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Consultation on the proposal for a new Resourced Provision for pupils with autism (AS) at Newlands Primary Academy, from the 2026–2027 academic year

Newlands Primary Academy would like to hear your views on the proposal to change the designation of our resource provision. As you know, we are due to open the provision this term and, having worked with Hampshire County Council on the local needs propose changing this from SEMH to Autism.

Autism is a lifelong condition that affects how people learn, communicate, and interact with others. The school already supports children with autism, and establishing this provision will strengthen the in-house support available across the school. Hampshire County Council has identified a growing number of children in the local area who are being diagnosed with autism and require specialist support within a mainstream setting.

The consultation will run until 5:00pm on Friday 21st September 2026.

Why is a Resourced Provision for pupils with autism needed at Newlands Primary Academy?

Hampshire County Council is committed to developing and maintaining provision that meets local demand wherever possible. The need for specialist places for pupils with autism in this part of the County is increasing, and expanding provision within mainstream schools is a priority.

Newlands Primary Academy was originally designated for SEMH provision; however, following review, the County Council and the school agree that an Autism Resourced Provision better reflects current and future need in the community. This proposal will allow the school to offer specialist support for pupils with autism while continuing to promote inclusion across the whole school.

Why does the school need to enlarge its provision?

The County Council is committed to expanding successful provision where possible to meet demand. The proposed Autism Resourced Provision will provide much-needed specialist accommodation and staffing to meet both current and future need. The proposal will add up to 8 pupils to the school's roll.

Newlands Primary Academy already meets the needs of pupils with a wide range of special educational needs and has the site capacity and leadership expertise to develop this specialist provision in a safe, secure and nurturing environment.

What building works will be taking place?

The school requires small changes to ensure a sensory room is available. Other changes such as fobbed doors, appropriate furniture and play equipment have already been put in place and the classroom space is appropriate for the purpose of this provision.

What will be the impact on pupils at Newlands Primary Academy?

Pupils attending the Resourced Provision will access mainstream classes as appropriate to their needs and will also spend time within the provision for individual and/or small-group support as per the needs and provision outlined in EHCPs.

Head teacher – Mrs Jennifer Thornton.

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The new provision will enhance inclusion and wellbeing across the school. Staff will benefit from additional training, shared expertise and specialist resources, which will positively impact pupils both within the Resourced Provision and across the wider school community.

Will the school receive additional funding?

Newlands Primary Academy will receive additional revenue funding based on the increase in pupil numbers. This funding will provide the staffing, training and resources required to operate the Resourced Provision effectively.

What happens after this consultation?

All consultation responses received by 5:00pm on Friday 21st September 2026 will be considered by Newlands Primary Academy and Hampshire County Council. A decision will then be made on 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?

Yes. A drop-in session will take place on:

Monday 14th September, 3:30–5:30 at Newlands Primary Academy in the School Library.

Parents, carers and stakeholders will have the opportunity to discuss the proposal with Mrs Thornton (Headteacher) and representatives from Hampshire County Council.

How can my views be heard?

We welcome all responses submitted by 5:00pm on Friday 21st September 2026:

- In person at the drop-in session on 14th September, 3:30pm–5:30pm
- Via email to: j.thornton@newlandsprimary.chimat.uk
- Via letter addressed to: Mrs J. Thornton, Headteacher Newlands Primary Academy Waterloooville, Hampshire

Head teacher – Mrs Jennifer Thornton.

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