

**WOODHALL SIGNIFICANT CHANGE CONSULTATION**

Our School has worked alongside Suffolk County Council to develop specialist education places. Across Suffolk there has been a shortfall of specialist places available. This can mean that some pupils have to be educated away from their local communities.

As part of a SEND capital programme an additional 190 new specialist placements were made available for children and their families across Suffolk from September 2020. This was on top of existing specialist provision.  Schools who were successful in this process, like ours, worked with the council to ensure the appropriate infrastructure and support was in place to enable these new units to be open in September 2020.

Our school currently offers specialist education as part of a dedicated Unit, with specially trained staff. It gives more children the opportunity to be educated in their community, closer to home. Woodhall currently offers 18 places to support children who require support with Communication and Interaction. These places are in addition to our current PAN (Planned Admission Number). This means that there has not been a reduction in the number of places available in the usual admissions round. Allocation of these specialist places follows a separate admissions process.

The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all children including those with special educational needs. Increasing demand for places for children with complex needs has been identified due to the existing provisions being at capacity along with a lack of provision for pupils in Reception and Key Sage 1. We therefore propose to change the designation of the unit from Communication and Interaction to Complex Needs and to extend the age range to include Reception and Key stage 1.

Children who already have a place at the Unit will continue to attend and the PAN will remain at 18.

Under Department for Education ‘Making significant changes to an open academy guidance, multi-academy trusts must consult with their community when proposing to make significant changes to the operation of an open Academy.

Unity Schools Partnership and Woodhall School now wants to hear the views of its stakeholders on this significant change proposal.

Please refer to our website for any updates on the consultation: http//www.unitysp.co.uk/

The consultation runs from 27th February 2023 until 27 March 2023.

Please send your comments by email to [projects@unitysp.co.uk](mailto:projects@unitysp.co.uk)

*Consultation questions:*

1. Do you support the school’s plans change its designation from Communication and Interaction to Complex needs?

Yes

No

Reasons why

1. Do you support the school’s plans change its designation from Key Stage 2 to Reception, Key Stage 1 and 2?

Yes

No

Reasons why

1. Do you have any additional comments to make?

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