

Help shape plans for Dee Banks School expansion – have your say

Cheshire West and Chester Council and Dee Banks School (Sandy Lane, Chester, Cheshire, CH3 5UX) are proposing to permanently expand the school, via satellite expansion at Butterbach Road to help provide extra places for young people with severe learning difficulties. We've looked at the growing number of children needing specialist education, and this expansion helps us meet that demand.

Publication Date: 12 May 2025

The Proposal

- Site: Butterbach Road, former Huntington Primary School (CH3 6DF)
- Pupils: Ages 16–19
- Number of places: 25
- Needs: Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)
- Permanent from: 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 Dee Banks School and The Council are proposing to permanently increase the number of school places to enable the temporary increase in school places, established in September 2024, to be made permanent.

Dee Banks is currently running a temporary satellite site with additional provision being provided from September 2024 at Butterbach Road.

Butterbach Road is the previous Huntington primary school site and the building and has been repurposed to accommodate specialist teaching provision.

The Butterbach site is being utilised due to current accommodation constraints at Dee banks, and Butterbach being in the vicinity of Dee Banks school.

It is intended that the Butterbach site will accommodate pupils aged 16-19, expanding the school's offer. The temporary provision currently consists of 25 places for learners aged 16-19 with severe learning difficulties (SLD). The proposal will fulfil a shortfall of SLD places within the vicinity.

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 25 SEN School places for children with SLD.

The proposal to create additional provision for pupils aged 16 – 19 at Butterbach Road, will allow increased capacity for children aged 2 – 15 at the original Dee Banks school site.

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 by the school can 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: [Dee Banks School – Increase the number of school places via Satellite site 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/DeeBanks/>

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