



Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools – Pilot 2

Windsor Hill Primary School

Consultation Period: 8 February 2022 – 12 April 2022

1 Windsor Hill Primary School – Specialist Provision: Proposal

Table 1: Proposal Specialist Provision – Windsor Hill PS, Newry

Windsor Hill Primary School currently has one temporary Specialist Provision (Learning) class. The Education Authority is seeking formal approval for the existing temporary Specialist Provision (Learning) and for the establishment of one additional Specialist Provision class (Learning) at Windsor Hill Primary School from 1 September 2022 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The two classes will make provision for pupils across Foundation Stage, Key Stages 1 and 2.

Proposal	Windsor Hill Primary School	Specialist Provision (Learning) classes x 2	Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2
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2 Background

Windsor Hill Primary School is a controlled, co-educational school situated in Church Avenue, Newry. The school is the only controlled primary school in Newry; the children attending come from a wide catchment area.

In response to immediate and pressing need for additional provision, from 2021 funding was provided on a temporary basis at Windsor Hill Primary School for additional teaching and non-teaching staff to provide support for small groups of pupils with special educational needs. To date a temporary Specialist Provision (Learning) class has been established at Windsor Hill Primary School.

The proposal to provide permanent Specialist Provision (Learning) at Windsor Hill Primary School will provide pupils and parents in the wider Newry area with a greater level of equity in the availability of specialist provision, providing greater access to inclusive educational opportunities for pupils with special educational needs. The proposal to establish an additional Specialist Provision (Learning) class will provide pupils a pathway of provision across Foundation Stage, Key Stages 1 and 2.

3 Criteria Assessment

Windsor Hill Primary School was identified by the Education Authority, as a school with existing specialist provision and has been included within the pilot to seek approval for the existing temporary Specialist Provision (Learning) class and for the establishment of an additional Specialist Provision (Learning) class. The Education Authority is therefore seeking the views of those most directly involved at a local level and is seeking to engage in consultation with the Board of Governors, parents, staff and pupils of Windsor Hill Primary School.

In seeking to establish specialist provision the Education Authority considers that the host schools should be sustainable and satisfy the six criteria of the Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools (SSP). In addition, building on the SSP criteria, the Framework for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools includes Accommodation to be considered alongside Accessibility and a further criterion - Clear Commitment to Inclusion. Schools seeking to provide specialist provision in mainstream schools should also seek to satisfy these criteria and indicators.

The criteria of the SSP and Framework are:

- Quality Educational Experience
- Stable Enrolment Trends
- Sound Financial Position
- Strong Leadership and Management
- Accessibility
- Strong Links with the Community
- Accessibility and Accommodation
- Clear Commitment to Inclusion.

Developing Specialist Provision in sustainable mainstream schools not only ensures the long-term sustainability of the provision but provides improved opportunities for inclusion and integration of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need within a school community, as well as access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

The following section provides an assessment of Windsor Hill Primary School against the criteria for both the Sustainable Schools Policy and the enhanced criteria developed by the Education Authority within the Framework for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools.

3.1 Quality of Education

The most recent Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) inspection report in January 2017, the ETI report noted that:

“The quality of planning, teaching and assessment are highly effective in meeting the learning needs of all of the children. During the inspection, most of the lessons observed were of a high quality and effective in bringing about learning; almost two-thirds of the lessons were very good or outstanding. In those lessons, the teachers had high expectations for the children’s learning and built effectively on their prior learning. To improve further the learning and teaching, the plenary sessions should focus more clearly on the consolidation of the children’s learning.”

3.1.1 Quality of Education Pathways

From 2021 the Education Authority has established a temporary Specialist Provision (Learning) class at the school. This is a temporary provision, reviewed annually, to meet assessed demand for places for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need in mainstream. As part of this proposal, the Education Authority is seeking approval for the existing temporary Specialist Provision (Learning), and to establish one additional Specialist Provision (Learning) class at the school. This will provide a total of two classes and will offer pupils a pathway of provision across Foundation Stage, Key Stages 1 and 2. This contributes to the Education Authority’s vision of specialist provision which provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development.

3.2 Strong Leadership and Management

The January 2017 ETI Inspection Report noted:

“The senior leadership in the school is outstanding; the team is highly effective and provides strategic direction underpinned by a child-centred ethos and a shared vision for future school improvement. Through a culture of encouragement, the senior leaders are continuing to build the capacity of the co-ordinators and all of the staff in monitoring and evaluating to improve further the provision and outcomes achieved by the children. Based on the evidence available

at the time of inspection, the ETI's evaluation is that there can be a high degree of confidence in the aspects of governance evaluated. The governors are well informed and involved actively in all aspects of school life; they have provided effective support to the senior leadership team and exercised their challenge function."

Windsor Hill Primary School's Ethos and Vision

The Mission Statement of Windsor Hill Primary School states:

"That all pupils, regardless of background or ability, will be motivated, supported and sufficiently challenged to enable each one to achieve his/her maximum potential in personal, social, intellectual, moral, spiritual and physical development.

"We aim to achieve this by providing our pupils with; a safe and stimulating learning environment which will enable them to work to achieve their full potential and equip them as good citizens and lifetime learners; the necessary skills to respond to the challenges and discipline of secondary education and the rapidly changing needs of society and work; a caring environment where their mental and physical well-being is paramount and where parental partnership and community links are actively promoted; a set of values based on the Christian religion which will guide and direct their spiritual and moral development and promote tolerance and acceptance of others."

The January 2017 ETI Inspection Report noted:

"The caring ethos in the school is demonstrated through the children's extensive fund raising for a wide range of charities that support children less fortunate than themselves. The effective outworking of the school's motto of, 'care, courtesy and consideration,' and the well-informed strategies that the staff use to develop further the children's self-esteem and promote their wellbeing are clearly evident in the school."

The Principal and Board of Governors of Windsor Hill Primary School support the Specialist Provision currently at the school and the proposed additional class. They believe their school provides an educational environment, through the ethos and vision as well as curricular provision, which meets the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs. The school leadership has been working with the Education Authority through the establishment of temporary Specialist Provision.

3.3 Accessibility and Accommodation

Windsor Hill Primary School is situated in the centre of Newry and is very accessible to children and parents.

The current Specialist Provision (Learning) class is accommodated within the existing school building. The Education Authority will engage with the school to address any accommodation requirements as a result of the proposal.

The closest primary school, with approved specialist provision, is St Joseph's Convent Primary School which is approximately 0.6 miles away and has Specialist Provision (Social Communication and Learning).

The Education Authority will provide transport assistance for eligible pupils to facilitate their attendance at school. The Education Authority will provide transport assistance for pupils who:

- have a statement of special educational needs;
- have a special transport need; and
- are attending their nearest, suitable school.

Pupil's "nearest, suitable school" is the school that is closest to their home that the Education Authority deems suitable for the child's needs. It may not necessarily be the closest school to their home but it is the closest that Education Authority identifies as suitable for the child.

Further information on Home to School Transport can be found on the link:

[Special Educational Needs \(SEN\) Transport - Information and FAQ's](#)

3.4 Clear Commitment to Inclusion

Windsor Hill Primary School's Board of Governors and staff have an established commitment to inclusion within the school which is clearly demonstrated in the school's temporary Specialist Provision (Learning) class. The Principal and Board of Governors of Windsor Hill Primary School support the proposal that, if approved, will offer pupils a pathway of provision across Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

The school, over the years, has developed experience in making provision for children and young people with special education needs and demonstrates commitment from the Board of Governors and staff at all levels within the school.

A Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Action Short of Strike) in February 2020 noted:

"The children highlighted, in particular: their enjoyment of the wide range of extra-curricular activities provided for them; the very good opportunities they have to undertake leadership roles through the school and eco-councils, as 'playground buddies' and 'anti-bullying ambassadors'; and, the pastoral support they receive from all the staff."

3.5 Stable Enrolment Trends

Windsor Hill Primary School has an approved enrolment of 243 pupils and an approved admission of 35. The last seven years' enrolment and admissions figures show the school as a sustainable school.

The school meets the minimum enrolment threshold numbers for a primary school as identified in, 'A School for the Future: A policy for Sustainable Schools.' Table 2 below indicates the enrolment trends for the school:

Table 2: Windsor Hill Primary School - Enrolment Trends								
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Total
2014/15	28	41	31	29	23	34	24	210
2015/16	29	30	40	31	31	25	33	219
2016/17	34	26	33	42	31	34	25	225
2017/18	24	36	28	37	45	33	38	241
2018/19	34	28	38	31	40	47	35	253
2019/20	23	39	31	39	33	43	46	254
2020/21	25	19	36	30	39	28	38	215

3.6 Strong Links with the Community

The involvement of the school with the local community is set out in Table 3 below:

Table 3: School's involvement in local community	
Provider	Description
Shared Education	The school has well established links for shared education with a local, maintained primary school; the children enjoy regular, joint lessons and they report that they have established friendships and opportunities to meet with some of the children involved in the programme outside of school.
Charity	The school supports the local hospice, NI Cancer Fund for Children, the Southern Area Hospice and other charities.
Extended Schools	The school's Extended Schools programme provides a number of services and opportunities to pupils.
Community use of school	The school is used by a number of groups including EA Music Service.
Community participation	The school plays an active role in community events such as the local Feis, NMD's Be Active Programme.
Sports	The school works in partnership with local sports clubs such as Newry Olympic Hockey Club.

Source: Windsor Hill Primary School

3.7 Financial Position - Criterion of the Sustainable Schools Policy

At 31 March 2021 Windsor Hill Primary School had a surplus of £247,709.

The Specialist Provision is funded directly by the Education Authority for staffing and an annual allowance per class. This funding will ensure the financial stability of the school's Specialist Provision.

4 Implementation (if approved):

As detailed previously, Windsor Hill Primary School already has one temporary Specialist Provision (Learning) class. This Pilot is seeking formal approval to this provision as well as seeking to expand the provision by establishing an additional Specialist Provision (Learning) class, allowing for support to Foundation Stage, Key Stages 1 and 2. If the Pilot is approved this will be implemented in a phased and managed way to ensure parental confidence and appropriate professional development of staff as the specialist provision seeks to meet pupil need.

The implementation date for the proposal to formally recognise the provision within Windsor Hill Primary School at 1 September 2022 with the expansion of the provision being implemented in a phased and managed way as soon as possible thereafter.

5 Your Views

The Education Authority, is seeking your views on the proposal to seek approval for the existing temporary Specialist Provision (Learning), and to establish one additional Specialist Provision (Learning) class at Windsor Hill Primary School. This will provide a total of two classes and will offer pupils a pathway of provision across Foundation Stage, and Key Stages 1 and 2.

Please click on the link below to make an online response on the proposal for Windsor Hill Primary School - <https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/area-planning/proposed-specialist-provision>

