

Help shape plans for Archers Brook SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) Residential School expansion – have your say

Cheshire West and Chester Council and Archers Brook SEMH Residential School (Chester Road, Great Sutton, Ellesmere Port, CH66 2NA) are working together to make more specialist school places available locally. We want to make permanent the additional 18 places that were added temporarily in September 2024.

Publication Date: 12 May 2025

The Proposal

- Location: Archers Brook SEMH Residential School, Great Sutton
- Additional places: 18
- New total: 103 places (from 85)
- For pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and Autism, in Key Stage 3 and 4
- Start date: 1 September 2025

Background

The Council is currently implementing recommendations from a review of its Special Educational Needs and Disability system and has just approved a significant increase in school places for children and young people with additional needs.

They have looked at the levels of current and future demand for school places and have mapped it against the current provision. They know that there has been an increase both locally and nationally for specialist placements for children and young people.

The Council wishes to ensure that future provision is targeted at re-balancing its continuum of SEND provision.

Consultation

The Governing Body of Archers Brook and The Council propose to permanently increase the number of school places to enable the increase in school places, established on a temporary basis in September 2024, to be made permanent.

Archers Brook is currently running a temporary increase of an additional 18 places within the existing school for Key Stage 3 (KS3) and KS4. The 18 places consist of an additional two class bases for pupils who need SEMH provision alongside Autism provision. The proposal will make the provision permanent and will fulfil a shortfall of

SEMH and Autism provision in the locality. If the proposal is made permanent, the school will increase the capacity from 85 places to 103 places.

In order to continue to provide SEN provision for our local community, and the school having successfully implemented this increase on a temporary basis, the Council and the school now propose to hold an informal stage of consultation, which will run from **12 May 2025 – 16 June 2025**.

Any person or organisation may submit comments to the Council on the proposal and these must be taken into account by the Council's Director of Children and Families, on whether to proceed with the proposal. If agreed by the Director, a public 'Notice' will be published in a local newspaper and published on the Council's website. This begins a four-week period of 'Representations' when anyone may make a comment or an objection to the proposal. Following a four-week period of representations and having considered all responses, the Cabinet Member for Children and Families will then take a final decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal.

You can share your views on this proposal until midnight on 16 June 2025. Your feedback will help the Council decide whether to go ahead with the changes.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

The proposal is in response to the increasing number of children and young people who require an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) with identified provision requiring a specialist setting.

The proposal will enable the school to provide an additional 18 SEN School places for children with SEMH and Autism.

As the temporary provision has proved successful, the School's Governing Body and The Council now wish to formally increase the number of school places provided temporarily by the school, to be permanently established.

The Council's SEN manager has advised these places will be necessary to enable the Council to continue to fulfil its statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of SEN School places for children within the Borough.

Ofsted has found the school's provision to be 'Good'.

The effect on other pre-school provision within the area

The proposal is not expected to impact other school provision in the area.

The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

Paper copies of the proposal may be requested directly from the school.

A digital copy of the proposal can be found here: [Archers Brook SEMH \(Social, Emotional and Mental Health\) Residential School – Increase the number of school places consultation | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Alternatively digital copies may be requested by emailing:
schoolorganisationandconsultations@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Any person may provide their views on the proposal, either by:

- Sending a response by postal letter to School Organisation, The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BA
- Email to schoolorganisationandconsultations@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Completing the Smart Survey here: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Archers_Brook/

All responses received will be shared with the Council's Director of Children and Families. Full details of how the Council manage the information provided by respondents can be found at: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/system-pages/privacy-notices/consultations-privacy-notice.aspx>

The final date to provide feedback on the proposal is midnight 16 June 2025