

Statutory proposal for making prescribed alterations at Bushfield School, Wyvern School, Downs Barn School, Portfields Primary School, The Willows School and Early Years Centre, Wood End Infant and Pre-school, Summerfield School, The Woodlands School and Romans Field School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) and the ‘[Making significant changes \(‘prescribed alterations’\) to maintained schools – Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers](#)’, March 2025, that **Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC)** proposes to make the changes listed below to nine schools in the local authority area.

Schools and local authority details:

Proposer: Milton Keynes City Council, Civic, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ

School	School status and age range	Ofsted rating	Proposed change and description of alteration
Bushfield School Moon Street Wolverton Milton Keynes MK12 5JG	Foundation, Maintained. 7 to 11 years	Good May 2022	Addition of a SEND unit with a capacity of up to 16 places from September 2026
Wyvern School Aylesbury Street Wolverton Milton Keynes MK12 5HU	Foundation, Maintained. 2 to 7 years	Good Sept 2024	Addition of a SEND unit with a capacity of up to 8 places from September 2026
Downs Barn School 69 Downs Barn Boulevard Downs Barn Milton Keynes MK14 7NA	Community, Maintained. 2 to 7 years	Good March 2024	Addition of a SEND unit with a capacity of up to 8 places from September 2026
Portfields Primary School Westbury Lane Newport Pagnell MK16 8PS	Foundation, Maintained. 4 to 11 years	Good June 2023	Addition of a SEND unit with a capacity of up to 24 places from September 2026

School	School status and age range	Ofsted rating	Proposed change and description of alteration
The Willows School and Early Years Centre Fishermead Boulevard Fishermead Milton Keynes MK6 2LP	Community, Maintained. 2 to 7 years	Good Sept 2023	Addition of a SEND unit with a capacity of up to 16 places from September 2026
Wood End Infant and Pre-school Redbridge Stantonbury Milton Keynes MK14 6BB	Community, Maintained. 2 to 7 years	Good May 2022	Addition of a SEND unit with a capacity of up to 16 places from April 2026
Summerfield School Downley Avenue, Bradwell Common, Milton Keynes, MK13 8PG	Community, Maintained. 4 to 11 years	Good June 2022	Addition of a SEND unit with a capacity of up to 8 places from September 2026
The Woodlands School Admiral Drive Hazeley Milton Keynes MK8 0PU	Community, Maintained. 4 to 19 years	Good July 2022	Expansion of High Complex Needs provision at Galley Hill, Stony Stratford, MK11 1PA to provide up to 25 places from January 2028
Romans Field School Shenley Road Bletchley Milton Keynes MK3 7AW	Community, Maintained. 5 to 16 years	Good Dec 2023	Expansion of secondary provision pathway to provide up to 24 additional secondary school places from September 2026

Evidence of demand

The number of children in Milton Keynes with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or requiring SEND support has grown significantly. Between 2015/16 and 2024/25, EHCPs increased by over 900, almost doubling. Alongside rising numbers, the complexity of needs is also increasing. While many children can be supported in mainstream schools through inclusive practices, some require specialist provision, placing pressure on both mainstream and specialist settings.

To address this, the council formed the Specialist Provision Place Planning Group. This group includes headteachers (across all phases), senior MKCC officers, and PACA representatives. Their aim is to plan strategically to meet statutory duties and identify future SEND provision needs.

Projections suggest a further increase of around 490 EHCPs by 2030, especially in communication and interaction needs. While inclusive practice is being promoted, the need for more specialist places is expected to rise.

Phase one of the programme, completed in 2024/25, created over 125 new places via SEND Units and expanding special schools. Building on this success, phase two launched a new expression of interest process in Spring 2024/25. 18 proposals have been considered appropriate at this time to progress to formal consultation.

Nine of these proposals are from maintained schools, for which the local authority is the decision maker. The remaining nine are from academies, which will run their own consultations and follow separate approval processes with the DfE:

- Chestnuts Primary School
- Glebe Farm School
- Holne Chase Primary School
- New Bradwell Primary School
- Oxley Park Academy
- Rickley Park Primary School
- St Mary and St Giles CE Primary School
- Tickford Park Primary School
- Whitehouse Primary School

Expanding SEND units locally helps children access suitable provision closer to home, reducing travel and supporting integration with peers. Units offer bespoke curricula with opportunities for mainstream inclusion. All participating schools are rated 'Good' by Ofsted and have the expertise to deliver high-quality SEND support.

This work directly supports the Milton Keynes Local Area SEND Strategy 2025–2028, which is built around three core principles: That children with SEND in Milton Keynes **Thrive, Belong**, and are **At the Heart of our plans**. The expansion of specialist places aligns with the 'Belong' principle—ensuring children and young people with SEND are included in their communities and have access to education close to home. It also contributes to the strategy's wider goals of improving independence, inclusion, and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

If all 18 proposals progress, around 200 new specialist places could be created. In addition to creating new specialist provision where possible in planned new schools, this will directly address some of the projected growth and increasing complexity of need. Further places are projected to be required, particularly at secondary schools, and we will continue work to identify potential solutions for this. Final decisions will depend on funding, costings, and planning permissions.

Objectives

- **Improves outcomes for children:** Ensure children have access to provision in Milton Keynes to meet their assessed needs.
- **Meets growing demand:** Supports delivery of new specialist places across a range of settings, directly addressing projected growth in EHCPs and complexity of need.
- **Strengthens inclusive education:** Continues to embed specialist provision within mainstream schools, promoting inclusive practice and enabling more children to remain in their communities strengthening the SEND offer across the city.

- **Reduces long-term costs:** By increasing capacity in Milton Keynes, the council can reduce reliance on high-cost independent / out-of-area placements and associated travel support (general fund), supporting a sustainable High Needs Budget and ensuring holistic value for money.
- **Investment in local services:** Investment in the school infrastructure.
- **Community/peer links:** Supports children to maintain community ties, networks and services and relationships with peers.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area

Admissions for children with an EHCP are coordinated by the SEND team who place children according to their type of need and age. Capacity pressures in existing establishments, and pupil projections indicate that there is a clear need to increase the number of places in Milton Keynes to meet future demand. As such these proposals will not have a negative impact on other educational establishments locally but instead will positively benefit the entire local system by ensuring that children are able to be placed within Milton Keynes in provision that best meets their needs, strengthening the SEND offer across the city.

Admission arrangements

There will be no change to the admission arrangements and the published admission number (PAN) at Bushfield School, Wyvern School, Downs Barn School, Portfields Primary School, The Willows School and Early Years Centre, Wood End Infant and Pre-School and Summerfield School. Children admitted to the unit provision are not included within each school's PAN.

The Woodlands School and Romans Field School are special schools and therefore do not have a published admission number. There will be no change to the admission arrangements of these schools.

All admissions for children with an EHCP to the SEND units and special schools are coordinated by the SEND team at Milton Keynes City Council.

Project costs and how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The total costs for any changes required to adapt existing accommodation to ensure it is fit for purpose, have been initially explored and any required costs are to be funded through a combination of developer contributions and existing High Needs Provision Capital Allocations.

Individual project costs will continue to be reviewed as projects progress to ensure continued financial viability and value for money.

Ensuring sufficient places for children with SEND means that as many children as possible are placed in provision within Milton Keynes thus reducing costs to the High Needs Block and School Travel Support (Local General Fund) providing better value for taxpayers' money.

Implementation plan

The representation period for this statutory proposal ends on **7 December 2025**. Following this, officers will consider any comments received and the council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People will take a delegated decision on 27 January 2026 on whether to proceed with the proposal.

If the decision is to implement the proposal, it is expected that additional places will start to become available from April 2026.

The continued progression of all proposals, including academy schools, will be subject to consultation outcomes and any subsequent delegated decisions, finalisation of project costings, funding availability, continued financial viability and planning permissions if required.

How to respond to the statutory proposal

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (**10 November 2025**) any person may support, object or make comments by completing the online form or by sending an email to sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk or in writing to:

Access to Education, Employment and Training
Milton Keynes City Council
Civic
1 Saxon Gate East
Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

The closing date for comments is Sunday **7 December 2025**.