provision for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) around 'Cognition and Learning'. Cognition and learning difficulties can affect children's ability to learn and do well at school. Children attending the Resourced Provision may have general learning difficulties and/or more specific learning difficulties.

With support, however, these children are able to attend a mainstream school. As the proposal is for a Resourced Provision, children attending will spend more of their time in mainstream classes.

There is enough space onsite for the new facility, and we are working with the school on plans for where it could go.

The proposal will only result in a maximum of ten additional children at the school, so there will be minimal impact on traffic and parking.

Desborough College will receive additional revenue funding every year to cover the cost of running the Resourced Provision.

Key information about the school

Headteacher:	Andy Murdoch
School address:	Shoppenhangers Road Maidenhead SL6 2QB
School type:	Academy
Ofsted Inspection judgement:	Good (February 2019 short inspection)
Website:	https://www.desborough.org.uk/



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View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of Desborough College:

“Desborough College is committed to providing an outstanding education for all students through an inspiring curriculum and high-quality teaching. Inclusion is at the heart of all we do and the benefits the resource provision would bring would further enhance our ability to meet the needs of students so they can achieve their academic and personal aspirations”.

Hilltop First School Resourced Provision or SEN Unit for Communication and Interaction

Hilltop First School is located in Windsor, and is a co-educational maintained school for children aged 3 to 9, including its nursery class. It is a community school.

The school is considering either a SEN Unit or Resourced Provision, for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for Communication and Interaction Needs. Children may have Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), which covers a range of communication difficulties, including fluency, forming words and sounds, creating sentences, and understanding what others say and using language socially. The base could also support children who have communication and interaction needs arising from Autistic Spectrum Condition.

With support, however, these children are able to attend a mainstream school. Children attending a SEN Unit will spend more of their time in the unit, but will still attend some mainstream classes in the school. Children attending Resourced Provision will be able to spend most of their time in mainstream classes at the school.

There is enough space on site for the new facility, and it is likely that this would mean locating the new base into the area currently occupied by the school nursery. The nursery would be relocated into new purpose built accommodation, either attached to the front of the school, or in a separate building on the field at the front of the school.

The proposal will only result in a maximum of ten additional children at the school, so there will be minimal impact on traffic and parking.

Hilltop First School will receive additional revenue funding every year to cover the cost of running the Resource Base.

Key information about the school

Headteacher:	Lynn Bima
School address:	Clewer Hill Road Windsor SL4 4DW
School type:	Community
Ofsted Inspection judgement:	Outstanding (May 2010)
Website:	https://www.hilltopfirst.co.uk/



View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of Hilltop First School:

“Hilltop First School recognises each child as unique and values their place within our community. The staff and governors want to promote the best possible outcome for every pupil, and always try to offer support that is right for each child. Our school already successfully works with children who have communication and interaction needs, and this provision would build on this. The facility would allow us to meet the needs of children in the local area needing something more specific within a wider welcoming school community”.

The Lawns Nursery School Early Years School Readiness Hub

The Lawns Nursery School is located in Windsor, and is a co-educational maintained nursery school for children aged 2 to 4. The Lawns is a community school.

The proposal is for an Early Years School Readiness Hub to provide early intervention services to work with young children aged 4 to 7 who are unable to regulate their emotions and behaviour, and so are not 'school ready'. These children will not attend The Lawns Nursery School itself, and will remain on roll at their original school. The hub will work with children, their families and schools so that, after two terms, they can return to their school ready to learn. These children will not necessarily have EHCPs.

It is proposed that the hub will be located in the bungalow on the shared site with Oakfield First School. Plans are still being developed, and it is likely that additional parking would need to be provided for staff and, possibly, parents.

It is expected that up to six children (depending on their needs) will be using the hub at any one time, supported by a qualified teacher and two support staff.

The hub will be jointly run by The Lawns Nursery School and the Royal Borough's Children's Services and will have its own budget to cover running costs. A pilot outreach service is already running in 2022/23, but without any space of its own.

Key information about the school

Headteacher:	Sarah Cottle	
School address:	Imperial Road Windsor SL4 3RU	
School type:	Community	
Ofsted Inspection judgement:	Outstanding (February 2019 short inspection)	
Website:	https://www.nurseryfederation.co.uk/lawns	

View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of The Lawns Nursery School:

“The Leaders and Governing Body of the Cookham, Maidenhead and The Lawns Nursery School Federation are committed to supporting the inclusion of all children in RBWM. We recognise that early intervention is key and understand the current landscape of need in the local community. We wish to establish an innovative and therapeutic space to enable young children facing emotional regulation challenges to develop the skills necessary to flourish within their school setting”.

Trevelyan Middle School Resourced Provision for Cognition & Learning

Trevelyan Middle School is located in Windsor, and is a co-educational school for pupils aged 9 to 13. The school is an academy, and part of the [Pioneer Educational Trust](#) family of schools.

The proposal is for Resourced Provision for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) around 'Cognition and Learning'. Cognition and learning difficulties can affect children's ability to learn and do well at school. Children attending the Resourced Provision may have general learning difficulties and/or more specific learning difficulties.

With support, however, these children are able to attend a mainstream school. As the proposal is for a Resourced Provision, children attending will spend more of their time in mainstream classes.

There is enough space onsite for the new facility, and it is likely that the base will be located in a new extension located between the one and two-storey parts of the main school building.

The proposal will only result in a maximum of ten additional children at the school, so there will be minimal impact on traffic and parking.

Trevelyan Middle School will receive additional revenue funding every year to cover the cost of running the Resourced Provision.

Key information about the school

Headteacher:	Louisa Harris
School address:	Wood Close Windsor SL4 3LL
School type:	Academy
Ofsted Inspection judgement:	Good (October 2019)
Website:	https://www.trevelyan.org.uk/



View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of Trevelyan Middle School:

“Trevelyan Middle School believes very strongly in the importance and value of being a truly inclusive school. Our recently-awarded Inclusion Quality Mark demonstrates our commitment to inclusive education and is evidence that it sits at the heart of all we do. We are determined to continue our professional learning and development in this area, so as to positively affect outcomes for all pupils, hence our commitment to the addition of a Resourced Provision to support cognition and specific learning needs at Trevelyan Middle School”.