

Dear Consultee,

**Testwood School – Proposal for a Resourced Provision for pupils with autism (AS)**

We are writing to invite your views in respect of a proposal from the school to seek approval from Hampshire County Council to establish a Resourced Provision for young people with autism identified within an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) at Testwood School.

The new provision is required as there has been an increase in the number of children with autism needs across Hampshire. It is also needed to support the Hampshire wide strategy of offering support for pupils to access mainstream education close to their local community but with additional support tailored to their individual needs. At Testwood School, we already support a number of children with complex needs associated with autism and having this provision will enhance the in-house support available across the school.

The proposed new provision will cater for up to 15 pupils in total opening in phases from during the school year 2026-2027. These pupils require specialist support meaning that they find it difficult to manage full-time within a mainstream school environment, however, have the ability to attend some lessons and work towards examinations. When places in the Resourced Provision are agreed by the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service, the children would go on roll at Testwood School and the school will receive additional resources to ensure that the children's needs are well supported so that they can successfully access the mainstream environment and curriculum.

If approved by The Department for Education and Hampshire County Council, the first pupils will be welcomed during the 2026-2027 academic year with the number of admissions reviewed at the end of each academic year, leading to a maximum capacity of 15 pupils over time.

Where an academy proposes to establish Special Education Needs provision at a mainstream school, it must consult on the proposal following a set procedure. The school is seeking approval from Hampshire County Council in parallel with this consultation.

Testwood School currently caters for around 820 children aged between 11 and 16. We are a comprehensive school serving the local community. We aim to nurture all of our young people to become respectful, resilient and proud to take responsibility in the community. Our values of being caring, inclusive and ambitious guide us in all that we do.

A Resourced Provision enables children to benefit from accessing the curriculum, teaching and learning and all the social opportunities that are available in a mainstream school, with the addition of a high level of support. A Resourced Provision acts as a calming and nurturing environment for pupils to learn and work in if they are feeling anxious or unsure and a safe place to go to calm if they are feeling frustrated or overwhelmed.

Hampshire County Council already have several autism Resourced Provisions across the County in both primary and secondary settings. These provisions offer support to children who have difficulty accessing mainstream education on a full- time basis and require additional support to do. In addition to these Resourced Provision spaces, the pupils would access everything that Testwood School has to offer.

Appropriate classroom spaces are required as a base for the autism Resourced Provision. If our proposal is successful, the Department of Education will provide us with funding to make any necessary physical modifications to the building. It is likely that these works would be carried out in the summer term and over the summer break. Appropriate IT, furniture and equipment will also be provided.

### **The Consultation**

This consultation will run from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Testwood School and Hampshire County Council will then take into consideration all the consultation responses before deciding whether to submit a Tier 1 application to the Department for Education Regional Director for formal approval.

### **Further Information**

We have compiled a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document which can be found on our school website: [www.testwoodschool.co.uk](http://www.testwoodschool.co.uk)

A public drop-in event will be held at the school on **28<sup>th</sup> January 3:30pm - 6.00pm at Testwood School, in the LRC.**

If you are unable to make this, please send in your views and queries by email to Jayne Baker, Headteacher's P.A. – [jbaker@testwoodschool.co.uk](mailto:jbaker@testwoodschool.co.uk) or in writing to Jayne Baker, Headteacher's P.A, Testwood School Testwood Lane, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire, SO40 3ZW

Your sincerely,

Mr T. Webber  
Headteacher



## **Consultation on the proposal for a new Resourced Provision for pupils with autism (AS) at Testwood School, from 2026-2027 academic year**

Testwood School would like to hear your views on the proposal to create a Resourced Provision for up to 15 pupils with autism at Testwood School opening in phases from 2026-2027 academic year.

Autism is a lifelong condition that affects how people learn, communicate, and interact with others. The school already supports a number of children with autism and having this provision will enhance the in-house support available across the school. It has been identified that there are an increasing number of children in the local area who are being diagnosed with autism.

**The consultation will run from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

### **Why do you need to develop a Resourced Provision for pupils with autism at the school?**

The County Council is committed to developing and maintaining provision, where possible, to meet demand. Currently the need to provide school places for pupils with autism in this area of the County is a priority. Hampshire County Council and Testwood School are keen to provide this additional provision for pupils and feel this will have a benefit for many pupils at the school.

### **Why do you need to enlarge the school?**

The County Council is committed to expanding successful provision where possible to meet demand. There is an increased and growing need to provide specialist support for pupils with autism. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational accommodation to meet current and future demand. The proposal will add a total of up to 15 to the current number on roll at the school.

Testwood School is already meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and has the site available and leadership expertise to expand this specialist provision to encompass catering for pupils with autism in a safe and secure environment.



### **What building works will be taking place?**

The school proposes to utilise existing surplus accommodation to become the base for the Resourced Provision, only minor adjustments, safeguarding measures, IT and furniture will be required.

### **When will the building works start and how will you ensure the health and safety of pupils attending the school whilst the works are taking place?**

It is planned that the building works, to create the facilities at Testwood School, will be complete by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026, with the majority of works undertaken in the summer term and over the summer break.

Health and safety of children, staff and visitors is paramount. The school would ensure a detailed health and safety plan is drawn up in advance of any works.

### **What will be the impact on pupils at Testwood School?**

The pupils who will attend the Resourced Provision will attend mainstream classes as appropriate to suit their needs and also spend time in the Resourced Provision areas for individual and/or small group support.

The new provision will give the opportunity for Testwood School to further enhance the inclusion and wellbeing offer to all pupils as this should positively impact pupils across the school and not just those placed in the Resourced Provision. Testwood School will use the funding, facilities and resources that the Resourced Provision has to benefit both the Resourced Provision pupils and pupils already at the school. Also, Testwood School can access relevant continuous professional development for staff across the school as well as knowledge being shared by staff within the Resourced Provision across the school.

### **Will the school receive additional funding due to the numbers increasing?**

Testwood School will receive additional revenue funding based on the increase in number of pupils on their roll. This will provide the additional staffing and resources required.

### **What happens after this consultation?**

**This consultation will run from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**



Testwood School and the County Council will then take into consideration all the consultation responses before deciding whether to submit a Tier 1 application to the Department for Education Regional Director for formal approval.

**Will I have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and ask questions?**

A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss the proposal will take place on **28<sup>th</sup> January between 3:30pm and 6pm at Testwood School, in the LRC.**

If you are unable to email or visit the above website and wish to make a comment, then please write to: Jayne Baker, Headteacher's P.A. Testwood School, Testwood Lane, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3ZW.

**All comments must be received by 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

**How can my views be heard?**

We will consider all responses received:

- In person at the drop in date 28<sup>th</sup> January between 3:30pm – 6pm
- Via e-mail to: [jbaker@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:jbaker@testwoodschoo.co.uk)
- Via letter to: Jayne Baker, Headteacher's P.A. Testwood School, Testwood Lane, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3ZW.

**The closing date for responses is 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**