

Consultation proposal completed by Shaw Education Trust with the support of Halton Borough Council.

For Brookfields School to run two off-site satellite classes within The Grange School Runcorn. This would require an increase of Number on Roll (NOR) to 110.

Why is this provision required?

- Due to the high level of need for Early Years / primary places for children with severe and complex needs within Halton that cannot be met within the current school provision available.
- Brookfields' main building is full to capacity and as the school site is landlocked there is no space to build any additional classrooms.
- In line with Halton SEND Strategic Plan, children's needs should be met within the area in which they live at an outstanding school. There is no wish by families or by Halton local authority to send children as young as 4 years old out of borough; this leads to children / families becoming detached from their local community and support networks and means significantly long travel times for very young children.
- This proposal for two satellite classes is an interim measure only whilst a longer term, sustainable solution is found to meet the high level of need for specialist primary places in Halton (proposed review August 2023).
- There is a cost to the environment of children travelling greater distances and often in single occupancy vehicles.
- There is a high cost to Halton to send pupils out of borough. This high cost (including school placement and transport) would significantly impact upon Halton's High Needs Budget which is already under pressure and this has an impact on all Halton children and young people with additional needs. A typical placement at Brookfields costs for the most complex children is approximately £25,000 compared to a costs which ranges from £57,000 to £86,000 plus travel for an independent or out of borough school placement.

Current status

92 children placed in Brookfields School (main building). When the school was re-designated as a Primary School in 2009, the school catered for 73 pupils.

18 children placed in satellite classes within The Grange School, Runcorn (Part of the Wade Deacon Multi Academy Trust). This arrangement commenced September 2019 with 1 satellite class co-locating within the school, which then expanded to 2 classes from September 2020. Agreement sought by Halton from ESFA for this on a pilot basis.

The pilot project has to date been very successful and has had lots of benefits to both schools; for example: -

- True partnership working as staff at all levels have supported each other in the development of the provision
- The development of inclusive practice as children have had the benefit of a range of experiences
- School-to-school support as staff at The Grange have benefitted from the specialist knowledge and expertise of Brookfields Staff being based on site
- The development of a learning space that is beneficial to all pupils

The development of the 2 satellite classes at The Grange has been a project to be celebrated and a valuable example of collaborative, inclusive practice between 2 schools (a special school and a mainstream through age provision), 2 MATS and Halton Borough Council.

If no satellite provision to exist from September 2021 the impact would be:-

The school would have 91 on roll and there would be no space to take any new children in as we would have to use spaces filled by leavers for the children currently taught in satellite classes. **This would leave 19 pupils without a setting for September with no other options within the borough.**



Brookfields pupil numbers information

2020-21 ~ Number on roll = 110 (including 18 in off-site satellite classes at The Grange)

| | Number of Y6 leavers |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 2020-2021 | 19 |
| 2021-2022 | 12 |
| 2022-2023 | 13 |
| 2023-2024 | 12 |
| 2024-2025 | 19 |
| 2025-2026 | 19 |

Pupil number history over 5 years ~ evidence of growth directly related to increase in demand for places

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Spring Census Jan 2016 | 80 |
| Summer Census May 2016 | 81 |
| Autumn Census Oct 2016 | 79 |
| Spring Census Jan 2017 | 81 |
| Summer Census May 2017 | 82 |
| Autumn Census Oct 2017 | 81 |
| Spring Census Jan 2018 | 81 |
| Summer Census May 2018 | 82 |
| Autumn Census Oct 2018 | 90 |
| Spring Census Jan 2019 | 92 |
| Summer Census May 2019 | 92 |
| Autumn Census Oct 2019 | 100 |
| Spring Census Jan 2020 | 101 |
| Summer Census May 2020 | 101 |
| Autumn Census Oct 2020 | 109 |
| Spring Census Jan 2021 | 110 |



Consultation Response Form.

We would like your views on the proposal to increase the number on roll at Brookfields School to 110 and to operate two satellite classes on a temporary basis at The Grange School Runcorn.

Please complete this short form to give your views and comments on this proposal.

Please tick one box only:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| I agree with the proposal. | | I disagree with the proposal. | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|

Please give any comments you have in the box below

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Are you...? Please X all boxes that apply

| | |
|---|--|
| A parent / carer of a pupil at Brookfields school | |
| Staff member | |
| Academy Councillor | |
| Health Sector | |
| Trade Union | |
| Other (please state in the box) | |

If you wish to let us know your name and address, please complete the section below:

Name:

Address:

Email:

We will only use this information to help in the decisions made on the proposal to increase numbers to 110 and to operate 2 satellite classes.

All responses to the consultation must be received by Wednesday 9th June 2021.

You will not receive an individual response to any comment submitted. Following closure of the consultation, the Shaw Education Trust will review the responses and report back to Halton Borough Council on the 16th June regarding the outcome of the consultation process.

Please return your completed form to sbm.brookfields@halton.gov.uk

Privacy: Shaw Education Trust is the Data Controller for the personal information you provide. Further information available: www.brookfieldsschool.com

Conclusion of Consultation Process.

The Consultation process ran for 6 weeks and closed on Wednesday 9th June 2021.

Consultation response summary:

Response to question **We would like your views on the proposal to increase the number on roll at Brookfields School to 110 and to operate two satellite classes on a temporary basis at The Grange School Runcorn.**

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|
| I agree with the proposal. | 6 responses | I disagree with the proposal. | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|

Comments:

The current situation has worked well with good collaboration between the 2 schools and their staff. Without this provision it would be necessary to send very young children outside the authority to schools which are at least 20/30 mins drive away. This is not in the children's best interest.

I feel this is an excellent option in providing high quality teaching and care for children who otherwise would have to attend out of borough. We already know schools are stretched so if this means more spaces to ensure children can stay close to home then I think it is an excellent idea.

Working in Early Years for many years, it is evident that early diagnosis has highlighted a greater number of children needing Specialist Provision. The current arrangement, goes some way to help address the increased number of children accessing this essential support of their needs. It would be extremely detrimental to the Borough's children needing a place at Brookfield's, if this was not allowed to continue, whilst a better solution is sought.

In addition to cease the current satellite classes based at the Grange school, would add distress and concern to many of our parents/carers, who are already extremely anxious, when awaiting news on the application for a place at Brookfield's for their child.

Excellent idea to offer additional places to children whose needs may not always be met in mainstream.

My son is currently at the Resources Base at The Grange but it is highly likely he will need to go to Brookfields in the future. As Runcorn doesn't have a special needs school we strongly agree with the proposal.

Responses received

| | |
|---|---|
| A parent / carer of a pupil at Brookfields school | 1 |
| Staff member | |
| Academy Councillor | |
| Health Sector | |
| Trade Union | |
| Other (please state in the box) | 5 |

Conclusion:

The consultation has shown that 100% of respondents supported the proposal to increase the NOR to 110 and to operate 2 satellite classes as a temporary solution. This is under constant review whilst a more permanent solution can be found to meet the increased level of demand for places at Brookfields.