

Proposed expansion at
Bramley Oak Academy

Educational Justification Statement

December 2023



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Education justification for the proposed expansion at Bramley Oak Academy

Context:

1. Surrey County Council has a legal duty to manage its state maintained specialist education estate efficiently to avoid detriment to schools' educational offers, creating disadvantage to children and young people who have distinct types of additional needs and disabilities in different geographical areas, or the local authority's financial position.
2. The [Community vision for Surrey in 2030](#) and [A Thriving Community of Children and Young People in Surrey](#) define the Council's strategic priorities to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend a school local to them so that they can learn, grow and develop in their community. This includes the adopted county-wide commitment to root children in their local communities and ensure no one is left behind.
3. Surrey's SEND Capital Programme is aligned with the county-wide [Surrey Inclusion and Additional Needs Partnership Strategy \(2023 to 2026\)](#) endorsed by Cabinet, which sets out the ambition that all Surrey's children and young people with additional needs and disabilities are enabled to lead their best life.
4. Surrey County Council has seen significant growth in the number of children and young people aged 5-11 years with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. A long term sufficiency gap for additional specialist school places for this cohort has been identified in Guildford and south west Surrey.
5. The impact of this means that currently a high proportion of children with additional needs and disabilities who live in Guildford and surrounding areas have to travel long distances outside of the district and south west quadrant of the county each day to attend specialist provision that can successfully meet their needs.
6. The location of the additional places at Bramley Oak Academy in Guildford will provide local residents in the area and surrounding areas who have children with SEMH needs, closer access to high quality specialist school provision that dramatically reduces home to school journey times.
7. This paper is an educational justification for the proposal to expand at Bramley Oak Academy in Guildford. Bramley Oak Academy is part of London South East Academy Trust (LSEAT) and is a specialist primary school for pupils with SEMH needs. The proposed expansion Bramley Oak Academy will provide education for up to 49 additional specialist school places for pupils aged 5 to 11 years old.

Growing Additional Needs and Disabilities in Surrey

Children and young people with significant SEMH needs often feel anxious, scared, and misunderstood. This means that they may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include:

- Language and communication needs, leading to becoming withdrawn or socially isolated
- Severe difficulty in building and maintaining healthy relationships with peers and adults, which increases social vulnerability, safeguarding risks and impacts on successful community participation.
- Sustained difficulty engaging with learning and coping in classroom environments without additional specialist strategies and interventions to help manage their thoughts, feelings, and behaviours.
- Displaying behaviours that cause concern, which may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harm, substance misuse, eating disorders, habit disorders, oppositional disorders, or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. These can impact severely on children and young people’s development of independence, ability to cope with the normal stresses of life, engagement with productive and fruitful activity, and capacity to contribute to his or her community.
- Trauma, post-traumatic stress, or depressive conditions associated with adverse childhood experiences, including neglect or abuse. These experiences can have long-term impacts on children and young people’s emotional well-being, mental health, and future life chances.
- Cooccurring special educational needs including autism spectrum conditions, mild to moderate learning difficulties and speech and language difficulties. This can mean that individuals may be at increased risk of placement breakdown if their primary and secondary needs are not well understood.
- Progress can be very challenging in some or all areas of the school curriculum because difficulties such as phobias, anxiety, depression, aggression, oppositional problems, and hyperactivity all create significant barriers to learning.

SEMH needs are not necessarily a lifelong condition. With appropriate therapeutic support and highly specialist teaching, children and young people can develop the right strategies to move forward and live successful independent lives.

County-wide Strategic Commitments:

SCC’s county wide and adopted Inclusion and Additional Needs Partnership Strategy (2023 to 2026) and Surrey Children and Young People’s Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health Strategy has been brought together by children, young people, adults and family carers together with professionals from across Surrey’s service system, to make our joint ambitions clear. We want a consistent approach to support our residents to help them stay emotionally well and maintain their mental health across the whole County in education, health, social care, work, and local communities. We want services to have a more joined-up, proactive, timely and accessible offer so that all people have equality of access. The strategies promote a cultural shift so that community and service settings are understanding and welcoming for children, young people, and adults with social, emotional and mental health needs.

Our vision is for Surrey to be a place that offers opportunities for people to live healthy and fulfilling lives, where people’s contributions to their local communities are welcomed, supported, and valued, and no-one is left behind. These opportunities should extend to all children, young people, and adults in Surrey, regardless of where they live. All organisations involved in developing and

embedding key strategies for children with additional needs and disabilities are committed to ensuring that the vision and aims will be delivered in full.

Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Growth in Surrey

September 2022 projections indicate growth in the total number of Surrey resident pupils aged 4 -19 years with EHCPs over the forecast period 2019-2032, reaching its peak in 2026/27 and 2027/28, reducing slightly thereafter. This represents 23% growth from 2021/22. By 2031/32, the total number of Surrey EHCP pupils in Reception (4 - 5 years old) to Year 14 (18 -19 years old), is nearly 1,700 higher than the 2021/22 total. General population data for Surrey pupils aged 4 -19 years projects annual population increase year on year from 2018, reaching its peak in 2024 - 2025 before declining thereafter. Alongside falling population rates, EHCPs per percentage of the total population are expected to remain steady at between 5% to 5.2% of the general 4 -19 population from 2024-2031.

Latest analysis as of January 2022 actuals has revealed that EHCP numbers for the Year R to Year 14 cohorts (aged 4 -19 years) is 1.6% higher than previous projections for 2021/22. It is not yet known whether this growth is as a direct result of the recent pandemic, particularly as Surrey saw an equivalent decline in the number of Year R - Year 14 new EHCPs issued in the previous academic year. Therefore, indications are that Surrey will experience a similar trajectory to pre-pandemic.

Primary age projections show moderately increasing demand from 4,581 places in 2021/22 which is expected to peak at 4,849 places in 2024/25, before declining there after towards the end of the forecast period. This represents 6% increase in demand for specialist school places over that 3-year period and is equivalent to 268 places. The most prevalent primary needs for pupils aged 4 -11 who require a specialist school placement (in order of prevalence) are Autism and Communication & Interaction needs and Speech, Language and Communication Needs.

Secondary age projections show significantly increasing demand from 4,105 places in 2021/22 which is expected to peak at 5,455 places in 2027/28, before a minor decline to the end of the forecast period. This represents 33% growth within that 6-year period and is equivalent to 1,350 places. The most prevalent primary needs for pupils aged 11- 16 years who require a specialist school placement are Autism and Communication & Interaction needs, Social Emotional & Mental Health Needs and Speech, Language and Communication Needs.

Post 16 projections show significantly increasing demand from 1,850 places in 2021/22 to 3,223 places in 2031/32, continuing along a similar trajectory to the end of the forecast period. This represents 74% growth within that 10-year period and is equivalent to 1,373 places. The most prevalent primary needs for pupils aged 16-19 who require a specialist school placement are Severe or Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties, Autism and Communication & Interaction needs and Social, Emotional & Mental Health needs.

Legal Duties to Efficiently Manage Surrey’s Specialist Education Estate:

The Department for Education expects Local Authorities (LA) to manage their specialist education estates efficiently to avoid detriment to schools’ educational offers, creating disadvantage to children and young people who have SEND or to the LA’s financial position. This means ensuring the availability of state-maintained specialist school places that are appropriately matched to need-type, phases of education and geographic location so that all of Surrey’s statutory school age children with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) that require a full-time specialist setting

in either a mainstream SEN Unit or Specialist School have a named placement, ready for the beginning of each academic year.

Capital Investment in Surrey’s State Maintained Specialist Education Estate

There has been significant investment in additional state-maintained specialist school places in Surrey over the past four years to enable children and young people to be educated locally to their families. Our strong partnerships with local specialist and mainstream schools and Trusts has enabled this to happen, alongside robust forecasting of demand to understand what the profile of need will look like county-wide by 2031/32.

Between 2019 and 2022 Cabinet approved the strategies and capital investment for four phases of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Programme. With this investment the programme is aiming to deliver at least 2,440 permanent additional specialist school places in Surrey between 2019-2026 to create capacity for 5,760 state maintained specialist places to meet projected demand for up to 6,000 specialist places in total by 2030/31.

As of academic year 2022/23, Surrey’s state-maintained specialist education estate (**Appendix 1**) has been increased by approximately 800 places, from around 3,320 in 2019 when the Capital Programme started to around 4,000 places now. These specialist school places are almost full, noting that new places are being phased in and some of the existing accommodation needs to be re-provided as it is not fit for purpose.

The Council’s Capital Programme forms one important aspect of Surrey’s Additional Needs Strategy and Transformation Programme which aims to improve outcomes for children with additional needs and disabilities and embed financially sustainable practices to work within the level of funding available.

The Council’s Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE (March 2022), which aims to eliminate the council’s Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block deficit, includes a condition to deliver an ambitious Capital programme that will improve the long-term sufficiency of state maintained specialist educational provision that meets the needs of communities across Surrey.

The SEND Capital Programme contributes to the Council’s requirement to demonstrate we are improving value for money in the service provided through alignment with the Council’s DSG Management Plan and achievement of Capital Strategy Cost Containment Targets. Bramley Oak Academy’s 49 additional specialist school places in the independent sector would equate to around £2.59m per year every year, which is based on an average unit cost of £53k per pupil per annum for independent sector provision. This is compared to the average cost for state-maintained specialist places at £23k per pupil per annum and equivalent costs for circa 49 places of circa £1.1m. Provision of the additional state-maintained specialist school places would generate an approximate saving from 2024-2028 of £30k per pupil place per year.

Increasing capacity in the state maintained specialist education estate is essential to Surrey delivering a sustainable High Needs Block. Achievement of cost containment targets aligned with the Council’s Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE that results in an in-year balance in the DSG HNB (High Needs Block) by 2027/28 allows Surrey to continue to deliver services and support for children, young people, and families, whilst remaining financially sustainable.

Specialist School Place Sufficiency Planning in Surrey:

Surrey County Council’s sufficiency planning for specialist school places (including SEN Units in mainstream primary and secondary schools, and specialist schools) for pupils with additional needs and disabilities and statutory Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) uses the same basic demographic projections as for mainstream pupils. These are underpinned by the same birth, population, and housing data. Surrey’s eleven local district and borough councils provide data on housing development permissions and trajectories, which are incorporated into long term pupil placement forecasts.

Pupil movement trends are also determined in a comparable way, using information from the school census alongside the council’s pupil level information. However, whilst the proportion of pupils with an EHCP who attend a mainstream educational setting is included as part of mainstream projections, the demand generated by those pupils whose needs mean they require a specialist school placement is projected separately.

Additional information relating to pupils’ additional needs and disabilities, such as primary need and designation of specialist educational provision attended, are fed into these projections. Specialist school place demand is analysed for each of Surrey’s four quadrants (North East, North West, South East, South West of the county), as well as at district and borough level across the county’s district and boroughs (Woking, Epsom & Ewell, Guildford, Woking, Reigate & Banstead, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Tandridge, Waverley and Woking). This is because when compared to mainstream figures, the projections involve a significantly smaller number of pupils and schools.

Specialist school place planning projections draw from a wider range of the type of educational provision for pupils aged 4-19 years with EHCPs, from SEN Units or Resourced Provision attached to mainstream Primary or Secondary schools, Specialist Schools, Alternative Provision schools (AP), Further Education (FE) Colleges, and places at Non-Maintained Independent (NMI) or Specialist Independent (SPI) settings.

Specialist school place sufficiency planning is also informed by detailed local knowledge enhanced through consultation with parents and carers and good relationships with local schools. This supports the strategic approach to evidence-informed place planning. In Surrey, as is the case nationally, specialist school provision does not just meet the needs of learners in the immediate surrounding district or borough. As such, specialist schools have a far wider intake than most mainstream schools.

Tables 1 and 2 show the breakdown of Surrey resident pupils that attended specialist educational provision across maintained and independent sectors at the beginning of September between 2019-2021. Alongside this are the cost implications to Surrey’s Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Budget during this period.

Table 1: Surrey EHCP pupils aged 4-19 years placed in State Maintained Specialist School Provision

School Location	Actual number of Surrey-resident pupils		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Surrey-based schools	2,790	3,100	3,362
Out of County Schools	242	260	312
Total	3,032	3,360	3,674
Growth	3%	11%	9%

Average annual cost (full year) @ £23,000 per pupil place	£69.7m	£77.3m	£84.5m
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Table 2: Surrey EHCP pupils aged 4-19 years Non-Maintained and Independent specialist school provision

School Location	Actual number of Surrey-resident pupils		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Surrey-based schools	646	719	783
Out of County Schools	452	497	494
Total	1,098	1,216	1,277
Growth	21%	11%	5%
Average annual cost (full year) @ £53,000 per pupil place	£58.2m	£64.4m	£67.7
Equivalent state maintained sector costs	£25.2m	£28.0m	£29.4m

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These data clearly show that sustained use of the independent sector in the future would constitute an inefficient use of limited resources and severely impact Surrey's ability to deliver services and support for children, young people, and families, whilst remaining financially sustainable.

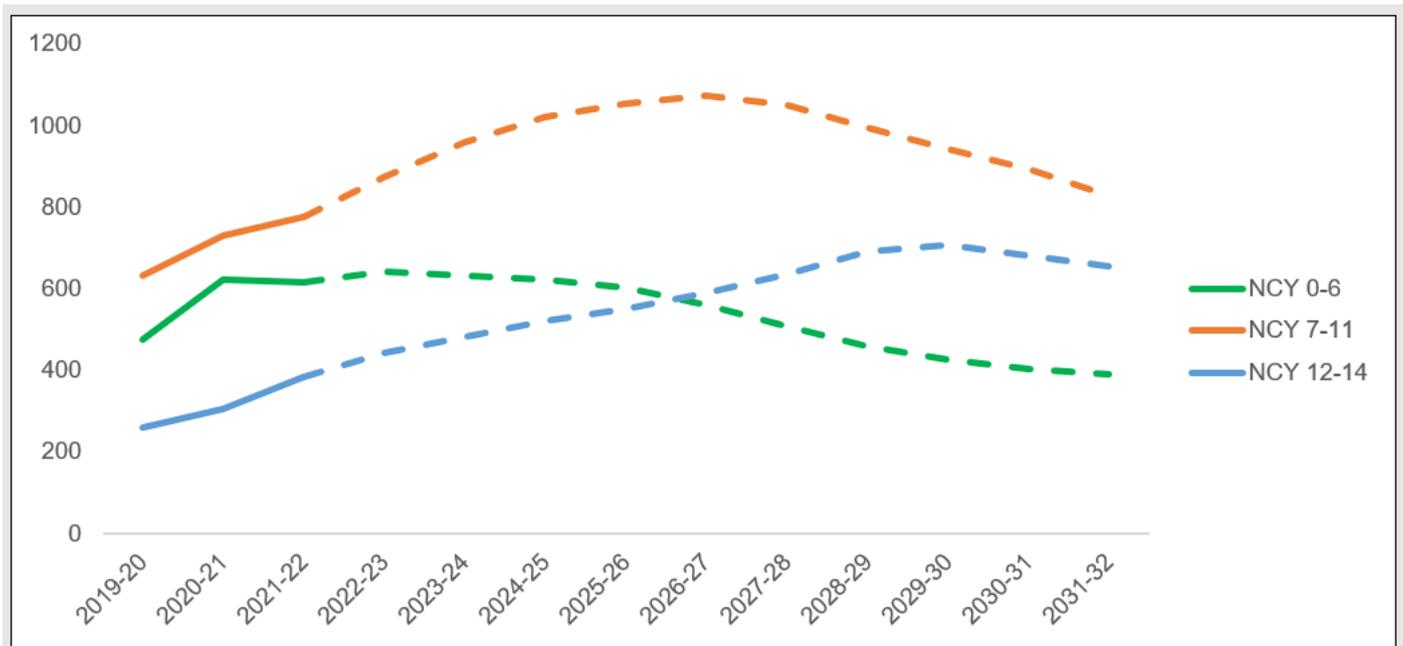
Surrey's ambition for children and young people who have additional needs and disabilities is to develop high quality fit for purpose local state maintained specialist school provision that enables better long term outcomes. This in turn ensures that Surrey resident pupils are educated closer to home, more connected to local communities and local support services, and have increased opportunities to enter employment in the future.

The proposed expansion at Bramley Oak Academy is a key delivery aspect of the Capital strategy approved by Cabinet between 2022-2023. Development of the existing school site will provide 49 of these critical school places for children with SEMH needs in Guildford and near surrounding areas.

Projected needs: Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs in Surrey 2021/22-2031/32

Graph 1 shows the latest projections for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans in Surrey who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs identified as their primary need. Primary age projections (4-11 years) show a gradual increase in this cohort year on year to 2023/24, followed by a gradual decline thereafter. Secondary age projections (11-16 years) show a significant increase year on year and stabilisation towards the end of the planning period. Post-16 projections (16-19 years) show a significant increase until 2028/29 before plateauing towards the end of the planning period.

Graph 1: Projections for Surrey EHCP pupils aged 4-19 years with primary needs identified as Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs



Surrey pupils aged 4-11 years with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) who have social, emotional and mental health needs

As of 2021/22, Surrey County Council maintains around 10,536 statutory EHCPs for the county’s children and young people who have additional needs and disabilities aged 4-19 years. More than 16% (more than 1,780) have social, emotional and mental health needs.

Approximately 998 pupils with EHCP age 4-11 years live in the South West Quadrant (Guildford and Waverley). Of these, 13% (more than 130) have social, emotional and mental health needs. Table 3 shows how the cohort is divided up across the South West Quadrant.

Table 3: South West quadrant EHCPs and incidence of social, emotional and mental health needs for pupils aged 4-11 years

District	Total EHCPs	Social, emotional and mental health need EHCPs	Percentage
Guildford	527	65	12%
Waverley	471	65	13%
Total	998	130	13%

Demand for specialist school places in Surrey

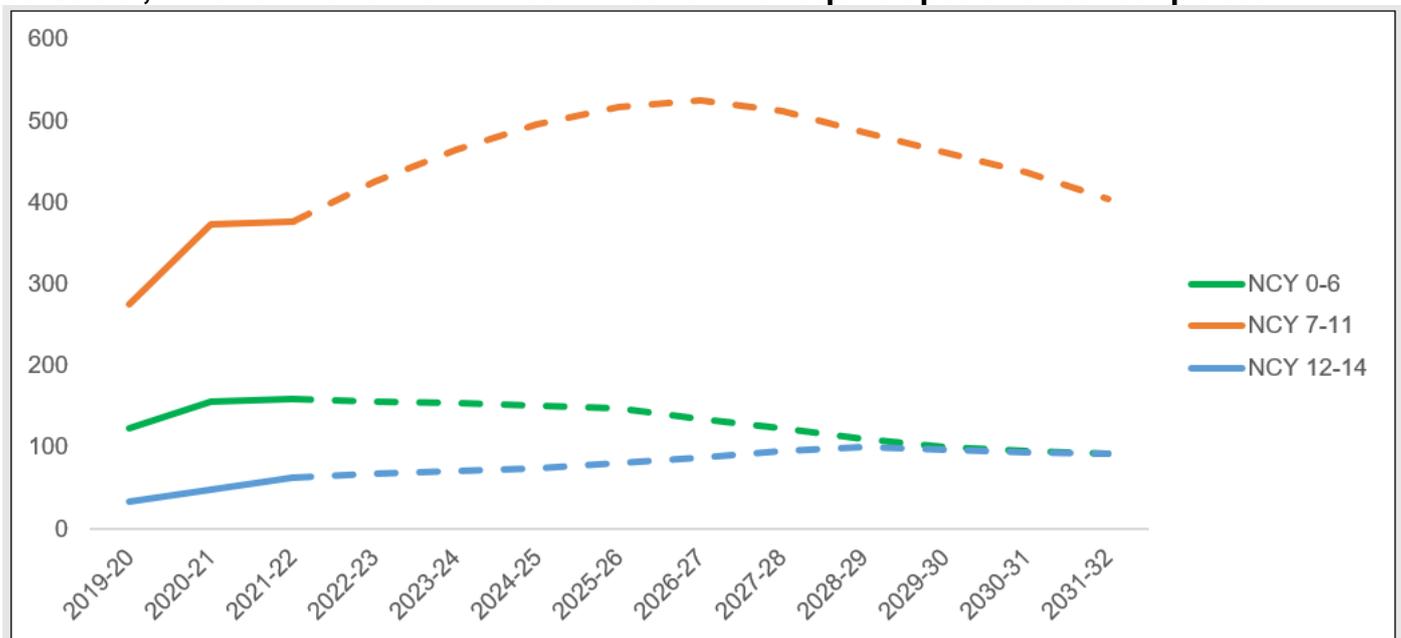
In the academic year 2021/22, more than 2,021 of Surrey’s EHCP pupils aged 4-11 years attended specialist school provision in SEN Units in mainstream schools and in Special Schools. 18% of this cohort were placed in non-maintained settings due to a lack of placement availability in Surrey. Latest sufficiency modelling projects growth of 4% by 2024/25, along with 36% forecast shortage of places within this timescale.

8% of these placements (more than 172) were for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs, who required specialist school provision in SEN units in mainstream schools and in Special Schools.

Graph 2 shows the latest projections for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans in Surrey who have social, emotional and mental health needs identified as their primary need. These pupils require specialist school placements to achieve positive life outcomes.

Primary age projections (4-11 years) show a plateau in this cohort year on year, followed by a gradual decline thereafter. Secondary age projections (11-16 years) show a significant increase year on year until 2026/27 and stabilisation towards the end of the planning period. Post 16 projections (16-19 years) show a gradual increase until 2028/29 before plateauing towards the end of the planning period.

Graph 2: Projections for Surrey EHCP pupils aged 4-19 years with primary needs identified as Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs who require specialist school places



SEMH-designated specialist provision in Surrey

Appendix 2 provides a geographical view of the location of Surrey’s state maintained specialist schools designated to meet the needs of pupils with SEMH needs. SEMH designated specialist school provision educates and supports a range of different cohorts of pupils with SEMH needs with a wide range of co-occurring needs.

Table 5 shows the existing SEMH designated specialist schools in Surrey, and those that are already in the process of being expanded through the county’s SEND Capital programme. However, as the sufficiency data shows above, these expansions approved by Surrey’s Cabinet will not meet the total demographic or geographical demand. Therefore, the additional 49 places that would be achieved through delivery of the proposed expansion at Bramley Oak Academy is critical to closing the identified sufficiency gap to achieve long term sustainability for pupils who work at broadly age related expectations.

Table 5: SEMH designated schools in Surrey

School	Designation	District	Planned Places & gender	Age Range	Occupancy	Planned Expansion under Surrey's SEND Capital Programme
Bramley Oak Academy	SEMH	Guildford	61 places Boys only	4-11	95%	Proposed expansion to 104
Grafham Grange	SEMH	Guildford	53 places Coeducational	10-19	107%	None
Unified Academy	SEMH	Dorking	82 places Boys only	9-16	70%	None
Wishmore Cross Academy	SEMH	Woking	82 places Boys only	7-11	96%	None

Impact on local pupils with SEMH needs who require special school places in South West Surrey

1. Local children and young people are not educated at their nearest most appropriate school, as their mainstream peers are.

Sufficiency data from the 2021/22 academic year highlights a number of issues facing pupils with SEMH needs resident in the South West quadrant who require a specialist school place. These are outlined in **Table 7**.

Table 7: Issues facing pupils with SEMH needs who live in South West Surrey

Borough / District	Educated in Borough / District	Educated in Quadrant	Educated Out of County	Educated in Independent provision	Travel 6 Miles or More for Education (YR to Y6)	Travel 7 Miles or More for Education (Y7 to Y14)
Guildford	20%	50%	11%	35%	43%	90%
Waverley	42%	56%	11%	41%	87%	72%
South West Total	33%	53%	11%	39%	70%	80%

As of academic year, 2021/22, 120 pupils with this need-type were educated in special school provision. The sufficiency data demonstrates that 80% of Guildford resident pupils with SEMH needs who require a special school place have to go out of district to receive an appropriate full-time education; just under half also have to travel out of the South West quadrant (47%) each day.

This supports the view that the proposed expansion at Bramley Oak Academy is critical to achieving Surrey's ambition that local children with additional needs and disabilities are educated closer to home in Guildford.

2. Having to travel long distances between home and school

As outlined above, Guildford resident children with SEMH needs who require a special school placement at an SEMH designated school, on the whole attend their nearest most appropriate school in other parts of the county: this has an impact on the distances they have to travel to get to

school each day. Over 43% of Guildford resident pupils with these needs have to travel 6 miles or more, which compares unfavourably to other districts and boroughs.

Furthermore, the number of pupils with SEMH needs travelling 7 miles or more each day (the furthest category recorded) is higher than other parts of the South West quadrant and the Surrey average. Around 70% of pupils travel at least six miles to school and approximately 80% of pupils travel over seven miles. The comparison with other areas is shown in Table 8 below:

Table 8: Surrey EHCP pupils resident in the South West travelling furthest to school

Measure	Guildford	South West Other (Waverley)	Surrey Other (NE, SE, NW)
Growth of SEMH pupils who require a specialist school placement to meet their education needs by 2031/32	22%	41%	25%
Proportion of SEMH pupils aged 4-19 years educated out of district	80%	55%	87%
Proportion of SEMH pupils aged 4-19 years educated out of quadrant	48%	42%	73%
Proportion of SEMH pupils aged 4-19 years who travel more than 6 miles from home to school each day	77%	73%	83%

This evidences the fact that Guildford’s pupils with the highest needs and their families spend excessively lengthy periods of time travelling between home and school twice a day for 38 weeks of the year. This affects pupils’ readiness to learn when they get to school and in turn their academic as well as personal development potential.

The proposed expansion at Bramley Oak Academy in the district would provide more equitable access to special school education, as well as opportunities for developing independence, local friendships with peers and social opportunities in their local communities.

3. Growing demand for additional SEMH-Designated Special School Provision in Guildford

The two points above highlight issues that already exist for pupils SEMH needs resident in Guildford who need a specialist school placement. There is strong evidence that the pupils identified may be affected by at least one of those issues. In addition, forecasts of pupil numbers indicate that these issues will continue to apply for the near future and are likely to worsen unless action is taken, with demand increasing in the next five years and beyond.

By 2026/27, there are expected to be around 108 additional pupils with these needs living in the South West quadrant, of which, around 68 will be resident in Guildford. **Table 9** and **Table 10** show the expected growth in pupil numbers over the next five years, first for the South West quadrant and second for Guildford district:

Table 9: SW Quadrant EHCP forecasts for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs

SW Quadrant	Actual	Forecast				
Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Pupils	312	346	372	388	395	399
Increase since 2020-21	7%	19%	28%	33%	36%	37%

Table 10: Guildford EHCP forecasts for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs

Guildford	Actual	Forecast				
Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Pupils	156	175	187	196	206	212
Increase since 2020-21	8%	22%	30%	36%	43%	47%

Summary

Legal Duties:

Under sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996 and Part 27 Section 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that:

- There are sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in their areas
- They keep under review the educational provision for children and young people who have additional needs and disabilities (SEND)

As is the case nationally, the Department for Education expects Surrey County Council to manage its specialist education estate efficiently to avoid detriment to schools' educational offers, creating disadvantage to children and young people who have distinct types of need or the local authority's financial position. This means ensuring the availability of maintained specialist school places that are appropriately matched to need-type, phases of education and geographic location so that all of Surrey's pupils with an EHCP that require a full-time specialist setting in either a mainstream SEN Unit or Specialist School have a named placement, ready for the beginning of each academic year by 1 September.

Growing Additional Needs and Disabilities:

It is for this reason that the proposed expansion of the SEMH-designated Bramley Oak Academy is business critical to ensure the projected demand for SEMH-designated specialist school places from local pupils in Guildford and the surrounding areas is realised. There is a clearly established need for additional special school places in the South West of Surrey.

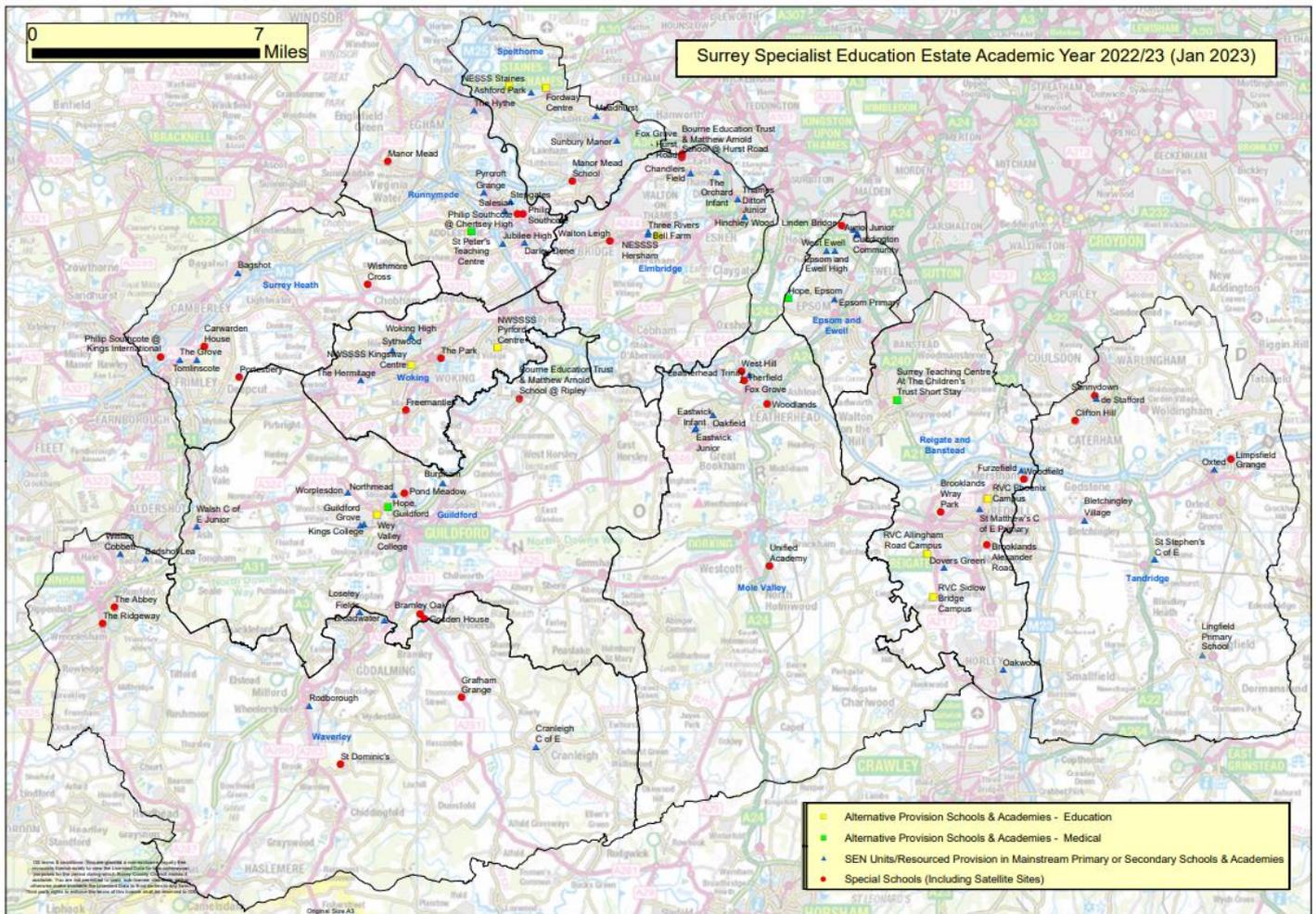
Benefits to Guildford’s local families with children and young people with SEMH needs;

The development of the proposed expansion at Bramley Oak Academy supports and is aligned with Surrey’s SEND Capital Strategy and Sufficiency Strategy to ensure delivery of sufficient SEMH-designated specialist school places and realisation of strategic priorities by 2030.

Benefits to local residents in Guildford include:

- Surrey’s vulnerable pupils who are resident in Guildford and surrounding areas can attend their nearest most appropriate state-maintained school.
- Provides residents in Guildford and surrounding areas access to the same level of high-quality specialist support as the rest of Surrey.
- Helps to ensure Surrey’s Local Offer matches the identified needs of children and young people who have additional needs and disabilities in the area.
- Aligns with Surrey’s Preparation for Adulthood programme and strategy for Post-16 to create local further education and employment pathways such as apprenticeships and supported internships. This enables young people who have additional needs and disabilities and are resident in Guildford and the surrounding areas to make a successful transition to adulthood and secure employment.
- Will reduce journey times and maximise opportunities for developing independent travel skills. This will also address local congestion in Guildford around school sites as well as traffic flow around the county, which will be of benefit to Surrey’s Green Agenda.
- The project will realise £1.47m total cost containment to Surrey’s Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Budget (DSG HNB) per year once the school is at full capacity. This is based on the £30k cost difference between an average cost of £53k per pupil per annum for independent sector provision, as compared to average cost for state-maintained specialist places at £23k per pupil per annum. Therefore the proposed expansion would generate an approximate saving from 2025-2030 of £30k per place per year.
- 49 additional specialist school places in the independent sector would equate to £2.59m per year every year. This is compared to the and equivalent costs for 49 places of £1.12 through the provision of additional state-maintained specialist school places at the proposed expansion at Bramley Oak Academy.
- The proposed expansion ensures increased access to local educational provision that achieves high quality outcomes, as well as a more efficient use of limited resources that can be used to deliver improved services to children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in Guildford.
- The project supports achievement of cost containment that results in an in-year balance in the DSG HNB by 2029/30 to allow Surrey to continue to deliver services and support for children, young people, and families, whilst remaining financially sustainable.

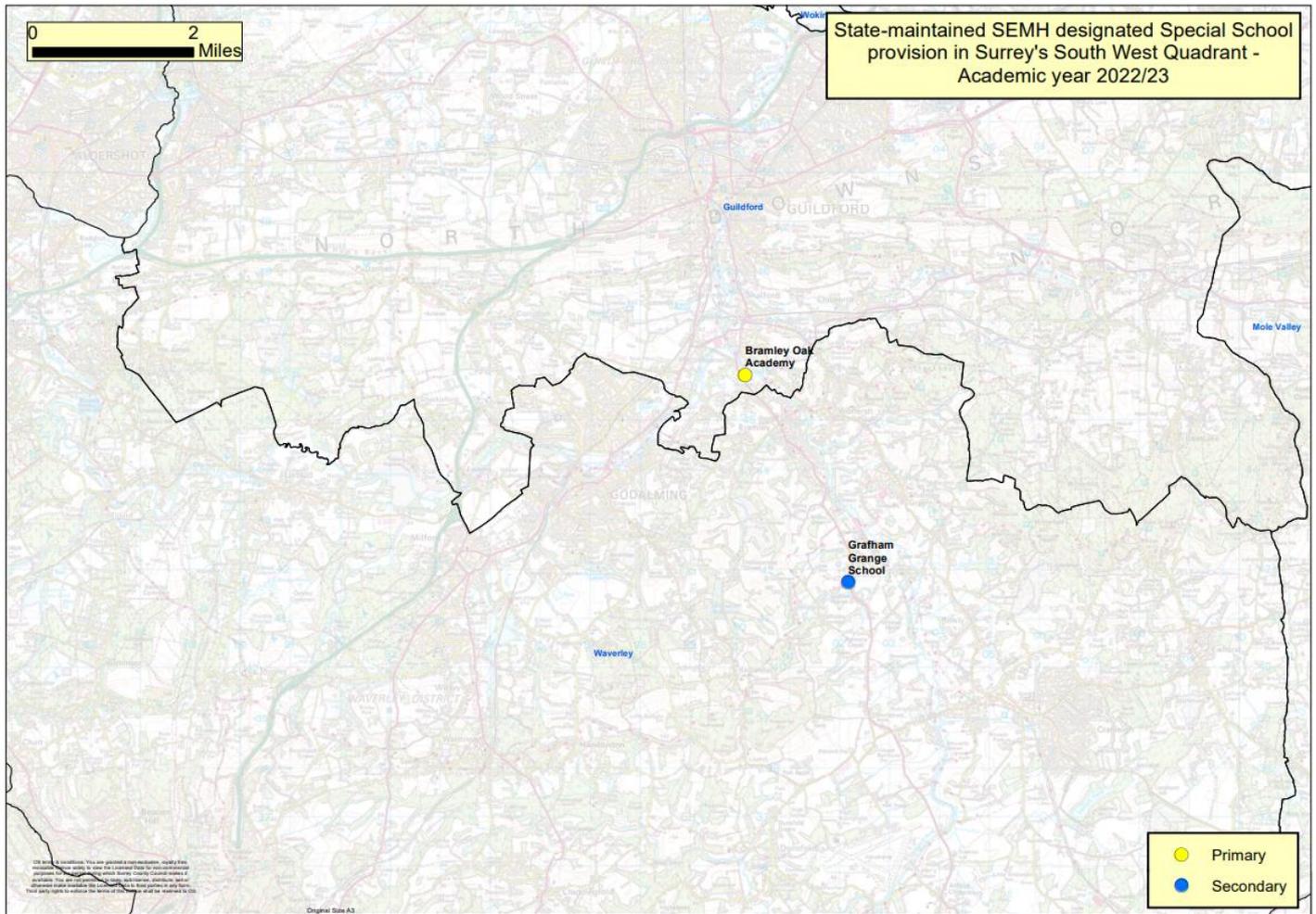
Appendix 1: Map of All Surrey Maintained Specialist Education Estate as of Academic Year 2022/23



As of academic year 2022/23, Surrey’s state-maintained specialist education estate has been increased by approximately 800 places, from around 3,320 in 2019 when the SEND Capital programme started to around 4,000 places now. These specialist school places are almost full, noting that new places are being phased in and some of the existing accommodation needs to be re-provided as it is not fit for purpose.

Between 2019 and 2022 Cabinet approved the strategies and capital investment for four phases of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Programme. With this investment the programme is aiming to deliver at least 2,440 permanent additional specialist school places in Surrey between 2019-2026 to create capacity for 5,760 state maintained specialist places to meet projected demand for up to 6,000 specialist places in total by 2030/31.

Appendix 3: Map of SEMH-Designated Specialist School provision in South West Surrey



South West Surrey has two existing SEMH-designated schools (one primary and one secondary) that offer places for pupils whose needs are such that they required highly specialised teaching and support to achieve good academic and personal outcomes. There are no plans to expand Grafham Grange School in the medium to long term.