



## **Statutory proposal for the closure of the Inclusion Centre for pupils with SEND at Portsdown Primary School**

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Portsmouth City Council intends make a prescribed alteration to Portsdown Primary School.

### **The Proposal**

Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2EA is proposing to close the Inclusion Centre for pupils with SEND at Portsdown primary School, Sundridge Close, Portsmouth PO6 3JL (a community primary school with) effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

### **Current Provision**

Portsdown Primary School has housed a small 9 place (single class) Inclusion Centre for pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan identifying communication and interaction as the primary area of need for a number of years.

The Inclusion Centre has provided a good standard of education with Ofsted concluding in 2018 that "The inclusion centre is managed very well. It provides effective specialist support for pupils who find difficulty in communicating and interacting". As the needs of the pupils placed in the Inclusion Centre have become more complex it has become harder for this single class centre to provide the highly individualised education that the pupils require. It has proved increasingly difficult to effectively provide peer grouping and progression within a single class Centre which caters for children through key stages 1 and 2 of their education. Moreover, for this inclusion centre with a small number of pupils, providing support for pupils to access mainstream lessons and activities is more challenging when the pupils range in age across the entire primary phase as there are fewer staff to provide the necessary support.

### **Objectives**

Smaller Inclusion Centres tend to be less sustainable and financially viable than larger specialist Centres that benefit from additional flexibility, staff development opportunities and economies of scale. The Portsmouth Strategic SEND Review Phase 2 published in November 2020 provides for new Inclusion Centres to be 'of a sustainable and viable size with a minimum of 3 classes'. This is because larger Inclusion Centres can benefit from:

- greater financial viability
  - increased potential for recruitment and retention of specialist staff
  - the ability to provide more specialist learning support accommodation
  - more efficient and effective peer groupage and progression for children through the school
  - improved opportunities for inclusion in mainstream classes
  - improved parental choice of setting
  - less risk of insufficient cover through staff absence
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Portsmouth City Council has been investing to create additional larger Inclusion Centres so that pupils requiring this type of specialist education can benefit from the improved opportunities for peer grouping, progression and inclusion they bring. There is no scope to develop a larger Inclusion Centre at Portsdown Primary School.

### **Effect on other schools in the area**

Pupils from Portsdown Inclusion Unit will be transferred to another specialist provision which is appropriate to their needs including the new 24 place Inclusion Centre that is being established at Arundel Court Primary Academy. There will be no effect on any mainstream school provision.

### **What happens next**

There is a 4 week period where comments on this proposal can be submitted. Once this representation period has ended a report detailing all responses will be considered at a Portsmouth City Council public meeting where a decision on whether to implement the proposal will be made.

### **How to comment**

Anyone can make a representation in respect of the proposal to close Portsdown Inclusion Unit until midnight on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 either by post to: Janet Andrews, Education, Portsmouth City Council, Floor 2 Core 6, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2EA

or

by email to: [Capital.CapitalStrategy@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Capital.CapitalStrategy@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) (please title your email Portsdown proposal)

This proposal is published on the Portsmouth City Council website [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk) (search General School Information).

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