



New Special School in Hertfordshire

In July 2018, the government launched a joint special and Alternative Provision free schools wave, and asked local authorities to set out their case for why a new school would benefit their area. Hertfordshire County Council has identified the need for additional special school places to meet a gap in local provision and submitted a bid for a new special free school.

The Government has announced that Hertfordshire County Council was one of 39 successful local authority bids and we are inviting applications from proposer groups as the next stage in the process to establish a Special Free School (Academy) through a competition.

Why is the new school needed?

Hertfordshire County Council has seen a continuing rise in demand for specialist provision for pupils with complex Autistic Spectrum Conditions or social communication difficulties, high anxiety and/or mental health needs. In recent years it has not been possible to place some young people with these specific needs at local schools. Provision of this new specialist school to meet these complex needs will deliver up to 60 full time equivalent places for young people aged 11 to 18 and bridge this gap in the local SEND offer.

Where will the new school be located and when will it open?

It is proposed that the school will be located on a former school site at The Woodside Centre in Welwyn Garden City. Details on the accommodation and timing for opening are not yet available.

How do I find out more?

Full details of the specification are available on the [School planning page](#) of the Hertfordshire website. An event for sponsors interested in finding out more is being held:

At: Robertson House, Stevenage

On: Wednesday 22 May 2019 from 2 to 4 p.m.

To reserve a place and get further details please email your name and contact details to: education.planning@hertfordshire.gov.uk by noon on Wednesday 16 May.

How to apply

Full details of the application process can be found on the DfE website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-free-school-applications>

Applications must be submitted by noon on 30 September 2019 by email and one hard copy by a guaranteed delivery method to both the Department for Education (details are available in the application guide) and Hertfordshire County Council, School Planning Team, Postal Point CO134, Room 145, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DN.

Please note - Anyone interested in applying to run the new school is required to register an interest first with the DfE using the [pre-application registration form](#) on the DfE website.

The New Schools Network offers sponsors advice and guidance about the process. To find out more about the support they offer contact them at: info@newschoolsnetwork.org.