



Frequently Asked Questions: Consultation on proposals to expand the Woodlands School specialist provision at Cranmere Primary School

Background

In October 2025, Woodlands School opened a satellite specialist provision at Cranmere Primary School for children with severe learning difficulties and associated needs, including autism. The provision is currently operating successfully as a self-contained unit within the school site.

In light of the success of the partnership to date, Surrey County Council has invited the two schools to consider an expansion of the existing satellite provision, making use of further vacant space at Cranmere as the school transitions to one-form entry.

The proposal is to expand the satellite provision by three additional classes, creating places for an additional 24 pupils from October 2026. Feedback received through the consultation will be carefully considered and the outcome will be published, alongside the proposed next steps.

This document responds to questions that families, local residents and stakeholders may have about the proposed expansion.

How would the expansion be achieved without negatively impacting children at Cranmere Primary School?

The satellite provision has been operating since October 2025, and experience to date shows that it has not had an adverse impact on the education or day-to-day experience of pupils at Cranmere Primary School.

The expanded satellite provision would continue to operate as a self-contained unit, with its own entrance, dedicated classrooms and separate outdoor spaces. There would be no change to classroom teaching, curriculum delivery, or play arrangements for Cranmere pupils.

The proposal has been developed to ensure that the needs of children at both schools continue to be met effectively. The expansion would allow unused space at Cranmere to be brought back into purposeful educational use, rather than remaining vacant while generating ongoing maintenance and running costs. The intention is to make thoughtful, efficient use of available space while maintaining a sustainable and vibrant school environment.

Should there be increased demand for places in the future at Cranmere, there is still sufficient space to enable the school to respond to this. This would be achieved in discussion with the local authority should the need arise.

What would be the benefits of expanding the satellite provision?

The expansion would:

- Increase the number of high-quality specialist places available for children with complex needs in Surrey.
- Build on a partnership between the two schools that is already working well.



- Enable Cranmere Primary School to continue making positive use of vacant space at a time of falling pupil numbers nationally.
- Generate additional income for Cranmere Primary School, which would be reinvested directly into supporting its pupils, facilities and staffing.

What arrangements would be in place for arrivals, departures and traffic?

The existing satellite provision already operates with staggered arrival and departure times, which help to manage traffic around the site.

These arrangements would continue under the proposed expansion and would be reviewed carefully to ensure that congestion on Arran Way and within the school car park is managed appropriately. If changes are required, these would be planned in advance and communicated clearly.

Arran Way is also at the advanced stages of planning for the School Streets scheme. This would serve to reduce traffic and congestion during school drop off and pick up times.

Where would the expanded satellite provision be located?

The expansion would take place within the part of the school currently housing the existing satellite provision and adjacent vacant classrooms.

As part of the proposals, refurbishment works would create:

- a new dedicated entrance for the satellite provision;
- office accommodation and a small hall for WDL use;
- learning spaces within two Year 6 and one Year 5 classrooms (Y6 Wildcats & Pangolins, Y5 Sea Otters)

In addition, the proposals would enable the creation of a new library, music room and staff spaces for Cranmere Primary School, benefiting the wider school community.

What arrangements would there be for playtimes and lunch breaks?

Children attending the satellite provision would continue to have their own designated outdoor spaces and separate play and lunch break times.

This approach reflects the needs of the pupils at Woodlands, for whom busy mainstream playgrounds can be overwhelming, and ensures that routines for Cranmere pupils remain unchanged.

Would the expansion reduce outdoor space for Cranmere Primary School pupils?

The outdoor space outside the proposed expansion would be used as further outdoor play and learning spaces for Woodlands pupils. The space being used can be viewed on the plans. Pupils at Cranmere will still have ample play space on the hard standing play area, forest area and MUGA.



Would additional toilet facilities be provided?

There are sufficient toilet facilities within the plan to meet the needs of all pupils.

How would safeguarding be managed?

Safeguarding is a priority for both schools.

The existing satellite provision has been operating successfully with established safeguarding procedures in place. These arrangements would continue, with:

- Woodlands retaining responsibility for safeguarding pupils attending the satellite provision;
- Cranmere continuing to apply its safeguarding procedures for its pupils;
- both schools working closely together to ensure clear boundaries and effective site management.

Any updates required as a result of expansion would be agreed jointly.

What refurbishment works would be required, and when would they take place?

If the proposal is approved, refurbishment works would take place primarily during the summer holidays of 2026, with the aim of completion early in the autumn term.

This approach is intended to minimise disruption to children and staff. Plans for the refurbishment are available as part of the consultation materials.

What have the schools learned from the existing satellite provision?

Since October 2025, the schools have gained valuable experience of operating a satellite provision on a shared site. This has informed the proposed expansion, including:

- effective separation of spaces and routines;
- clear governance and leadership arrangements;
- positive professional collaboration between staff;
- practical approaches to site management and communication.

These lessons have shaped the proposals now being consulted upon.

Could the satellite provision be expanded further in the future?

Any significant future changes — such as further increases in pupil numbers or changes to the type of need catered for — would require appropriate approval and consultation.

There are no current plans beyond the expansion set out in this consultation.



Why is this consultation being led by Bourne Education Trust rather than Surrey County Council?

When the original satellite provision was established, Woodlands School was maintained by Surrey County Council (SCC), and the consultation was therefore led by them.

Woodlands School has since become an academy and is part of Bourne Education Trust (BET). As a result, BET is now responsible for leading this consultation on behalf of Woodlands School, in line with national requirements for academies.

If the proposals are approved following this consultation, BET would submit an application to the Department for Education (DfE) for a significant change to Woodlands School's provision, as required by the academy framework. Surrey County Council remains closely involved as the local authority responsible for ensuring there are sufficient specialist school places to meet local need.

If the DfE approve the significant change, Surrey County Council will fund the proposed expansion delivered by BET, through the SEND Capital Programme. The refocusing of the SEND & AP Capital Programmes were endorsed by Surrey County Council Cabinet on [24 February 2026](#) with an aim to meet immediate demand and increase specialist places by working with education settings to create additional specialist provision using unoccupied spaces in mainstream schools such as the expansion of Woodlands School Specialist Satellite site at Cranmere Primary School.

How can I share my views?

Feedback is welcomed from families, local residents and other stakeholders during the consultation period. Details of how to respond, attend information sessions and ask questions are set out in the consultation letter.