



## Free school bid form

### For local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools

Published: July 2018

#### Contents

[The bid form explained](#)

[Overview](#)

[Confirmation](#)

[A1 - who is putting this bid forward](#)

[A2 - evidence of commissions](#)

[Table A2 continued](#)

[B - type of school](#)

[C1 - current context](#)

[Table C1i - for special schools](#)

[Table C1ii - for AP schools](#)

[C2 - strategy for high needs](#)

[C3 - why you want a new school](#)

[C4 - expected outcomes](#)

[D - site](#)

#### The bid form explained

**This free school bid form is for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision (AP) free schools.**

Local authorities (either as a lead or sole bidder) can submit a bid for one special and one AP school in total in their area. Given the limited number of new schools we will create in this wave, it is highly unlikely that we will approve more than one school in any one local authority area. In the most exceptional of circumstances where you plan to make the case for two new schools in your area, you will need to complete a separate bid form for each school, although you should cross-reference where appropriate.

The overview section on the second tab asks for information about the number of bids you are submitting (i.e. one or two), the priority of each bid (if you are submitting two), what (if any) other bids you are supporting, and your expected future need for new special and AP schools (and when they are needed). If you are submitting two bids, you only need to complete the overview page on one form.

If your bid is successful, the opportunity will be advertised nationally, and if a strong proposal comes forward, the new school will be delivered and funded as part of the department's central free schools programme.

Before completing your bid, please ensure that you have read the '[guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools](#)' carefully, as this sets out the criteria by which your bid will be judged. Please provide all the information required.

The form should be completed by a local authority representative (or representatives, if it is a joint bid) with the approval of the Director(s) of Children's Services (DCS).

**This bid form consists of 14 tabs in total (including this one). Please ensure you read all tabs carefully.** You must complete the following tabs in full: overview, confirmation, A1, A2, B, C1, C2, C3, C4 and D. You will also need to complete tab 'A2 continued' if applicable and either tab 'Table C1i' or tab 'Table C1ii' depending on whether your bid is for a special or an AP free school.

Completed bid forms, specifications, and any supporting documentation (e.g. site plans, letters from commissioners) **should be submitted by midday on 15 October 2018. Submit your bid by email to:** [APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk](mailto:APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk). Please title your email as follows: **Special/AP free school bid – [insert name of local authority (or lead local authority if joint bid)]**. Your email should not exceed 9 megabytes in size; anything larger will not be delivered. **If the bid is larger than 9 megabytes**, please split the documents and send two (or more) emails clearly indicating that the emails are connected (e.g. email 1 of 3).

**Free school bid forms should:**

- maintain the pre-set printing format;
- not include any comments; and
- not include photographs, images or logos.

This opportunity **does not replace the [presumption](#) process and does not replace a local authority's sufficiency duties.**

Annex A of the [guidance](#) sets out how the information you provide will be used.

[Next tab](#)



## Free school bid form [X of Y]

1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you only need to complete this section once (on the form of your preferred bid).
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Overview

While local authorities (either as a lead or sole bidder) can submit a bid for one special and one AP school in total in their area, it is highly unlikely that we will approve more than one school in any one local authority area in this wave. However, we would like you to inform us of expected future need for new schools.

Overview table	
<b>Name of your local authority</b>	Dorset
<b>List the bid(s) you are submitting this wave, as either the lead or the sole local authority</b> (including type of school e.g. special or AP) – please list these in priority order so that the first is your preferred bid	1. Bid 1 – Special School 2. Bid 2 – N/A
<b>List the bid(s), if any, that another local authority is leading on and that you are supporting</b> (including the name of the lead local authority)	Somerset and Hampshire are both submitting separate bids as well Dorset. Dorset may place a limited number of children in these schools if they are provided, but it will be dependant on their location, and also whether the Dorset bid is successful or not.
<b>Optional: brief description of your expected future need for new special and AP schools, and when they are needed</b>	We have a high demand and rising numbers of children with SEND and EHCP's. This is driving the increase in the need for specialist education places, and we want all our children to be educated in the county where possible. We need to provide provision for a rising population of children with ASC and complex learning difficulties.

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)



## Free school bid form [X of Y]

1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Confirmation

**This confirmation must be signed by the relevant Director(s) of Children's Services at the local authority(ies) putting forward this bid.**

I am are Director(s) of Children's services at **Dorset County Council** and I have seen this expression of interest and support it.

I confirm that the information provided in this bid form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

I further confirm that the local authority and, if applicable, other commissioners (e.g. local schools commissioning AP places) named in section A of this bid have developed this proposal in partnership and, if the bid is successful, will commit to commissioning the number of places at the school as specified in this bid, and to paying the relevant top-up funding (indicative funding specified in this bid, to be confirmed by the local authority(ies) if the bid is successful).

I also confirm that I am aware of the financial consequences of the commissioning on our high needs budget(s).

In addition, I intend to commission places beyond the first two years, as per the proposed school growth profile (pupil/capacity build up).

**NB: an electronic signature is acceptable. If multiple local authorities are submitting this bid, complete a signature box for each local authority.**

Signed:

Position:

Director of Children's Services at **Dorset County Council**

Print name:

**Nick Jarman**

Date:

**8th October 2018**

**Signed:**

**Position:** Director of Children's Services at **[INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]**

**Print name:**

**Date:**

**Signed:**

**Position:** Director of Children's Services at **[INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]**

**Print name:**

**Date:**

**Signed:**

**Position:** Director of Children's Services at **[INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]**

**Print name:**

**Date:**

**Signed:**

**Position:** Director of Children's Services at **[INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]**

**Print name:**

**Date:**

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section A1 – local authority(ies) putting forward this bid

Please complete table A1. If this is a joint bid, information must be provided for each local authority involved and the lead local authority must be stated. **Please note that including a local authority on this list means they have committed to commissioning places.**

If you are the sole local authority submitting a bid (i.e. it is not a joint bid), then you must provide the reason why in box A1.

Table A1 - local authority(ies) putting forward this bid		
Name of local authority	Name of person leading	Contact details
<b>Lead local authority:</b> [select name of lead local authority in cell C30 below. This would be the local authority in which the school would be located]  Dorset	Gary Binstead Senior Manager - Sufficiency, Commissioning and School Organisation	Telephone: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Address: County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ
[If applicable, select name of second local authority in cell C36 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of third local authority in cell C42 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of fourth local authority in cell C48 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of fifth local authority in cell C54 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:

**Box A1 - if you are submitting a solo bid, please explain why**

Dorset County Council has consulted the neighbouring authorities, (Devon, Hampshire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Bournemouth and Poole) and a number have expressed a willingness to possibly place children in Dorset if their own bid is unsuccessful, or if they cannot meet their demand in their own authority. None were willing to commit to commissioning places at this stage.

Dorset has it's own significant demand which requires additional provision in county, to reduce the number of children being educated outside of Dorset borders, and travelling to alternative provision in other local authority areas.

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section A2 – evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned

You must complete table A2 on this tab, showing how many places you would use at the school for the first two years of the school's operation. If there are multiple commissioners, you also need to complete the larger table on tab 'Table A2 continued'.

In addition, if you are submitting a bid for a new AP free school, you must also:

- Attach commitments in writing from any commissioners other than local authorities (e.g. local schools) indicating their firm intention to commission a specific number of places in the first two years, including the top-up funding they will pay for the children occupying the places;
- Attach evidence that the commissioners have made an informed decision, for example, confirmation that commissioners have seen your bid, and are aware of the characteristics of the new school and the outcomes you want to achieve; and,
- Provide information in box A2 about the commissioning and funding model used in your area(s). To note, we will ask for further details about how you have engaged with the commissioners, and their level of involvement, later in section C3.

#### Box A2 - for AP schools only, please use this space to describe the commissioning and funding model(s)

**Table A2 - evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned (to be completed for both special and AP schools)**

Commissioner	Year of operation	Number of EY places	Number of KS1 places	Number of KS2 places	Number of KS3 places	Number of KS4 places	Number of 16-19 places
Dorset Council Council	First year of opening	0	0	0	5	10+	10+
	Second year of opening	0	0	0	10	20+	20+





1. This table must be completed if there are multiple commissioners.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

**Table A2 continued**

You must complete table A2 on the previous tab, showing how many places you would use at the school for the first two years of the school's operation. If there are multiple commissioners, you also need to complete the table on this tab.

Table A2 continued - evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned (to be completed for both special and AP schools)							
Commissioner	Year of operation	Number of EY places	Number of KS1 places	Number of KS2 places	Number of KS3 places	Number of KS4 places	Number of 16-19 places
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section B – what type of school is wanted

**There are no assessment criteria for section B.** Please provide key information about the school you would like to commission in table Bi. Additionally, please set out the expected pupil build up (how the school would fill year-on-year once it opens) in table Bii.

Table Bi - what type of school is wanted	
Type of school	Special free school
Category of provision/needs (if more than one type, with different top-up rates, please explain)	The Special School is intended to meet the needs of children with ASC, and also Complex Learning Difficulties in the same setting
Age range	14 to 19
Per-pupil revenue funding you would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain)	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>There is a range of top-up funding based on the complexity of the child's needs. Based on assessment, the child is allocated a 'locator' between 2 and 7++, with 7++ attracting the highest levels of funding. The Locators refer to a matrix of need against which the pupils is assessed. Locators 7+ and 7++ denote greater multiple needs and complexity than a pupil with a single need at Locator 7.</p> <p>The list below is the current funding for a local 75 place special school. We would need to consider the school in context to see if these are the right values, but these are indicative.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
Gender (co-educational/boys/girls)	Co-educational
Total number of proposed full time equivalent places (once school is at full capacity - including 16-19 places, but not including nursery places)	Between 40 to 75 pupils (dependant on site selected for 3 options)

<b>Type of places offered</b> (e.g. full time, short term, part time)	Full time places, with the ability to support other schools with short term and outreach work, designed to reintegrate children into mainstream provision or Resourced Base Provision as appropriate
<b>Number of nursery places, if applicable</b>	0
<b>Number of 16-19 places, if applicable</b>	30
<b>Describe any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support</b> (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)	We would be expecting the new school to support the schools in the County with training, outreach and reintegration of pupils in to mainstream settings or Resourced Base Provision as appropriate. We already fund our Teaching Association of Dorset Special Schools (TADSS) to deliver outreach to schools, and we would expect the new school to be part of this solution. The current commissioned value is [REDACTED] and is reviewed regularly.

Table Bii - pupil build up							
	Year of opening	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
Nursery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reception	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Key stage 1 (Y1-2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Key stage 2 (Y3-6)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Key stage 3 (Y7-9)	5	10	15	15	15	15	15
Key stage 4 (Y10-11)	10	20	30	30	30	30	30
16-19: commissioner referred	10	20	30	30	30	30	30
Totals	25	50	75	75	75	75	75

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section C1 – the current context in your area

We are looking for bids in areas where a new school will most support local authorities to manage current and/or anticipated pressures on special school places or on the overall high needs budget, so that the needs of children can be better met. We will not be inclined to approve bids that have the side effect of decreasing the inclusion in mainstream schools of children with SEN, or who are at risk of permanent or fixed term exclusions, or of creating excess spare capacity in existing special or AP school. Bids will score more highly if they can demonstrate that a new school will be filled by students who would otherwise be going to more expensive or poor performing provision.

Please use box C1 to provide information about existing provision in your area, future expected growth and use of your high needs budget. You should also use this box to provide commentary around the information sources listed in Annex B of the [guidance](#) that we will use to support our assessment of this section.

In addition, please use table C1i (for special schools) or C1ii (for AP schools) - found on the next tabs - to describe the recent, current and projected trends of provision that caters for the children that you would expect to attend the new school. If this is a joint bid, fill in the table once for all local authorities together.

#### Box C1 - the current context in your area

*(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 500 words, excluding your entries on table C1i/C1ii)*

There has been an increase of 49% in the number of children with an EHCP between May 2015 and May 2019, and approximately half of these children require a specialist setting to meet their educational needs. The current forecast is for 2405 Dorset children with an EHCP by March 2019, and the trend is continuing to increase.

Dorset currently has 5 Special Schools who are all Ofsted rated Good or Outstanding, who can meet the needs of children with ASC and Learning Difficulties. There is a new Special School planned to open in 2019 / 20 that will provide additional capacity for Dorset, Poole and Bournemouth, and will be for children with ASC and SEMH needs. The total capacity of these existing schools is 676 (611 Dorset children), and the capacity is expected to grow to 846 by 2023. Dorset is expected to use around 90% of this future capacity (762 children). Even with this increase in places, it is not sufficient to keep up with the increasing demand above.

The High Needs Block (HNB) budget in Dorset has been significantly overspent for the last 3 years, due to the high number of children needing support, the growth in post 16 pupils due to legislative changes, and the children in Independent provision inside and outside of Dorset. In January 2018 there were 227 children being educated outside Dorset.

There is work underway now to review all children placed in independent provision, or out of Dorset, to see if their needs can be met at a local special school, or other provision. This work has identified that there is the potential for 143 children to have their educational needs met locally, and this work is continuing to identify appropriate provision. Teams will engage with families at the relevant transition point, to ensure a smooth integration to their new setting. The current cost of these independent places is in excess of ██████████, against a current forecast overspend on our HNB this year of around ██████████. The local authority is working with the Schools Forum to manage the overspend and plans are in place to reduce costs including extra specialist capacity.

It is expected that a number of these children could be educated in Dorset if there was additional capacity, and as the majority of these children are year 7 and above, we would expect a number of these children to be educated at the new school. In addition we expect that further places would be taken up with children as they are identified through a new EHCP assessment or annual review to identify a specialist provision to meet their needs. The risk of not providing extra provision in Dorset, is that children will continue to need educating further from home, incurring additional costs for provision and also travel or residential costs.

Word count: 468

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)

1. This table must be completed if you are submitting a bid for a special free school.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to tab 'C1 - current context' as well as the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Table C1i - trends in your specialist provision for all children with EHC plans													
Type of provision	Number of providers used	Please indicate the number of pupils with an EHC plan living in your local authority who are placed within these settings, and the total cost (including base, top-up and transportation if applicable) of all placements at each setting											
						Projected figures without the new school you want				Projected figures if your bid for a new school is successful			
		2014 (pupils)	2014 (cost)	2018 (pupils)	2018 (cost)	2022 (pupils)	2022 (cost)	2026 (pupils)	2026 (cost)	2022 (pupils)	2022 (cost)	2026 (pupils)	2026 (cost)
Resourced provision and units inside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Resourced provision and units outside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Special schools (either maintained or academies) inside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Special schools (either maintained or academies) outside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Independent / non-maintained special schools inside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Independent / non-maintained special schools outside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Mainstream schools inside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Mainstream schools outside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
General FE colleges (if relevant) inside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
General FE colleges (if relevant) outside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) inside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) outside local authority	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

1. *This table must be completed if you are submitting a bid for an AP free school.*
2. *If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.*
3. *Please refer to tab 'C1 - current context' as well as the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.*
4. *Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.*

Table C1ii - trends in alternative provision																	
Type of provision	Number of providers used	Please indicate the no. of pupils living in your local authority who are placed within these settings, and the total cost (including base, top-up and transportation if applicable) of all placements at each setting								Projected figures without the new school you want				Projected figures if your bid for a new school is successful			
		2014 (pupils)	2014 (cost)	2018 (pupils)	2018 (cost)	2022 (pupils)	2022 (cost)	2026 (pupils)	2026 (cost)	2022 (pupils)	2022 (cost)	2026 (pupils)	2026 (cost)				
		Maintained PRUs inside local authority															
Maintained PRUs outside local authority																	
Maintained AP free schools or academies inside local authority																	
Maintained AP free schools or academies outside local authority																	
Independent AP settings (registered) inside local authority																	
Independent AP settings (registered) outside local authority																	
Independent AP settings (unregistered) inside local authority																	
Independent AP settings (unregistered) outside local authority																	
AP units located in or attached to mainstream schools inside local authority																	
AP units located in or attached to mainstream schools outside local authority																	
Places designated for AP commissioned from special schools inside local authority																	
Places designated for AP commissioned from special schools outside local authority																	
Places designated for AP in further education settings inside local authority																	
Places designated for AP in further education settings outside local authority																	
Other AP inside local authority – please specify																	
Other AP outside local authority – please specify																	



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

## Section C2 – your strategy for high needs provision

You must use this section to tell us about your strategy for high needs provision. The purpose of this section is to help us understand your plan for children with SEND or those requiring alternative provision and make a judgement about whether the school you are proposing fits within your strategy.

### Box C2 - your strategy for high needs provision

(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 1000 words)

The overarching SEND strategy for Dorset, sets out how the Council will work with Schools, the NHS, and other partners, so we can better meet the needs of children, young people and their families with SEND (link below, and attached for information).

SEND Strategy

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/pdfs/dorset-send-strategy-2018-to-2021.pdf>

SEND Strategy (Summary)

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/pdfs/send-family-friendly-information-05-01-18.pdf>

Our vision is set out below from the strategy :

- Children and young people in Dorset with SEND are happy and enjoy their education and social life. They and their families trust and have confidence in the support they receive.
- We work together to give children and young people with SEND in Dorset the best chance to succeed; enjoy family life and go to school as close to home as possible.
- Together we support children and young people with SEND to maximise their potential at home, in the early years, at school and at college and to prepare well for adulthood.

And our commitment to :

- Work together as a single system, no matter what organisation we work for
- Work with children, young people, parents and carers, rather than do things to or for them
- Provide inclusive education for children with SEND in mainstream early years settings, schools and colleges underpinned by high quality teaching that meets their individual needs
- Deliver a seamless pathway to adulthood and independence, beginning preparation for this early in life

There are 5 priorities within the strategy, and Priority 5, 'The effective and efficient management of SEN funding to ensure excellent quality, sufficiency and affordability of local SEN provision', is the main section related to sufficiency and school places.

A review has been carried out to assess the current pressure and demand for places in specialist provision across the county for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). This includes all types of education, from mainstream schools, who cater for children of all levels of need, to Resourced Provision Bases and Special Schools, where our most complex children are educated. This review has been conducted in partnership with parents and carers, schools, and all stakeholders including the SEN service, and is being led by the SEND commissioning team.

This work has identified the need to increase specialist provision across the county, including the need to expand provision in Special Schools and Resourced Provision Bases, providing additional capacity closer to home for Dorset children to meet the growing demand. The increase in Base provision will reduce demand for as many external and internal special school places, and the additional capacity in the special school estate will allow more children to access education within the county. This work will lead to at least 184 additional special school places, and a further 119 additional Base places in Dorset, to ensure more children can continue to be closer to their family, home and community, although not all of these places will be occupied by Dorset children.

Since 2017, Dorset County Council have committed over [REDACTED] towards this increase in sufficiency, including almost [REDACTED] received from central government through the SEND capital grant.

This work is driven from the need to keep children closer to home, through increasing sufficiency of specialist places, increasing inclusion in mainstream schools through additional support, and also reduce the cost to the High Needs Budget (HNB) for educating children outside of schools in Dorset, or in Independent Schools within Dorset.

The primary outcomes we are looking to achieve through this work are :

- Children will have specialist provision closer to home, allowing them to develop better relationships in their local community
- Providing education closer to home will reduce travel times for children and reduce costs to the Council and the HNB
- Reduced cost of provision for the Council and the HNB, due to a reduced reliance on more expensive Independent Providers
- More support for children in all schools through outreach, training and partnership working with other specialist providers of education, to increase inclusion for children with SEND

Over the past few years we have been engaging with a very wide range of stakeholders in relation to our provision review, and subsequently this group has developed to take into account the views of a wider group in order to develop our overarching SEND strategy. Our Local Offer has details of the engagement we have carried out, with further consultation conducted recently with some of these stakeholders.

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/pdfs/special-provision-plan-template-for-local-authorities-local-offer-version-final-mar-18.pdf>

In addition, we have appointed a participation and engagement lead within SEND, who is the key point of contact in the Council for engagement with children and families with SEND, and is a critical role in ensuring that the voice of the family and the child is heard in the design and delivery of services and provision.

We are also very proud to be in the process of recruiting a young person to be our SEND champion, and who will be supporting this work. This allows us to present the voice of a young person who can provide a much welcomed view, and also relate to, and engage better with other children and young people to obtain the views of children, which will inform future planning.

Dorset is looking at opportunities to increase the specialist provision across the county, and has invested in additional places in 2 special schools already, creating a further 24 places. These became available in September 2018. In addition we are planning to increase capacity at a further special school by 10 places for September 2019.

The main increase will come with the delivery of a new special school being built in Dorset for Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset, which will have a capacity of 160 places when it is fully operational. The operator for this school is the Delta Academy Trust. The school will open in a temporary site for September 2019 with up to 40 places.

Word count:

957

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)





1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section C3 – why you want a new school and how it fits with your strategy and the local landscape

We want to open new schools where they are the right solution for the area. We are looking for bids where a new school will help local authorities meet children's needs, fit into the local authority's strategic plan for high needs provision and complement the local education offer.

Please use box C3 to explain the rationale for a new school.

In addition, please use table C3 to provide evidence of engagement with others and attach any supporting evidence of this (e.g. letters) when you submit your bid.

#### Box C3 - why you want a new school and how it fits with your overall strategy (we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 500 words)

The proposed school will meet the needs of pupils with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), and those children with complex learning difficulties / disabilities. It is for children in key stages 3 and 4, up to the age of 19, and will provide day placements only. These placements can be long or shorter term as required by the individual, and we expect the operator to provide outreach support to other mainstream schools, to help support inclusivity across the area.

This will meet the growing demand that exists in Dorset for older age children, and allows their needs to be met locally. We expect the school to be able to support children and young people to be the best they can be, and to work towards greater independence for them, preparing them for life after education, and ready for adulthood, hopefully reducing the demand for post 19 provision.

We have included **3 site options** for the new school, all on existing (or former) school sites within Dorset. The details are in 'section D Site', but our preference would be [REDACTED]

Weymouth and Portland is an area of high deprivation, and 20% of our children with SEND live there. The intention would be to work with this school and others in the area, and across Dorset, to ensure the most appropriate children attended the nearest school. This would mean that over time we would expect some children to move to their nearest school, with the support of the family. This is the case for all 3 sites.

This school would support our plan to increase capacity for specialist provision, and enable the majority of our children who are currently educated outside Dorset to attend a local school, closer to home. In addition it would reduce the reliance on the independent sector, reducing the cost to our HNB. There is currently a [REDACTED] difference between the cost of a place at an independent special school, and the average local authority special school rate. Therefore, every time a child attends the better value provision, it will reduce pressure on the HNB, and help us to balance the budget in partnership with our schools.

We currently have significant numbers of children attending provision outside Dorset, and a lack of capacity in the county. We have other special schools in the county who already meet these needs, but do not have space, so this would fit perfectly with our current local offer. We expect all our schools to be working together for the benefit of the children, and can only see a positive impact of the new school, providing more expertise, support, and places.

**Table C3 - engagement with others**

<b>Who</b>	<b>How you have engaged</b> (e.g. surveys, meetings)	<b>Summary of engagement</b> (e.g. summary of survey findings and/or conversations)
Your neighbouring local authorities – please specify	Devon Hampshire Wiltshire Bournemouth Poole	I have emailed our proposals to the neighbouring authorities and had further telephone conversations with the representatives.  Unfortunately due to location, or the fact that authorities are putting in their own bid, they are unable to commit to placing children, but will review if they were unsuccessful, as they also need extra capacity.
Commissioning bodies in your area – please specify	N/A	N/A
Local mainstream schools – please specify	Various across all phases	Meetings and correspondence.  Supportive of proposals and additional capacity required closer to home.
School representative bodies e.g. schools forum – please specify	Schools Forum Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group	Meetings and correspondence.  Supportive of proposals and additional capacity required closer to home.
Representatives of parents and carers and young people e.g. parent/carer forum – please specify	Dorset Parent Carer Council (DPCC) Rirect engagement with families	Meetings and correspondence.  Supportive of proposals and additional capacity required closer to home.
Any other partners e.g. community groups, FE colleges – please specify	Special schools and Trusts Alternative Provision settings	Meetings and correspondence.  Supportive of proposals and additional capacity required closer to home.

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

## Section D – the proposed location and site

Finding a suitable site is an essential part of opening a free school. As part of preparing your bid you should investigate potential sites for the school and tell us about them in your bid. In this wave we will undertake a desktop assessment of site and consider the value for money, timescale and delivery risks in securing a site for the proposed school in the proposed area.

**We will give preference to those projects where our site assessments shows that we are likely to secure a value for money site in a timely manner with an acceptable level of risk**, in particular, those bids that include an available site on a peppercorn basis. Making a site available on a peppercorn lease gives the greatest chance of the school opening successfully, and on time.

Please complete table D to tell us about where the school would be located and the preferred site.

Please also provide the name and contact details for the main local authority lead for sites. The ESFA may contact this person to ask questions about the site. **If you know any of these site details before submitting your bid, please let DfE know (by emailing [FSC.EOI@education.gov.uk](mailto:FSC.EOI@education.gov.uk)) so we can start conversations with you.**

.....  
Please tick the box below to confirm that the relevant Lead Member for Corporate Property has seen this bid and is content with the information provided about site (if provided).

I confirm that the Lead Member of Corporate Property at Dorset County Council, [REDACTED] has seen this expression of interest and supports it.

Please tick to confirm

**Table D - the proposed location and site**

<p><b>Please describe the location in which you propose to set up your school being as specific as possible.</b> This could include the name of the area in which you would like to put the school, the part of a city, town or suburb. Please also consider how flexible you are - how far from your preferred location are you willing to go? Please include an annotated map as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeshool@education.gov.uk, if possible. If applicable, please also describe the potential impact of any specialism that you plan for your school to have on the site requirement.</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>
<p><b>Please tell us the postcode of a central location in your preferred area.</b> You need to provide this even if you have already identified a preferred site. It must be a full postcode e.g. SW1P 3BT, not SW1.</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>
<p><b>Your calculated building space</b> using the ESFA formula (see section D in the guidance) and any comments on this.</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>
<p><b>If you have identified a preferred site, please complete the rest of the table:</b></p>	
<p><b>Full address and postcode of preferred site.</b> It must be a full postcode e.g. SW1P 3BT, not SW1.</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>
<p><b>In which local authority is your preferred site?</b></p>	<p>Dorset</p>

<p>Please tell us how you found the site.</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Please confirm the tenure.</p>	<p>Other - please explain</p>
<p>If other, please explain further.</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Please include information on purchase or lease price if known.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Who owns the site?</p>	<p>Other - please explain</p>
<p>If other, please explain further.</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Is the site available/on the market? (Please attach agents' particulars as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk if available)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Name and contact details of owner and/or the agent or local authority representative</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>

<p><b>If the site is local authority owned, which local authority owns it?</b></p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>If the site is local authority owned, please state if the local authority have confirmed that, if successful, the site may be used by the free school.</b> Please include terms (e.g. 125 year peppercorn lease). Please also provide details of any other local authority contribution towards the capital costs of the project (e.g. developer contributions).</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>What kind of site is it?</b></p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>What is the current use?</b></p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p></p>	<p></p>
<p><b>Why have you chosen this site? What makes it suitable?</b></p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>If known, how big is the building and the site?</b> Please attach any site and building plans as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>Please comment on the condition of the building.</b> Please attach photos if available as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>If the named site is part of a housing development or the school is attracting Section 106 contributions, please give as much detail as possible,</b> including: the development and developer, timing and programme of build, number of housing units, status of planning application and any links to planning applications/decision notices, extent of funding coming from the developer plus confirmation of the local authority's position in relation to your free school using this site.</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

## Section C4 – the expected outcomes

To be approvable, bids must demonstrate that the new school will:

- Help to achieve better outcomes for children and young people (compared with existing options); and,
- Support inclusion, including re-integration where appropriate and providing expertise to mainstream schools.

Please use box C4 to describe the impact you expect the school to have, as well as the potential risks and how you would mitigate those.

### Box C4 - expected outcomes

*(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 500 words)*

Outcomes include :

- Outreach support to mainstream schools and other settings in Dorset
- Short and long term places available to allow children to return to mainstream provision
- Children are ready for adult life, and have the necessary skills and confidence to be as independent as they can

A real expectation of the new school is that it will support schools across the area with outreach support for children in mainstream schools and other settings, in order to maintain their current place. This will be through training of staff, and the potential of direct work with children as well. We expect the expertise within the school to be deployed to meet the needs of the wider community, and the team at the school to be the local 'experts', available for advice and virtual support.

The new school is expected to cater for short and long term places, and this process will be co-ordinated through the annual review process of the EHCP for individual children. We are expecting that some children will be able to manage in a mainstream environment with the necessary support after a period of time in a special school. This is made clear to families and children when they are given a place at these schools, as we are looking for reintegration where possible, and in the best interest of the children.

Probably the most important outcome we are looking for, is an increase in the number of children who are ready for adulthood by the time they are 19. This will in turn reduce the demand for as many post 19 places, where some children continue their education, into their 20's, which is not always in their best interest, and only postponing the inevitable. Children must be prepared to live as independently as they can, with relevant support and able to make decisions for themselves.

They must be given the skills and training to travel for work and leisure.

They must be given the skills and training to allow them to access employment (voluntary or paid).

They must be given the skills and training to be able to live as independently as possible.

(All of the above are relative to the ability of each individual child).

In order to ensure that the new capacity is used for appropriate children we have a panel process in place that screens each child, and assesses whether a specialist setting is in the best interest of the child. We are also developing our relationship with mainstream schools and laying out our expectations of inclusion, supported by the Ofsted framework, and working in partnership with them to ensure they have and use the necessary support for children with SEND attending their schools. This includes having expertise available locally to provide advice and resources.

Word count:

459