

Statutory Consultation

Proposals to retain and invest in Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses, including a change in age range of pupils at these campuses, and an overall increase in Silverwood School place numbers from 410 to 460.

Introduction

Silverwood is a co-educational special school for children and young people aged 4 to 19 years. The school formed in September 2020 with campuses in Rowde, Trowbridge and Chippenham: former schools of Rowdeford, Larkrise and St. Nicholas.

There is extensive new building work being completed for Silverwood School due for completion in Autumn 2023. Wiltshire Council have invested £38 million into a new build at the Rowde campus, to create a state-of-the-art centre for SEND education, health, care, and training across the 4-19 age range, with a focus on children with complex SEND.

In November 2019, Wiltshire Council committed to consult on the future of the Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses prior to the opening of the new build at Rowde. In December 2022, Wiltshire Council leaders considered proposals developed by Silverwood School and reaffirmed their commitment to consult on proposed changes taking account of the need for special school places and the views of parents, carers, and pupils.

In summary the proposals are:

1. To retain the Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses
2. Investment from Wiltshire Council to upgrade the Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses
3. A change in age range at Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses to primary (Reception – Year 6) from September 2023
 - Retaining the Silverwood 6th Form College at Chippenham.
 - As a result of the change to age range at Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses, Silverwood Rowde would become the sole campus for secondary with all through provision (Reception, Primary, Secondary and Post 16)
4. Changing Silverwood School's registered place numbers from 410 to 460 from September 2023.

In respect of the proposals above, Wiltshire Council proposes to make prescribed alterations to Silverwood School by expanding the school's current registered net capacity from 410 places to 460 from September 2023 and changing the age range at Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses from 4-19 to 4-11 from September 2023.

The Proposals

In accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 **Wiltshire Council are proposing changes to Silverwood School, to increase the school's current place numbers registered with the Department for Education (DfE) from 410 places to 460 and the age range at the Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses from 4-19 to 4-11.**

In support of the above changes, Wiltshire Council is proposing to retain and invest in the Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses.

The Special Educational Need designations would remain the same, with Silverwood School continuing to support the needs of children and young people who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

identified to support Speech, Language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Physical Disability, Moderate Learning Difficulty and/or Severe Learning Difficulty.

Wiltshire Council are making these proposals to:

- Meet the needs of the growing number of children with SEND and the growing demand for special school places
- Ensure excellent learning environments for all Silverwood pupils
- Continue to support the education and wellbeing of the students at Silverwood School

The case for retaining Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses

Wiltshire Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places for pupils with special education needs (Children and Families Act 2014) and to ensure that these places provide both high quality provision and value for money.

The number of EHCPs in Wiltshire has grown rapidly over the last 10 years and it is forecast that over 200 new special school places will be needed in Wiltshire by 2027. Silverwood School now has 430 pupils (January 2023) and due to growing demand, this is expected to rise by approximately 30 places per year.

The new build at Silverwood Rowde Campus will open Autumn 2023. By Spring 2024, when the refurbishment of the existing buildings at Rowde Campus is also complete, Silverwood Rowde Campus will have a building capacity of approximately 400 places.

Chippenham and Trowbridge are areas of high population and high demand for special school places.

It is proposed that Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses are retained. The alternatives to this proposal would be to either retain only one of these sites or to retain neither of these sites. These alternatives are not recommended because of the demand for special school places now and in the future.

It is proposed to retain the Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses.

The case for investing in Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses

Wiltshire Council has a broad statutory duty to ensure school places for pupils with special educational needs provide high quality provision (Part 3 Children and Families Act 2014).

The new build at the Silverwood Rowde campus will offer improved facilities from Autumn 2023 and contribute to providing an excellent learning environment. The refurbishment of the current buildings at the Rowde campus has also been scheduled as part of the build project and will be completed by Spring 2024, ensuring that these learning spaces are also of a high standard to support high quality provision. To ensure pupils at Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses also have the best possible learning environments, a refurbishment would be necessary.

Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses have more than 100 pupils each. Initial work with architects has identified that the campus sizes of Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge are best suited to up to 75 pupils each. At the Trowbridge campus, mobile classrooms encroach into the outdoor play area and to provide the best learning environments at both the Trowbridge and Chippenham campuses would require reconfiguring indoor learning space and ensuring suitable outdoor play areas. To offer the best learning environments at both Chippenham and Trowbridge, and to support high quality provision, it is proposed that there is an investment in both campuses for a refurbishment and reconfiguration to a model to provide up to 75 places each.

The alternative of not investing in the Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses would mean that the learning environments at these campuses would not be enhanced. The alternative of investing in a refurbishment but not a reconfiguration to a model of 75 places at each campus would mean the learning spaces and outdoor play areas would be limited.

It is proposed that Wiltshire Council invest to upgrade both Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses.

The case for changing the age range at Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses

Wiltshire Council has a statutory duty to ensure school places for pupils with special education needs (Children and Families Act 2014) combining high quality provision and value for money.

Silverwood School have a vision for how to best use the three campuses into the future.

Silverwood Rowde campus, with the new state-of-the-art build, will have a school-leading learning environment for approximately 400 pupils. The design of the new build, co-produced with pupils, parents, and carers, includes facilities and outdoor spaces ideal for all through provision: reception, primary and post 16.

Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses are smaller. To ensure they offer the best learning environments these campuses should have up to approximately 75 pupils each with 7-9 classes, plus specialist, communal and outdoor place areas. This model is a good fit for primary provision: Reception – Year 6 (7 age groups). A primary age focus would mean the spaces and resources could be targeted to a smaller range of ages. This would enable effective use of outdoor and specialist spaces, more targeted resources, and more focussed training for staff. Silverwood have recommended this model as the best use of the Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses to meet pupils' needs and promote educational excellence.

Silverwood pupils' peers in mainstream provision often move on from a smaller primary school to a larger secondary school as they move from Year 6 to Year 7. The proposed model would replicate this progression for Silverwood pupils at Chippenham and Trowbridge.

The alternative to changing the age range at Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses would be for these campuses to continue to offer an all through provision (age 4-19). It is the view of Silverwood school that this alternative would not be the best use of space and resources and would not be the best way to provide high quality provision to pupils.

It is proposed that the age range and Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses is changed to 4-11 (reception – primary) from September 2023.

It should be noted that as a result of this proposal, Silverwood Rowde would become the sole Silverwood campus for secondary provision with all through provision 4-19. It should also be noted that the Silverwood 6th form college (at Chippenham) would be retained.

The case for changing registered place numbers for Silverwood School from 410 to 460 from September 2023

The major build project at the Rowde campus will see the capacity of the school grow from September 2023. The proposal to retain the Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses would secure spaces needed to meet the growing demand. The planned growth in place numbers is being carefully managed together by the council and the school to ensure the school has the space and resources to support all pupils at each stage of the expansion. Silverwood School has a registered place number of 410 but actually has 430 pupils

(as of January 2023). Silverwood place numbers are forecast to grow by approximately 30 places per year. Increasing Silverwood's registered capacity from 410 to 460 for September 2023 would mean that pupils at Silverwood School can continue their education at the school and allow for the intake of new pupils in September 2023.

It is proposed that Silverwood School formally changes its registered capacity from 410 to 460 from September 2023.

The Outcomes of the Proposals

Wiltshire Council, in conjunction with Silverwood School, are proposing:

1. To retain the Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses
2. Investment from Wiltshire Council to upgrade the Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses
3. A change in age range at Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses to primary (Reception – Year 6) from September 2023
 - Retaining the Silverwood 6th Form College which is at a separate site in Chippenham
 - As a result of the change to age range at Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses, Silverwood Rowde would become the sole campus for secondary with all through provision (Reception, Primary, Secondary and Post 16)
4. Changing Silverwood School's registered place numbers from 410 to 460 from September 2023

We believe that these proposals will:

- Provide additional capacity to manage demand in special schools within Wiltshire
- Support improved educational outcomes for children that require special school places

This proposal is not expected to have any limiting impact on other local provision including local schools but the increase in place numbers and the retention of Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses will contribute towards parental choice.

Costs and Expenditure

In respect of the increase in registered pupil numbers from 410 to 460 Silverwood School will be in receipt of additional funding to offset the increase in pupil numbers. The cost of the proposed investment in the Trowbridge and Chippenham campuses would be met by Wiltshire Council.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to these proposals have been complied with.

Implementation

Following consultation, Wiltshire Council leaders will consider the proposals in light of the feedback received. The local authority and school will work together to ensure that all admissions and transitions are managed effectively and efficiently.

The planned expansion of Silverwood School is part of a wider programme to ensure sufficiency of school places for pupils with SEND, and improve outcomes for all children and young people with SEND through the development of a system of excellence. This programme is being carefully planned and managed in collaboration between the council, schools, and other partners.

Consultation Process

Stage 1	Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals will be published on Silverwood School and Wiltshire Council website for 5 weeks from 30/01/2023 until 5/03/2023 • A copy of the proposals has been sent to the Governors of Silverwood School and the Executive Head Teacher • Silverwood School will ensure that the information is released via email/ letter directly to all parent/carers of all registered pupils • Copies of the proposals will be available via the school, by contacting Wiltshire Council and on the websites: www.silverwood.wilts.sch.uk http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-consultations <p>Comments can be made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • via the online survey: Silverwood Online Consultation • by email to SilverwoodConsultation@wiltshire.gov.uk • or by sending them to Silverwood Consultation, Special School Transformation, SEND & Inclusion, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments must be received by no later than the 5/03/2023 to be considered in the decision-making process.
Stage 2	Representation (Formal consultation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The period of consultation will run from 31/01/2023 – 5/03/2023
Stage 3	Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the representation period, a decision will be made by the end of April 2023 <p>The proposals can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accepted ○ Rejected ○ Or accepted with modifications by the proposer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision will be published within one week of the decision and; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ published on the same sites as the publication ○ Sent to every registered pupil ○ And sent to the governing body
Stage 4	Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If approved, an implementation plan will be developed for the investment in Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses • If approved, the school and council will work together with families to carefully manage any transitions in respect of the change of age range at Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If approved, The Secretary of State will be informed by updating the departments Register of Educational Establishments (EduBase) • If the proposals are accepted the council and the school will work together to ensure that all admissions are managed effectively and efficiently.
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Responses

Comments can be made

- via the online survey: [Silverwood Online Consultation](#)
 - by email to SilverwoodConsultation@wiltshire.gov.uk
 - or by sending them to Silverwood Consultation, Special School Transformation, SEND & Inclusion, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN
- **Comments must be received by no later than the 5/03/2023 to be considered in the decision-making process.**

If you choose to respond via letter, please use the consultation response template below:

Consultation Response:				
Please circle your role:	Pupil	Parent/carer/ family	Governor	Member of staff
Do you agree with the proposal to retain the Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses? (Please circle)		Yes	No	Not sure
Please Comment:				
Do you agree with the proposal for Wiltshire Council to invest to upgrade the Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses? (Please circle)		Yes	No	Not sure
Please Comment:				

<p>Do you agree with the proposal for a change in age range at Silverwood Chippenham and Trowbridge campuses to primary age 4-11 (Reception – Year 6) from September 2023? (Please circle)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Not sure</p>
<p>Please Comment:</p>			
<p>Do you agree with the proposal to change Silverwood School's registered place number from 410 to 460 from September 2023 (Please circle)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Not sure</p>
<p>Please Comment:</p>			
<p>Are there any other comments you would like to make in relation to any of the above proposals?</p>			
<p>Do you think there are other options that should be explored? (Please describe)</p>			